

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday April 22, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

.....

AGENDA:

- Addition & Deletions
- Public Comment on any agenda line if hand is raised
- Personnel Policy
- Sign Orders
- Review Minute from April 8, 2025
- Road Commissioner Updates
- Other Business

Selectboard:
Jennifer Blay-Chm
Darren Pion
Wayne Richardson

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on April 22, 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

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

Meeting called to order at 5:35p.m.

GUEST:

- Dotty Spoerl- Auditor
- Brenda Wesolow-Zoning Board Member
- Doug Warner Sr.-Recycling
- Jason Blay-School Board Member
- Gordon Spencer-Zoning Admin./Auditor/JP
- William Herrera- JP
- Audra Pitts-Newport Daily Express

Additions and Deletions: See additions and deletions below.

- Reappointment of Marjorie Kramer and Faye Starr to oversee activity and updates of progress from NEKCV. The Board agreed to reappoint them both.
- Discussion of hiring a college student (McKenna Blay) for a summer job scanning old books for online archiving. The board discusses hiring McKenna Blay to scan old books. They discuss funding, hours, and oversight. They also discuss the possibility of donating the original documents to the historical library in Montpelier after scanning.
- Discussion of a land dispute involving Kyle Mercier encroaching on Robin LaBelle's property. The board discusses the dispute between Kyle Mercier and Robin LaBelle, where Mercier is allegedly building on her property. The board acknowledges the limitations of zoning enforcement and suggests Robin needs to pursue legal action if nothing is resolved.

- **School Bus Fuel:** A School Board Representative (Jason Blay) proposes purchasing fuel in bulk using the town's fuel tanks. Concerns are raised about tracking fuel usage and security. The board is generally receptive to the idea but wants more information.
- **Outstanding Property Taxes:** The Board discusses the amount of outstanding property taxes and efforts to collect them. They note the difficulty in finding an attorney to handle tax sales.

Personnel Policy:

- The board reviews the town's personnel policy, focusing on:
 1. Adjusting work hours for the road crew to be determined by the Road Commissioner and Select Board.
 2. Adding a floating holiday option for town office staff.
 3. Allowing sick leave to carry over up to 20 days.
 4. Adding a compensatory time option for non-exempt employees.
- The board agrees to update the personnel policy to reflect changes discussed, and to bring it back for final approval at the next meeting.

Sign Orders:

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

Minutes from April 22, 2025:

- Minutes from April 22, 2025, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Road Commissioner Updates:

- The board discusses the results of an insurance audit at the Town Garage and the need to address safety issues. The board is aware of the need to address safety issues at the Town Garage and is working to develop a plan to do so.
- Discussion of the Road Commissioner position and the lack of applicants. The Board discusses the difficulty in finding a Road Commissioner and considers options like a salary position or offering comp time. They acknowledge the need to improve the benefits package to attract candidates.

Other Business:

- **Baseball Field Project & Town Forest Project:** The board discusses a baseball field project. The board is supportive of the baseball field project and is willing to help make it happen. Jenn discussed the use of Grant money with a local match for the town forest project. The board supports the idea of changing the grant project to focus on one building with a cement foundation instead of two, pending approval from the grant provider.
- **Tire Event:** The board confirms the pricing for an upcoming tire recycling event which will stay the same as last year’s event.
- **Camera System:** The board discusses the installation of a new camera system for the garage , town clerks office and town baseball field shed. Installation will be happening in the next few weeks.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 9	\$	5,032.47
➤ Payroll Order # 9	\$	<u>6,189.69</u>

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -	\$	11,222.16
--	----	-----------

* **Note:** Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerks office.*
 Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.
 Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion
 Next meeting date: April 8, 2025, at the Town Office Building.

 Jennifer Blay – Chair

 Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

 Darren Pion-Select Person

 Wayne Richardson-Select Person