Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
January 19, 2026

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

Patrick Cushing, Town Manager

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Citizen Concerns
4. FY27 Budget
5. Selectboard Members' Comments or Concerns
6. Executive Session
7. Adjourn

*Please note: Video recording experienced connectivity issues resulting in voices being cut off.

1. **Call to Order**
   The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
   - SB Haff made a motion to approve the Agenda for the January 19th Special Selectboard Meeting as may be amended. The motion was unanimously passed.
   - CH Vines stated that Val Taylor, the Town's new State Representative who is assuming the remainder of former Representative Jim Harrison, may attend this Meeting. If Taylor attends, the Selectboard will pause their budget discussion to allow Taylor to introduce herself.

3. **Citizen Comments/Concerns**
   - There was none.

4. **FY27 Budget**
   - The Selectboard resumed their discussion on the FY27 Budget.
   - TM Cushing spoke to the Town's auditor who informed him the shortfall he calculated from the previous Meeting was higher than their estimation. Their estimated shortfall was less than TM Cushing's shortfall as they corrected several costs placed in the general budget that should have been placed in either the TIF or Killington Forward budget. The estimated shortfall amount from the Town auditors is $488,000 dollars. The shortfall primarily consists of revenue that did not reach their estimated goal and an expense related to a loan being paid off, that was not intended to have been paid off during FY26. TM Cushing presented a few ways to approach the shortfall including a tax increase or bonding the shortfall amount and paying it off over a few years. SB Vines suggested holding off on any discussion related to paying off the previous year's shortfall until the FY27 budget was completed.
   - The Selectboard continued their discussion related to Fire Department and Police Department staffing and budget costs. SB Haff made a motion for the Police Department's staff to add an additional full-time position by January 1, 2027. CH Vine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
   - SB Haff made a motion to increase the Traffic Ticket Fees budget line from $10,000 dollars to $15,000 dollars for FY27. SB Bowen seconded the motion. SB Haff voted in favor of the motion. CH Vines, SB Bowen, and SB Hickory voted against the motion. The motion did not pass. CH Vines made a motion to keep the Traffic Ticket Fees budget line at $10,000 dollars for FY27. The motion was unanimously passed.
   - The Selectboard reviewed FY27 employee benefits. CH Vines made a motion for the Health Insurance budget line item to be set at $500,000 dollars, based

upon the Selectboard's expectations that the Town Management Team will come back with a proposal on how they will meet that budget, after acceptance of the FY27 budget. The plan will need to include how to address the premiums, deductibles, and the structure of the plan. SB Haff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

- The Selectboard reviewed the Municipal Retirement System budget. TM Cushing stated that 4 Town Employees currently have their contribution paid for by the Town amounting to $14,000 dollars. TM Cushing stated he would need to look further into the legality of ending the Town's contribution as some employees received this offer during the time of their hire. SB Haff stated he did not believe that taxpayers should be paying 100% of a Town employee's pension.
- SB Haff made a motion to include the $488,208 dollar shortfall into the FY27 budget with $488,208 dollars. SB Bowen seconded the motion. SB Haff, SB Bowen, and SB Hickory voted in favor of the motion. CH Vines voted against the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.
- SB Bowen questioned whether the Selectboard should bring back the 1% local tax option. SB Haff disagreed. SB Haff made a motion to not include the 1% local tax option as an article during the upcoming March 3rd, 2026 vote. SB Hickory seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.
- SB Haff made a motion to put the Town Manager in charge of coming back to the Selectboard with the actual shortage of past budgets, replacement costs for the Recreation Department's pool and bathhouse, and cost for roads in need of repair within the next 3-5 years. With that information, SB Haff stated he would be open to further discussing the 1% sales option tax. SB Haff stated he does not like bringing a tax to fill a black hole and would like to have projects. CH Vines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.
- SB Haff made a motion to accept the FY27 budget as presented with the changes discussed. CH Vines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

5. Citizen Concerns

- There were none.

6. Selectboard Members' Comments/Concerns

- SB Haff discussed a FEMA Storm Recovery Capital Improvement Loan which the Selectboard tasked the Town Manager to move forward with in April 2025.

7. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.