

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



Present: Henry Tirrell, Leo Colwell, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez, Avice Meehan and Ted Hinman

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: January 7, 2026

MOTION L. Colwell to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting as presented. Second H. Tirrell. S. Evans abstained. Motion carried.

Reappointments: City Meadow Committee/Conservation Commission

H. Tirrell presented the following committee members for reappointment:

- City Meadow Committee – Mary Ackerly – term to expire 2/1/28
- City Meadow Committee – Martyn Banks – term to expire 2/1/28
- City Meadow Committee – Mark Burke – term to expire 2/1/28
- Conservation Commission – John Anderson – term to expire 2/17/29

MOTION L. Colwell to reappoint the committee members presented. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Emergency Shelter Budget Discussion

Ted Hinman attended the meeting to discuss budget planning in the event the town needed to open an emergency shelter. The likely scenario for opening the shelter would be an ice storm taking down power lines for an extended period of time. The location would be Botelle School which has a shower, generator, 100 cots and meets most of the requirements. Ted discussed the planning and logistical requirements he is updating in the plan. One example of people needing shelter are the residents who are medically compromised requiring medication, oxygen, etc. and don't have primary caregivers. Budget items would include food, medical supplies and compensation for Botelle School custodial staff. Transportation could be another issue. Also, there are legal requirements regarding who you must accept. With the exception of medical service dogs, pets cannot be accepted at a shelter. One idea might be to ask other residents to foster a pet. Another issue is deciding if the school stays open while residents are being sheltered. An alternative for a smaller group (20 people) to shelter could be the EMS building set up as a warming center and eventually the new firehouse. Discussion followed Ted's presentation and the group thanked Ted for all his work.

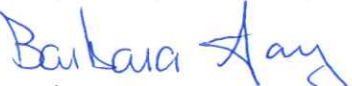
Selectman's Report

- Fire House – Henry Tirrell reported that Newfield Construction is putting together numbers to weigh the cost options for cold weather measures vs. putting the project on hold for a few weeks. One of the jobs in question is the pouring of concrete in this cold weather and the integrity of the concrete in the long term. The Fire House Committee will make the final decision.
- Fire House – Under consideration is the hiring of a Commission Agent to oversee code requirements and ensure that all systems work and are up to code.
- Fire House - H. Tirrell spoke with his contact at the USDA and was assured that the Town will receive the \$500,000 (through Jahanna Hayes' office). The bond anticipation note comes due on 9/3/26 but will result in added interest if pushed out.
- River Place Bridge – the 2nd NBT Bank loan has been closed.
- Wall Project – The project has been put on pause because of the cold weather.
- Public Works – Staff is very busy with plowing. We are looking into costs for new trucks and will be looking at a truck in Harwinton tomorrow.
- Fuel Spill – The Town is still in mediation regarding a settlement from Federated Insurance.
- H. Tirrell is working on the Fiscal Year 26/27 budget. Departmental budgets are due back on 2/13/26. One of the big items will be the Fire House bond. Other budget items including school budgets discussed.
- Haystack Woods – The Foundation for Norfolk Living is working with the Planning & Zoning Commission to complete requirements for an easement. A town meeting will be held to approve the road as a “town” road.

Executive Session

Selectmen moved to executive session at 5:15 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 6:42 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara Gomez, Secretary