

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday November 4, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

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AGENDA:

- Addition & Deletion
- Start of Budget Discussions
- Sign Orders
- Review Minutes of October 21, 2025
- Road Commissioner Updates
- Other Business
- Public Comment on any agenda line if hand is raised.

Selectboard:
Jennifer Blay-Chm
Darren Pion
Wayne Richardson

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on November 4, 2025.

Board members present:

Jennifer Blay-Chm, Darren Pion, Wayne Richardson
Christy M. Pion -Town Clerk/Selectboard Clerk/Ass't Treasurer
Marie A. Busch-Town Treasurer/Ass't Clerk
Levi Booska-Road Foreman/ Commissioner in Training

***Note: All meetings are recorded on a handheld recording device. ***

Meeting called to order at 5:29 p.m.

Guest:

- Dottie Spoerl (Resident/Auditor)
- Brenda Wesolow (Resident/Zoning Member)
- Ashley Callahan (ACO/Constable/Resident)
- Gordon Spencer (JP/Auditor/Zoning Admin./Resident)
- William Herrera (JP/Resident)
- Audra Pitts (Newport Daily Express)
- Matthew Wilson (the Chronicle)
- Annie Riecke (Resident)
- Chris Collard (Resident)
- Tonya Guare (Mobile Medical)
- Jeffrey Haddock (Mobile Medical)

Additions and Deletions: See additions and deletions below.

Treasurer Report on Taxes (Marie Busch):

Tax Sales:

- Potential Sales: There are 12 potential tax sales identified.
- Outstanding Balances: \$52,000 outstanding from 2020-2024 and \$104,000 outstanding from 2025.

- Attorney Options: The board is considering using an attorney from Burlington for tax sales but is also looking into a local option in Newport.
- Motion Needed: A motion needs to be made and approved by the select board to move forward with an attorney.
- Conclusion: The town is actively pursuing tax sales to recover outstanding balances. They are gathering information on different legal options to ensure they choose the most cost-effective and efficient approach.

Haddock Mobile Medical Unit:

- Proposal: Haddock Mobile Medical is proposing to use the town office address for credentialing purposes with Medicare. They need a physical address to bill Medicare.
- Logistics: Questions were raised about electricity, insurance, and the impact on the town. The unit has a generator, but an electrical hookup would be more dependable. The town would need to be added as a rider to the mobile unit's insurance.
- Unique Service: This is a new type of mobile clinic in the state, offering primary care services but not vaccines initially.
- Location: The unit would be parked at the town office three days a week.
- Conclusion: The Selectboard is supportive of the mobile medical unit using the town office address, as long as insurance and liability concerns are addressed. They see it as a valuable service for the community.

Start of Budget Discussions:

- Current Status: \$146,000 available in the road budget, with recent additions of \$23,000 from rows two and three and \$21,000 from current use taxes.
- Fiscal Year: The budget is technically for the calendar year (until January), but the money is used until town meeting in March.
- Future Budget: A new spreadsheet is being created to make the budget easier to work with. The goal is to review sections of the budget in November and December, rather than waiting until the last meeting.
- Grant Money: Clarification was needed regarding grant money for roads. A \$52,000 grant was for a culvert project that came in under budget. There was discussion about the availability of future grants, specifically a Town Highway Structures Program grant.
- Conclusion: The town is in a good position with its current road budget. They are working to improve the budget process for the upcoming year and need to verify the status of future grant funding.

Sign Orders:

- Financials for the Treasurer were approved and signed by the Board.

Minutes from October 21, 2025:

- Minutes from October 21, 2025, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Road Commissioner Updates (Levi Booska & Darren Pion):

Road Work:

- Potter Road Bridge: The Potter Road bridge has been completely replaced.
- Salt Prices: The town is comparing salt prices from different companies, including one in Canada.
- CV Truck: The CV truck is going in for an alignment and wheel bearing check. There were issues with getting service from the original provider.
- Winter Preparations: The town is preparing for winter by stocking up on shoes, cutting edges, and chains for the plows.
- Valley Road: Culvert work is needed on Valley Road.
- Robtoy Road: Work on Robtoy Road will be delayed until spring.
- Mines Road: The town will fill potholes on Mine Road.
- Carter Road: The town voted to install new guardrails on Carter Road.
- Conclusion: The town is actively maintaining its roads and preparing for winter. They are addressing various issues, such as culvert repairs, pothole filling, and equipment maintenance.

Other Business:

Northland Solar Project:

- Concerns: Concerns were raised about a solar project in Shaftesbury involving a company with a history of bribery.
- Intervener Status: The town is filing to intervene in the Public Utility Commission (PUC) process for the Northland Solar project.
- Public Comments: More public comments are needed to voice concerns about the project.

- Process: The town's Zoning board and Selectboard have stated that the project doesn't match the town's plan or zoning bylaws.
- Federal Tax Credits: The company is pushing for a decision by March 2026 to secure federal tax credits.
- Conclusion: The town is actively opposing the solar project through the PUC process and is encouraging public involvement. They are concerned about the project's impact on the town and the company's potential motives.

Animal Control:

- Dog Complaints: The Animal Control Officer (ACO) issued a ticket to a resident for their dog being off their property. She had already given the resident several written warnings prior to the ticket.
- Unregistered Dogs The ACO is also addressing unregistered dogs in town.
- Aggressive Dogs: There was a discussion about a case in Derby involving aggressive dogs ordered to be seized and euthanized.
- Conclusion: The town is actively enforcing animal control regulations and addressing complaints about dogs running loose.

Informational Solar Meeting:

- Decision: The select board decided to hold an informational meeting about the Northland Solar project on November 10th at 6:30 PM at the school.
- Purpose: The meeting is to inform residents about the project and gather public comments.
- Publicity: Flyers will be posted to promote the meeting.
- Conclusion: The town is committed to transparency and public engagement regarding the solar project.

Discussion about town internet and phone service:

- A little discussion about phone and internet was discussed but was tabled for further gathering of information.

**** Overall Conclusions: ****

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, demonstrating the Selectboard's active involvement in managing the town's affairs. Key takeaways include:

- * **Financial Stability:** The town appears to be in a stable financial position, with a healthy road budget and active efforts to collect outstanding taxes.
- * **Community Services:** The board is supportive of initiatives that benefit the community, such as the mobile medical unit.
- * **Environmental Concerns:** The board is actively addressing environmental concerns related to the solar project and road maintenance.
- * **Public Engagement:** The board is committed to transparency and public engagement, as evidenced by the decision to hold an informational meeting about the solar project.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 23	\$	41,829.24
➤ Payroll Order # 23	\$	<u>6,068.24</u>

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling - \$ 47,897.48

* Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerk’s office. *
Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Christy M. Pion
Next meeting date: November 18, 2025, at the Town Office Building.

<hr/> Jennifer Blay – Chair	<hr/> Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk
<hr/> Darren Pion-Select Person	<hr/> Wayne Richardson-Select Person