



TOWN OF WARNER

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Select Board: Alfred Hanson, Chairman
Rick Bixby, Vice Chair
Michael J. Smith

Select Board Public Meeting Minutes June 23, 2026 6:00 PM

I. Open the Public Meeting / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Alfred Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call:

		In Person		
		Person	Zoom	Absent
Alfred Hanson	Chair	X		
Rick Bixby	V Chair	X		
Michael Smith			X	

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Present:

<u>In Person:</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Rachel Parsons	Amy T
Ed Mical	Truth Teller
Tim Blagden	Barb Marty
Arlon Chaffee	Harry Seidel
Martha Mical	Christa Walla
Christine Frost	Anmarie Timmins
Beth Lukitis	Lizaliness@aol.com
Judy Newman-Rogers	Dawn Quirk
Clyde Carson	Sara McNeil
David Carle	John McGilvery
Herm Blanchette	

II. Select Board Business:

a. Update on the Highway Garage Herm Blanchette

Herm Blanchette informed the Select Board that he received the contract from InsureCom last week that he sent to the town attorney and Primex. Herm Blanchette stated that the town's dump trucks are still being repaired. He noted the repairs are taking longer than expected. He explained that Primex is covering the cost for rentals.

b. Department Heads:

1. Primex Update, Clyde Carson

Clyde Carson informed the Select Board that a letter was received from Primex regarding their unemployment and workers compensation 2025 surplus and dividing it amongst their subscribers. He stated that Warner's share is approximately \$2,800. He explained that it can be applied to next year's premium or sent as a reimbursement check.

1
2 Clyde Carson advised the Select Board that all receipts relating to the highway garage have been submitted
3 to the Primex claims department for reimbursement totaling \$34,000.
4

5 **2. Post 39 Wilkins-Cloues-Bigelow-Person Raffle Permit, Ed Mical**

6 Ed Mical explained that Legion Post 39 holds a raffle every July 4th, with proceeds to help veterans and Post
7 39. The Select Board signed the permit.
8

9 **3. Emergency Management, Update on Event Process, Ed Mical, Director of Emergency** 10 **Management**

11 Alfred Hanson requested Ed Mical brief the Select Board on Warner's Emergency Management operations.
12 Ed Mical explained that the office of Emergency Management in Warner works under the Select Board
13 focusing on preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. He noted that several grants have been
14 received. He noted that an update was done to the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The next scheduled update is
15 in 2029. Ed Mical explained that currently he is working on the Emergency Operations Plan. He explained
16 that a hazardous analysis identifies areas of concern that is updated in the Emergency Operations plan.
17

18 Ed Mical explained that Town Hall is the designated Emergency Operations shelter and the Warner Church
19 can accommodate a small incident (warming center). He advised the Select Board that he as the Emergency
20 Management Director activates the emergency operations center. Ed Mical stated that the Emergency
21 Management consists of the Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW Director, Warner Water Precinct representative,
22 School District representative, local volunteers, Select Board and individuals from the Select Board office.
23 He noted that if there was an extended event additional volunteers would be needed. Ed Mical stated that the
24 Finance Director is involved to assist with paperwork and reimbursements. Ed Mical advised the Select
25 Board that the update should be completed by the end of July or early August. He noted that there are two
26 grants: update of the Emergency Operations Plan and the update of the Continuity of Operations Plan. The
27 Select Board thanked Ed Mical for the information.
28

29 **c. Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail, Tim Blagden**

30 Review open sections of trail in Warner: Part of the Stevens Rail Trail in Davisville, the section at Bagley
31 Field, the section between Depot St and Joppa Rd; update on the Exit 9 and Exit 8 projects, a Tom's Pond Rd
32 project and other potential projects. Tim Blagden explained that there are three sections of trail in the Town
33 of Warner that are open (Bagley Field, Depot Street to Joppa Road and Stevens trail). He explained that
34 there are three other projects that are in various states of development in Warner.
35

36 **Exit 9**

37 Tim Blagden stated that they have a grant to do some work at exit 9; from Waterloo Street over to the
38 Barbara Annis Roundabout. He stated that the original Exit 9 plan was to also cross the river. He explained
39 that the grant was originally a design and build grant but it has been modified to be a design only grant. Tim
40 Blagden stated that they are trying to get to a finished design plan by the end of September. He stated that
41 they would need to raise more money for a design and build. He noted that currently they have \$1.5 million
42 but because the project is within the federal right of way that is not enough for the design and build of two
43 bridges.
44

45 Alfred Hanson asked for clarification on the management of the funds. Tim Blagden explained that the Town
46 and the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail agreed on a sub-agreement to satisfy the federal
47 requirements. He stated that the Town of Warner manages the grant funds for the Friends of the Concord
48 Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. He stressed that the non-profit group works closely with the finance department and
49 the town treasurer. He explained that the non-profit pays all the expenses of the grant. Clyde Carson

1 explained that the funds are kept in separate accounts (away from the general fund) and invoices are paid
2 from that account.

3
4 Mike Smith asked if the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail purchased the property near Exit 7
5 that was owned by the State. Tim Blagden stated that it is in the process of doing that.

6
7 **Exit 8**

8 Tim Blagden spoke about Exit 8 project. He explained that it is a federal grant to address congestion,
9 mitigation and air quality. He advised the Select Board that the state is willing to provide \$2.3 million and
10 the non-profit would need to contribute \$600,000 to activate that grant. He stated that a similar agreement
11 with the Town would be needed to manage the funds. Tim Blagden explained that this project would create a
12 1.1 mile section of trail in the interstate median. He stated that they have not started the grant process
13 because they need to raise the money.

14
15 **Exit 7**

16 Tim Blagden advised the Select Board that there is a small piece of land next to the edge of Route 103 that
17 touches the railroad grade that the town has granted an easement to them. He explained that there is a half
18 mile of property where they have easements from Kathy Constantino and the Town up to Tom's Pond Road.
19 He explained that this small piece of property is needed for access. Tim Blagden reiterated that the Friends of
20 the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail is in the process of purchasing the property from the state. He stated
21 that the Governor and Executive Council have approved the sale. He stated that the property needs to be
22 surveyed. He informed the Select Board that they have submitted a recreational trails program grant but it is
23 unknown if that will be granted.

24
25 **d. Kearsarge Klassic, August Annual Bicycle Ride, Arlon Chaffee**

26 Arlon Chaffee stated that the Kearsarge Klassic Annual Bicycle Ride began in 2019. He explained that the
27 headquarters is on the Café lawn with parking at the elementary school. He advised the Select Board that
28 there are approximately 200-250 riders. He stated that he works closely with the police and fire departments.
29 Arlon Chaffee explained that there is a beer garden that does require a certificate of occupancy from the Fire
30 Department. He advised the Select Board that he has selected Allen's Catering. Arlon Chaffee noted that this
31 is the same process he has followed in years past. Mike Smith stated that this is a wonderful event and he
32 thanked Arlon Chaffee for his efforts. Arlon Chaffee reviewed the agreement and procedure he is required to
33 follow for the permitting.

34
35 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to Approve the letter from the Kearsarge**
36 **Klassic August Annual Bicycle Ride. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Smith YES Hanson YES**

37
38 **e. Zoom Attendance: RSA 91-A:2, III Select Board Rules of Procedure**

39 David Carle spoke to the Select Board regarding zoom attendance pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, III. He explained
40 that using the RSA he drafted an amendment to the Rules of Procedure. He informed the Select Board that
41 he has consulted an attorney who sits on the Board of Governors for the New Hampshire Bar Association.
42 David Carle explained that in 2008 the New Hampshire legislature had concerns that as a result of electronic
43 means, elected and appointed officials were not showing up for meetings. He explained that the law was
44 amended and signed into law by then Governor Lynch. David Carle stated that the Select Board is not
45 following the state law.

46
47 David Carle stated that Selectperson Smith should have stated why he cannot attend this meeting in person
48 and then the Select Board needs to decide whether that is an appropriate reason. He reiterated that it is up to
49 the Select Board to determine if the rationale for not attending the meeting in person is appropriate. David

1 Carle provided a copy of the NH Municipal Association's information that addresses zoom attendance. He
2 stated that their oaths of office require the Select Board to follow state law. He informed the Select Board
3 that they can vote to eliminate the rules of procedure but it would still be a requirement to abide by the law.
4

5 Alfred Hanson stated that he has read the RSA and he acknowledged the need to follow the law. He assured
6 David Carle that the Select Board will look closely at this.
7

8 **f. Employee Evaluation Form**

9 Alfred Hanson explained that the Employee Evaluation Form has been revised. He stated that he has
10 incorporated suggestions from the town's department heads. He asked the Select Board to review the
11 proposed draft. The Select Board agreed to discuss the revised Employee Evaluation Form on July 14th.
12

13 **III. Select Board Other Business**

14 Rick Bixby inquired about the scheduling of a public hearing to consider the extras for the Highway
15 Department. Alfred Hanson and Herm Blanchette suggested the public hearing be scheduled for a July
16 meeting.
17

18 Mike Smith inquired about the Land Use secretary position. Alfred Hanson stated that a Land Use
19 Coordinator has been hired. Mike Smith inquired about the Town Administrator position. Alfred Hanson
20 explained that they are not ready to post the position.
21

22 **IV. Public Comment**

23 Beth Lukitis spoke about meeting participation by Zoom. She stated that it can be very disruptive. She stated
24 that the role of Selectperson should be given the respect it deserves. She explained that the Town has
25 bestowed the honor on the three Select Board members by electing them to represent the voters and the town.
26 She stated that a blank computer screen on zoom feels disrespectful.
27

28 Christine Frost stated that she has a proposal and request. She spoke about serving on the Budget Committee
29 and learning as much as she can by taking NHMA courses. She stated that the town's investment policy is
30 supposed to be reviewed every year. Christine Frost proposed that she and Treasurer Ginger March draft an
31 investment policy for the Select Board to consider for adoption. She requested the Select Board provide the
32 budget committee with the first two quarters of the year expenses to review at the next budget committee
33 meeting on July 9th. Clyde Carson stated that he will provide the information that is available.
34

35 Martha Mical asked Selectperson Mike Smith if he could elaborate on why he is not physically present at the
36 Select Board meeting. Mike Smith explained that there was a death in his family. Martha Mical stated that
37 she is sorry for his loss.
38

39 Amy (inaudible last name) inquired about the land on Tom's Pond road that has been sold without notifying
40 the abutters. She stated that the abutters were in contact with the Select Board regarding the property. She
41 noted that Selectperson Smith was trying to help them as they sought answers regarding the property. Tim
42 Blagden explained that is not the property that recently sold for development and is not town owned land, it
43 is State owned property. He explained that the parcel that the rail trail is purchasing is between Route 103
44 and the former railroad grade. He reiterated that the land for sale is owned by the State. Amy explained that
45 abutters have expressed interest in the parcels and she is surprised that the State would not notify the abutting
46 owners. She spoke about the expressed concern of one abutter who is not thrilled about the possibility that
47 the bike trail will go through his yard. Tim Blagden outlined the state's process of selling state owned land.
48 He explained that the State recognizes the public benefit of a rail trail and is willing to sell the land to the
49 Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail because it is an amenity for the community. Amy spoke

1 about the issues that will burden the abutting owners (trash, noise etc...). She asked if the abutters have any
2 say. Tim Blagden stated that the abutters do not have a say. She expressed her disappointment with this
3 development. Tim Blagden offered to continue this discussion and gave Amy his telephone number.
4

5 Dawn Quirk expressed her concern about the rail trail. She asked who will hold the Friends of the Concord
6 Lake Sunapee Rail Trail accountable for what happens on the trails. She stated that the rail trail is a
7 polarizing issue in town. She would like the Select Board to be more actively involved in the issue. Dawn
8 Quirk stated that the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail does not care about any property
9 owners or animals in the area, they only care about getting their bike trails.
10

11 Annmarie Timmons asked if the rail trail project would intersect with the pond or the town owned property.
12 She asked what the status is on selling the town owned parcel. Alfred Hanson noted that the Town's only
13 involvement with the rail trail project is the management of the grants. Tim Blagden explained that the town
14 has given the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail the right to build and maintain the trail. Tim
15 Blagden stated that the rail trail will not intersect with Tom's Pond. Alfred Hanson stated that he will be in
16 contact with Tim Blagden relative to community outreach regarding the rail trail. Annmarie Timmons asked
17 what the status is on the sale of town owned property on Tom's Pond. Alfred Hanson explained that there is
18 nothing new to report.
19

20 Amy (inaudible last name) inquired if the public needs to be notified about an easement. Tim Blagden noted
21 that a public hearing was held and the town gave the easement to the Friends of the Concord Lake Sunapee
22 Rail Trail. Alfred Hanson stated that they will look into when the easement was granted.
23

24 **V. Consent Agenda June 23, 2026**

25 Motion made by the Select Board to approve the following or previously signed; a request of the Trustees of
26 the Trust Funds for \$650.00 from the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve fund paying an invoice from Alan
27 Signs. A request of the Trustees of the Trust Funds for \$13,888 from the Town Hall Improvement Capital
28 Reserve Fund to pay an invoice from Riverdale Fire Protection.
29

30 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the June 23, 2026 Consent Agenda**
31 **as read. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSTAIN**

32 **VI. Manifest June 23, 2026**

33 Motion for the Warner Select Board will include the following previously signed manifests
34 Accounts payable check numbers 12689 through 12709 dated June 15, 2026 in the amount of \$408,119.98
35 which includes a payment to the Kearsarge Regional School District of \$367,743. Accounts payable check
36 number 12710 dated June 14, 2026 in the amount of \$650.00. Accounts payable check numbers 12711 and
37 12714 dated June 16, 2026 in the amount of \$7,525.00. Motion to authorize the Select Board to approve and
38 order the Treasurer to sign the following manifest; Account payable check numbers 12715 through 12718
39 dated June 23, 2026 in the amount of \$56,262.79 for the June 25, 2026 bi-weekly payroll deposit. Bi-weekly
40 payroll check numbers 4251 through 4254 and direct deposit check numbers EO3329 through EO3357 dated
41 June 25, 2026 with a net payment of \$42,827.84.
42
43

44 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the June 23, 2026 Manifest as read.**
45 **Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSTAIN**

1 **VII. Minutes May 26, 2026 and June 9, 2026**

2 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the May 26, 2026 Select Board**
3 **meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSTAIN**

4 Mike Smith the edit as he was present via Zoom.

6 **Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to approve the June 9, 2026 Select Board**
7 **meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote Bixby YES Hanson YES Smith ABSTAIN**

8 Insert Beth Lukitis under public present.

10 **VIII. Non-Public Session** if needed (RSA 91-A:3 II (a-m))

11 Under RSA 91-A:3 II b the Select Board entered non-public session at 7:22 PM.

12 **Motion: Hanson**

13 **Second: Bixby**

14 **Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Bixby YES Smith YES**

16 Respectfully submitted on 7/8/26 by Tracy Doherty

17 Edits, Judith A. Newman-Rogers, Select Board Admin Asst.

DRAFT