

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
4:30 PM Town Hall



Present: Henry Tirrell, Leo Colwell, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez and Chelsea DeWitt

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: February 4, 2026

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2026 meeting as presented.
Second L. Colwell. Carried unanimously.

Appointments: Sub-Registrar of Vital Statistics

As requested by the Town Clerk's Office, H. Tirrell put forth the following people as sub-registrars of Vital Statistics:

Robert Palmer – Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home

Brian Kenny – Kenny Funeral Home

These appointees are responsible for issuing removal, transport, burial and cremation permits, for deaths that occur in Norfolk during the hours that the office is closed.

MOTION L. Colwell to appoint Robert Palmer and Brian Kenny as Sub-Registrars of Vital Statistics with the term being 01/05/26 – 01/07/30. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Town Hall Hours

After much discussion and research of other Town Halls it was decided to close the Selectmen's Office on Friday mornings and stay open until 6:00 on Thursdays beginning in April.

MOTION L. Colwell for the Selectmen's Office to close on Friday mornings and stay open until 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Selectman's Report

- New Firehouse – Work has been paused because of the weather but will resume on 3/16/26. The completion is scheduled for the end of this year with demolition of the old firehouse planned for next year.
- We are hoping to get more funding for the new firehouse, H. Tirrell will be sitting in on a webinar regarding submitting applications for congressionally directed spending.
- Wall Project – progress meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00. Work had also been delayed there because of the weather but should resume soon. The September completion date is still on schedule.
- Mountain Road Bridge – The first preconstruction meeting was held yesterday, and a few trees were flagged for removal, one which was requested by Eversource. Site work will begin mid-March and the road will be closed early April through November for construction. This may cause issues with the Memorial Day Road Race, but Henry will reach out to the contractors to inquire about the possibility of foot traffic crossing the bridge.

Selectman's Report (continued)

- H. Tirrell is working on final numbers and a line of credit (approximately \$2,000,000) for the Mountain Road Bridge project. The Town must finance the project but will be reimbursed 80% (Federal) and 20% (State). Interest owed on the loan will depend on how quickly we are reimbursed.
- Town Meeting – A town meeting will be scheduled for the third or fourth week in March which will include approval for: Mountain Road Bridge Project loan, Haystack Woods town road, new truck money allocation and an ordinance to join the NRRRA (Northwest Resource Recovery Authority).
- Northwest Resource Recovery Authority – The State of Connecticut will be terminating the current contract with the Torrington Transfer Station and therefore the towns should plan accordingly. NRRRA is hoping to take ownership of the Torrington Transfer Station to keep a public option open. Towns have been reaching out to the governor's office and hopefully there will be more clarity soon.
- Public Works Trucks – We currently have a truck and body recommendation ready for Tuesday's Board of Finance meeting.
- Salt Shortage – It's been a busy winter for our Public Works employees and especially tough with the salt shortage. The Town of Winsted lent us 3 truckloads of salt, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) has been helpful connecting towns with salt supplies.
- Discussion regarding items in current budget.

Budget Discussion (FY 26/27)

- H. Tirrell distributed a spreadsheet of the Fiscal Year 26/27 budget for review. Budget discussion was held which included the following highlights:
 - o 20-year bond note due in Sept. with an estimated interest of \$100,000+
 - o Botelle School - \$100,000+ budget increase
 - o Regional #7 - \$80,000 budget increase
 - o Employee raises – 3%
 - o Possible increase if change in auditor

Another BOS Budget Meeting will be scheduled for next week.

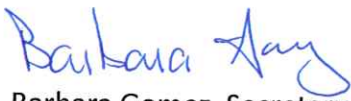
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MOTION L. Colwell to remove the “*Vote to Authorize First Selectman to act on pending litigation*” from the agenda. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Selectmen moved to executive at 5:30 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 6:03 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara Gomez, Secretary