



Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2026

Present: Bill Vines, Chairman  
Ricky Bowen  
Jay Hickory  
Jim Haff

Patrick Cushing, Town Manager

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition - New Town Manager *(Per the contract Selectboard signed on December 22, 2025)*
3. Selectboard Discussion
  - a. Rules of Order
  - b. Open Seat
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Selectboard Discussion
6. Approval of the Minutes
7. Citizen Concerns
8. Amendment to VHB Contract - cost increase for additional services in support
9. Approval of Local Match for Municipal Planning Grant
10. FY27 Budget
11. Citizen Concerns
12. Selectboard Members' Comments or Concerns
13. Executive Session
14. Adjourn

## **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

## **2. Recognition - New Town Manager**

The Selectboard received former CH Cushing's resignation as a member of the Selectboard before he was sworn in as the Town Manager.

## **3. Selectboard Discussion**

### **○ Rules of Order**

- i. SB Vines reminded attendees that the Selectboard was still following the rules adopted during the June 23rd, 2025 Meeting. Consequently, SB Vines will lead the Selectboard Meetings as a Chairman is not present.
- ii. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are able to co-sign warrants on behalf of the Selectboard. As there is no elected Chairman, SB Vines recommended that all Selectboard members sign the warrants until a new Selectboard member is elected and a new Chairman is chosen.
- iii. With a 5-member Selectboard, a minimum of three Selectboard members are needed to pass a motion. SB Vines stated this would remain true for the current 4-member Selectboard.

### **○ Open Seat**

- i. Following the Town Council's advice, the Selectboard will hold elections for the empty Selectboard member seat before the March Town Meeting Day. The elected candidate may only serve for 1-2 Meetings before Town Meeting Day.

## **4. Approval of the Agenda**

- SB Haff made a motion to approve the Agenda for the January 12th Selectboard Meeting as may be amended. SB Haff requested that an additional Article be added after Art. 4 (Approval of the Agenda) for Selectboard Discussion allowing for comments on Art. 3 (Selectboard Discussion) The motion was unanimously passed.

## **5. Selectboard Discussion**

- SB Haff stated that he believed a Chairman should be elected, for the time being, until the March Town Meeting Day to avoid long wait times for signed warrants.
- SB Haff made a motion to elect SB Vines as the Chairman of the Selectboard. SB Hickory and SB Bowen seconded the motion. SB Vines abstained. The motion was unanimously passed.
- SB Haff made a motion to elect SB Hickory as the Vice-Chairman of the Selectboard. CH Vines and SB Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

## **6. Approval of the Minutes**

- The Selectboard reviewed the December 22nd Meeting Minutes. SB Haff made a motion to approve the December 22nd Meeting Minutes. SB Bowen seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

## **7. Citizen Comments/Concerns**

- George Brant, Town Resident, asked if the Town received a price estimate on a forensic audit. TM Cushing stated the Town reached out to the auditor but had not received a price estimate yet. Brant requested that the Town also include the price per taxpayer in the estimate. The Selectboard stated they would request that the Town look into this. SB Haff stated he believed former TM Atherton stated in an August 2025 Selectboard Meeting that the cost of a forensic audit would be \$25,000 dollars. TM Cushing stated he would look into it. SB Haff stated that he did not know why someone would not want to have a forensic audit completed considering the accusations that were stated over the last two years. SB Haff stated there shouldn't be a cap on the cost of a forensic audit in the Town if Town residents vote in favor of a forensic audit. SB Haff also stated that a price estimate should be received from a third-party auditor and not from the Town's current auditor. CH Vines agreed with SB Haff but stated the Town needed to move forward with determining the Town's next steps instead of spending too much time on discussion.
- Jon Wysocki, Town Resident, spoke about the October 14th, 2025 Selectboard Meeting where SB Bowen and his wife, Claudia Revenko-Bowen, discussed a threatening text they received which the Selectboard agreed was inappropriate and unacceptable. Wysocki stated that on Saturday, January 10th, 2026 at 9:39am, after arriving at the Town's Transfer station, SB Hickory yelled at him, while working as a Town employee, stating that Wysocki could mention his name but that Wysocki should not mention SB Hickory's wife's name in anything. Wysocki stated that SB Hickory told Wysocki that if he mentioned his wife's name, there would be a problem and SB Hickory would come after Wysocki. Wysocki stated he has not said anything about SB Hickory's wife and has not said her name. Wysocki stated it was unacceptable for a Selectboard member, while working as a Town employee, to speak to a Town resident about Town business in a threatening manner. Wysocki stated he filed a report with the state police and a complaint of criminal activity of threatening which he forwarded to the Town Police Chief Montgomery. Wysocki stated he hoped TM Cushing would look further into this issue. CH Vines stated the Selectboard would look further into this issue once the formal complaint from the State Police was received. TM Cushing stated he would also look further into this. SB Haff stated that no Selectboard member should be on the receiving end of harassment but Selectboard members should also not threaten Town residents. SB Haff stated that Wysocki should not have been threatened at the Transfer Station. SB Haff

stated that Wysocki and TM Cushing should have a discussion before reporting back to the three Selectboard members during an Executive Session.

- Lucretia Wonsor, Town Resident, followed up on a conversation held during a previous Meeting about Restricted Funds. Wonsor read Title 24, Section 2804 about Reserve Funds use. Wonsor stated that any restricted funds that are voted for by the voters can only be used for those purposes. Those funds would not be able to be moved unless those funds are redirected by Town residents through a vote. Wonsor then stated that the Town created a Killington Volunteer Fire Department Capital Fund in 2018 for the building of the Public Safety Building. Wonsor also stated the Town Garage Reserve Fund, the Johnson Recreation Center Pool and Related Facilities Reserve Fund, and a reserve fund for the General Highway Fund was established to cover revenue shortfalls and to pay non-recurring unanticipated general highway fund expenses. Wonsor stated that the Town alluded to the fact that when Town residents voted for TIF, voters understood that the Town may possibly use restricted funds as well. Wonsor stated that nothing in the 2023 TIF article mentioned the use of restricted funds to fund any shortfalls regarding TIF expenses. SB Haff read out an approved article from a Warned Public Hearing held on January 30th, 2023 related to TIF-related costs, payments, and reimbursements for TIF-eligible costs incurred by the Town. SB Haff stated in this article, voters approved an interfund loan which comes from the general fund of all reserves. TM Cushing recommended examining if any funds drawn from those reserves resulted in the funds dropping below their established minimum level before determining if legal advice was needed.
- Rob Kovalesky, Town Resident, clarified a statement he made during a previous Meeting about the 1% local tax. Kovalesky stated he is simply in favor of finding ways to reduce the amount of money put into the Town's budget in order to reduce the amount of tax Town residents pay. Kovalesky stated he was also in support of the Town finding ways to reduce their own budget prior to approval. Kovalesky also questioned the automatic 3% budget increase Department Directors mentioned during their budget presentations.
- Lisa Davis Lewis, Town Planner, stated that while driving home following the previous Selectboard Meeting, she attempted to turn left down West Hill Road from Killington Road but found multiple cars in the oncoming traffic lane. Lewis stated this is happening more frequently on West Hill Road. Lewis stated that signage will be needed to prevent confusions and accidents. SB Haff stated this was a concern discussed during a previous Meeting and agreed that signage stating the road was two-way traffic was needed. TM Cushing will speak with the Highway Department on this concern.
- George Brant, Town Resident, asked when Hurricane Irene happened, if the Town used the reserve funds for repairs. Wonsor, former Town Clerk attending as a Town Resident, stated there was no vote to use the reserve funds for the repairs but the Town took out loans to cover the repairs. SB Haff stated he would prefer to stick to CH Cushing's recommendation to find out what the

minimums levels of the reserve fund were. SB Haff stated that the Town has used restricted/reserve funds in the past to cover costs, such as school payments. Wonsor stated that the Town never borrowed for the school payments. Wonsor stated the Town had an expense note as the Town's school payment was due in June however, the Town did not start collecting money until August. Wonsor stated that the second year following the switch to a fiscal year payment, the Town stopped borrowing.

- Roger Rivera, Town Resident, asked for a progress update on signage at the new Town Hall. TM Cushing stated that the Town had received quotes and would begin focusing on the signage after the budget work. SB Haff stated the permit for a sign has already been approved. Ken Wonsor, Town Resident, recommended power washing the Town Hall ahead of installing signage, if the signs will be attached to the building.

#### **8. Amendment to VHB Contract**

- The Selectboard discussed the presented amendment to the VHB Contract. Lisa Davis Lewis, Town Planner, stated the Town has had ongoing Act 250 issues with both 1A North and 1A South. VHB has provided Brad Ketterling to provide assistance through this process. The amendment to the contract would be to extend the number of hours Ketterling would be able to work on the project, as he has already exceeded the agreed upon amount of time. This extension stems from VHB not realizing in their original plans that they did not have a permit for the last 600-700 feet of the road. The additional cost would be \$20,000 dollars that would be included as a TIF expense to be paid by the developer.
- SB Haff made a motion to approve the amendment to the VHB Contract for the Act 250 permitting process for the Killington Road Phase 1A project. SB Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- SB Haff made a motion for the Town Manager to sign the VHB Client Authorization Approval Form. SB Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **9. Approval of Local Match for Municipal Planning Grant**

- Rebecca Claffey, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the discussion on the Local Match for a Municipal Planning Grant. The Parks and Recreation Department received a \$30,000 dollars municipal planning grant to convert the old Town Hall into a Community Center. This grant would also allow the Parks and Recreation Department to receive feedback on what Town Residents would like to see in a community center. The match would be \$5,270 dollars which would come out of the Standing Commission Special Private Fund which, as of November 30th, 2025, had \$201,117.19 dollars. SB Haff clarified that the Planning Commission is in charge of those funds. Lisa Davis Lewis, Town Planner, stated that the Planning Commission has not yet voted to use the funds towards the match however, the deadline for approving the local match for this Municipal Planning Grant is approaching. Lewis requested that the Selectboard

approve the local match for the Municipal Planning Grant subject to Planning Commission approval.

- SB Haff made a motion to allow, upon Planning Commission approval, to use \$5,270 dollars from the Special Projects Budget line item for the match of the Municipal Planning Grant. CH Vines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **10. FY27 Budget**

- TM Cushing presented the revised FY27 budget including three base budgets, which could be altered. TM Cushing first reviewed three potential budgets for the Town's EMS Departments. Each potential budget had varying levels of staffing generally or during a given time. TM Cushing also reviewed potential sections of the projected revenues and costs that needed to be verified or corrected.
- The Selectboard discussed different measures to increase the Town's revenue including increasing short-term rental registration fees, increasing solid waste fees, following an ordinance on billing insurance companies when the Fire Department is sent to a car accident, uniform stipends, and healthcare benefits.
- SB Haff stated that he believed Town employees should be paying for 20% of their health benefits and 100% of their deductible instead of the 3% that they currently pay for. The Selectboard discussed how health care benefits fit into employee compensation and how an increase may affect employee retention. SB Haff asked the Selectboard to consider Town employees paying 10% of their health benefits and 100% of their deductible. Further discussion was held on the rising cost of health care benefits for Town residents, employee retention rates, and potentially slowly scaling up employee health care contributions. SB Haff stated if the Selectboard would not vote for Town employees paying 10% of their health benefits and 100% of their deductible, he would start a petition for Town employees to pay 20% of their health benefits and 100% of the deductible. The Selectboard spoke about holding a compensation study. The Selectboard agreed to reduce the FY27 Health Insurance budget line to \$500,00 dollars from \$552,951 dollars.
- The Selectboard held a conversation on the Municipal Retirement System. SB Haff stated he wanted to eliminate a policy that was put into place where the Town would pay Town employees' share of their pensions towards the Municipal Retirement System if they worked for at least 4 years and had been hired prior to July 1, 2018.

#### **11. Citizen Concerns**

- There were none.

#### **12. Selectboard Members' Comments/Concerns**

- There were none.

**13. Executive Session**

- The Selectboard entered into Executive Session at 10:56 pm. They invited TM Cushing to join them. The Selectboard exited at 11:51 pm. No action was taken.

**14. Adjourn**

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 pm.