Selectboard Meeting Minutes DRAFT
January 26, 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 Comments/Concerns
4. Selectboard Member Comments/Concerns
5. Town Meeting Warning - Discussion and Signatures
6. ***PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED - starts at 6:00pm***
    a. ***Subdivision Regulations and Zoning By-Law Amendments***
7. Executive Session - Discussion on Replacement of the Selectboard Seat
8. Adjourn

1. **Call to Order**
   The Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
   - SB Haff made a motion to approve the Agenda for the January 26th Selectboard Meeting with a request to reword to Art. 7 (Executive Session - Personnel) to Art. 7 (Executive Session - Discussion on Replacement of the Selectboard Seat). CH Vines second the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

3. **Citizen Comments/Concerns**
   - George Brant, Town Resident, first confirmed with the Selectboard that the municipal taxes would increase to 12.9%. Brant then asked about a statement TM Cushing made during a previous Meeting about $400,000-$500,000 dollars that were not yet accounted for. TM Cushing stated that was money that was not yet budgeted for concerning how the Town would repay costs associated with Killington Forward and other projects. TM Cushing stated these were approved and used funds that should later be paid back; however, before the funds are repaid, these funds lower the Town's General Fund capacity. A larger discussion was held on how the Town should approach paying for the shortfall. Rob Kovalesky, Town Resident, asked why the Selectboard voted down bonding the budget shortfall. SB Haff stated that in the previous Selectboard Meeting, the Selectboard voted against bonding the shortfall. The Selectboard also approved a motion for the Town Manager to come back to the Selectboard with the actual shortfall of the past yearly budgets, replacement costs for the Recreation Department's pool and bathhouse, and the cost of roads in need of repair within the next 3-5 years before considering whether to ask Town Residents to consider bringing back the 1% sales option tax in a vote later this year. SB Haff stated he voted against bonding the shortfall as he does not have all of the information in front of him to determine if a bond is the correct way to address the shortfall. SB Haff stated the Town would not know what the FY27 tax rate would be until July 2026.
   - George Brant, Town Resident, asked what the Town had budgeted for the current auditor and whether the Town was spending more this year than in previous years. The Selectboard stated they would get back to Brant on that number.

4. **Selectboard Member Comments/Concerns**
   - There was none.

5. **Town Meeting Warning - Discussion and Signatures**
   - CH Vines read the Warning for the Public Informational Meeting to be held on March 2, 2026 and the Annual Town Meeting Day on March 3, 2026, including all articles to be voted on.

- SB Haff made a motion to open up a discussion on the articles. CH Vines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.
- CH Vines made a motion for the Town Manager to come back to the Selectboard with a list of the names of those running for office at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Day.
- SB Haff asked where the estimated cost of $200,000 dollars for a forensic audit was received. TM Cushing stated the Town sent out five RFIs on the price of a forensic audit. Only one response was received from CBiz who informed TM Cushing that an exact price estimate would be difficult to provide spending on the scope but the cost would easily be in the six figures. The Town's auditor stated the cost could be upwards of $250,000 dollars. George Brant, Town Resident, asked why the Selectboard changed the wording of this article which he requested through a submitted petition. CH Vines stated that when Brant first suggested the article for a forensic audit, the Selectboard voted it down in favor of another similarly worded article with the estimated cost which was being presented. SB Haff stated that after Brant submitted his petition, he should have been informed within 24 hours whether or not his petition was accepted or whether it was legally approved to be included as an article. TM Cushing stated that the article was presented to the Selectboard as a legitimate article without a dollar amount, which the Selectboard voted against. TM Cushing and CH Vines stated that Brant's article without the dollar amount and the Selectboard's article with the dollar amount were redundant so the article that was binding to a dollar amount was chosen. SB Haff argued in favor of including Brant's article as well. TM Cushing stated that the Town could include both the Selectboard's article as Article 4, which he stated was binding, and Brant's article as Article 5, which he stated was not binding, but it would create a redundancy in the vote. TM Cushing and CH Vines stated that the article was not binding because there was no funding authority making it an advisory article. SB Haff stated that the Town Manager should have presented the $200,000 dollar amount to the Selectboard before drafting the article. TM Cushing stated he was presenting the estimated cost of the forensic audit to the Selectboard at this Meeting. CH Vines wondered what would happen if the voters voted 'No' to the Selectboard's article but voted 'Yes' to Brant's article.
- SB Haff made a motion to switch the order of the articles so Brant's article was Article 4 and the Selectboard's article was Article 5 as Brant presented his article before the Selectboard's article. SB Hickory seconded the motion. SB Haff later withdrew his motion. SB Hickory seconded SB Haff's decision to withdraw the motion.
- SB Haff made a motion to accept all five presented articles, including Brant's article as written in his petition as Article 4, in advance of the upcoming Town Meeting Day. SB Hickory seconded the motion. SB Haff, SB Hickory, and CH Vines voted in favor of the motion. SB Bowen voted against the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. SB Bowen voted against the motion as he stated the inclusion of both articles would be too confusing for voters.

6. **Public Hearing Continued**
    - **Subdivision Regulations and Zoning By-Law Amendments**
        i. SB Haff made a motion to enter the Public Hearing at 6:02pm for subdivision regulations and zoning bylaw amendments continuation. This discussion was first held eight weeks ago. CH Vines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.
        ii. Lisa Davis Lewis, Town Planner, and Will Austin, Assistant Town Planner, led the discussion with the Selectboard. Lewis stated that the previous Public Hearing covered the Zoning By-Law Amendments and this Public Hearing would focus more on the Subdivision Regulations.
        iii. Lewis and the Selectboard discussed how the different categories of subdivisions were broken down. Lewis suggested that a minor subdivision be for any lot split into 4 sections or less while a major subdivision would be for any lot split into 5 sections or more. A major subdivision would need to be presented to the Development Review Board for review and a public hearing.
        iv. Lewis and the Selectboard also discussed other topics such as storm water management plans, erosion control and visual impact assessments. Selectboard made recommendations on used terminology and edits that needed to be made.
        v. Lewis and the Selectboard determined that another Public Hearing would be needed to continue this discussion on subdivision regulations and zoning by-law amendments.
        vi. SB Haff made a motion to hold a Public Hearing for Subdivision Regulations and Zoning By-Law Amendments on Monday, February 9th at 7:00 pm. The regular Selectboard Meeting would begin on February 9th at 6:30 pm. CH Vines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

7. **Executive Session - Discussion on Replacement of the Selectboard Seat**
    - The Selectboard entered into Executive Session at 9:09 pm. They exited at (unknown time) pm. No action was taken.The Selectboard stated that during Executive Session they discussed three candidates who submitted their applications for the temporary Selectboard Member position including Jon Wysocki, Andrew Gieda, and Vito Rasenas.
    - After exiting Executive Session, the Selectboard held a vote for who they chose to elect to the temporary position. SB Hickory voted for Andrew Gieda. SB Haff voted for Vito Rasenas. SB Bowen voted for Andrew Gieda. CH Vines voted for Vito Rasenas. The results of the vote were a tie. SB Haff stated he would change his vote to Jon Wysocki if the other Selectboard Members agreed. Hearing no change in votes, the Selectboard will not elect a temporary

Selectboard Member for February and will elect a regular Selectboard Member during the upcoming Town Meeting Day.

8. **Adjourn**
   The Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

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