Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2026

Present: Jim Haff, Selectboard Chair
Jon Wysocki, Selectboard Vice Chair
Bill Vines
Ricky Bowen
Vito Rasenas

Patrick Cushing, Town Manager

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Citizen Comments / Concerns
4. Executive Session - Personnel / Legal
5. FY27 Budget
6. Citizen Comments / Concerns
7. Selectboard Member Comments / Concerns
8. Executive Session – Union / Legal
9. Adjourn

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

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
   - SB Wysocki made a motion to approve the Agenda for the April 20th Special Selectboard Meeting with an additional article between Art. 3 (Citizen Comments / Concerns) and Art. 4 (FY27 Budget) for an Executive Session on Personnel and Legal. SB Rasenas seconded the motion. SB Wysocki, SB Rasenas, SB Vines and CH Haff voted in favor of the motion. SB Bowen voted against the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Citizen Comments / Concerns**
   - Rebecca Claffey, Parks and Recreation Director, addressed the $75,000 dollar proposed reduction to the Pool Capital Fund. Claffey read out a statement from the Parks and Recreation Department advocating to avoid reducing the Town's 2027 annual contribution to the Pool Capital Fund or, to consider a clear plan to restore the Town's commitment to the Pool Capital Fund into the following FY 2028 budget, which she stated voters overwhelmingly supported.
   - Jay Hickory, Town Resident, asked if there would be a cookout during this year's Green-Up Day. Hickory asked that if anyone was organizing a cookout, they should get the word out so Town Residents are aware.
   - George Brant, Town Resident, first thanked the current Selectboard, the previous Selectboard, TM Cushing, and former TM Atherton for their willingness to provide information to the public. However, Brant stated that Town Residents consistently coming into the Town Hall to ask questions during office hours was preventing Town Employees from completing their work. TM Cushing stated the Town has a new form in place for Town Residents' inquiries. Brant recommended that the Town create a policy to prevent this.
   - Rob Kovalesky, Town Resident, spoke about a statement read aloud by a Town Resident last week who stated the change in the cost of the Town Employees' contributions increasing from 3% to 20% appeared to be a retaliation because the Town was currently in negotiations with the union and Town Employees. Kovalesky stated the Selectboard had discussed increasing employee contributions from 3% to 20% in July 2025. Kovalesky asked if the union was speaking to the Town back in July 2025 or only over the past month. Kovalesky stated that if conversations with the union had begun recently, this would not be retaliation.

4. **Executive Session - Personnel / Legal**
   - The Selectboard entered into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal at 6:40pm. The Selectboard exited at 7:15pm. No action was taken.

5. **FY27 Budget**
    - CH Haff stated that the Selectboard must ensure that each position's salary or hourly rate should not change from its current rate, due to union negotiations. CH Haff reiterated a point of discussion from the April 13th Selectboard Meeting that some pay rates for Town Employees have changed since the FY2026 budget was approved and those rates should be maintained.
    - CH Haff stated that the Zoning Administrator position was paid $32.48 per hour for 25 hours a week which would result in $42,224 dollars per year. The Zoning Administrator is currently budgeted at $47,000 dollars. CH Haff requested that the FY27 budget be adjusted to reflect the actual annual cost of the Zoning Administrator, based on the hourly rate.
    - CH Haff asked what the Town's expenses towards Employee Benefits, such as Social Security, would be without the 3% COLA.
    - CH Haff discussed Rebecca Claffey's, Parks and Recreation Director, statement on the Pool Capital Fund and the 2018 vote to form a capital fund under VSA 24-2804 with $75,000 dollars in it. CH Haff stated that he is not against funding the Pool Capital Fund however, he commented that the current road conditions are poor and are in need of repair. CH Haff stated that in the FY2028 budget, with improved road conditions, with a completed forensic audit, and the Town no longer paying for nighttime bus service hours, there could be available funds to catch up on the Pool Capital Fund. CH Haff stated that the Selectboard has increased and decreased capital funding in the Town's budget depending on finances and needs in the past.
    - The Selectboard asked the Town Manager to write an article for the Zoning Deposits line item to be removed as the Town no longer charges zoning deposits.
    - The Selectboard discussed whether they needed to fund the Guard Rail Capital Project Fund for the FY2027 budget. The Selectboard chose to contribute $30,000 dollars to the Guard Rail Capital Project Fund for FY2027, in comparison to $50,000 dollars from FY2026. The remaining $20,000 dollars will be allocated to the Bituminus Resurfacing Capital Project Fund. The Selectboard also chose to contribute $100,000 dollars to the Bridges/Culverts Capital Project Fund for FY2027, in comparison to the $130,000 dollars from FY2026. The remaining $30,000 dollars will be allocated to the Bituminus Resurfacing Capital Project Fund.
    - SB Rasenas asked about whether the Town's revised budget should include the voter-approved $200,000 forensic audit, as the cost of the forensic audit was not included in the failed FY2026 budget. SB Rasenas stated he did not believe it should be included in the voting article. TM Cushing stated the Town would need to raise funds for the forensic audit and it should be included. SB Vines agreed with TM Cushing stating the funds for the forensic audit would come out of taxes. CH Haff agreed with SB Rasenas stating that when the budget is re-voted on, the forensic audit line item should not be included, as it was already approved for by the voters.

- George Brant, Town Resident, asked what the percentage increase in the FY2027 budget would be following the adjustments. CH Haff stated that the original percentage increase from the failed FY2027 budget was 12.98%. For the current proposed budget, the Town reduced it to 3.49% however, the actual percentage increase will be closer to 8% when taking into consideration the cost of the forensic audit approved by the voters and a loan payment for the Town's shortfall from previous years' shortfalls.
- The Selectboard reviewed the draft articles for the budget revote. The Selectboard requested that TM Cushing speak with Jim Barlow, Town Attorney, to receive legal advice on how the articles are worded.

6. Citizen Comments / Concerns

- Roger Rivera, Town Resident, stated that when individuals or businesses have financial difficulties, they do not only reduce their expenditures but also look to gain revenue by divesting themselves of assets that they own. Rivera recommended the Town do the same, such as with Green Mountain National Golf Course. Rivera also stated that the Town should start to consider that it does not always need to have the top-of-the-line facilities and equipment. Rivera stated the Town just needed to be "adequate."
- Rob Kovalesky, Town Resident, asked if the Town or Selectboard had received any update back from Vision regarding the Townwide Reappraisal. TM Cushing stated that he reached out to Vision and was put in contact with their project management, who he is now communicating with on timing. CH Haff stated he had heard that the numbers for the Townwide Reappraisal would be ready by noon on Friday, April 24th. CH Haff stated that there is always the possibility that the numbers may not be available at that time. These numbers should also be mailed.
- Jay Hickory, Town Resident, stated he differed in opinion from Roger Rivera's, Town Resident, opinion for the Town to divest themselves of Green Mountain National Golf Course. Hickory stated the Town "suffered" through many years of paying for the golf course, including taking out loans and bonds, and the Town is coming to a point where GMNGC is becoming a benefit to the Town. CH Haff stated he would hate to see GMNGC sold for what it's currently worth as GMNGC owes the Town's General Fund between $7.5 million to $8 million dollars from the bonds the Town paid for. CH Haff stated he did not believe GMNGC would ever be able to pay the Town back for what it's owed, however, selling GMNGC would not mean the return of those funds, unless paid for by a potential buyer.

7. Selectboard Member Comments / Concerns

- SB Rasenas revisited George Brant's, Town Resident, comment on putting a policy in place regarding visitors to the Town Office. SB Rasenas stated he would be researching and drafting a policy and procedures for Town Office visitors.

- SB Wysocki stated he had heard from four senior Town Residents and two young families that are concerned about taxes and their ability to continue to stay in Town.

8. **Executive Session – Union / Legal**
    - The Selectboard entered into Executive Session at 8:51pm. They exited at 10:07pm. No action was taken. CH Haff stated he stepped out of the Executive Session 30 minutes before it ended.
    - CH Haff made a motion for the Selectboard to choose who they would like to participate in the Collective Bargaining Committee which would include two Selectboard Members and one Town Resident. CH Haff continued this motion to nominate SB Vines, SB Wysocki, and Roger River, Town Resident. CH Haff clarified that TM Cushing and the remaining Selectboard Members would still be updated on discussions with the Union. The entire Selectboard would make the final decision. SB Rasenas seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.
    - CH Haff made a motion that SB Vines, SB Wysocki, and Roger Rivera, Town Resident, receive a stipend of $3,000 dollars prorated per meeting for their participation in the Collective Bargaining Committee. SB Rasenas seconded the motion.
    - CH Haff removed his motion that SB Vines, SB Wysocki, and Roger River, Town Resident, receive a stipend of $3,000 dollars prorated per meeting for their participation in the Collective Bargaining Committee. SB Rasenas removed his second. The Selectboard held a longer discussion on how the stipend would be prorated without knowing how many Meetings would take place.
    - SB Rasenas made a motion that SB Vines, SB Wysocki, and Roger Rivera, Town Resident, receive a stipend of $100 per meeting, not to exceed $3,000 annually. CH Haff seconded the motion. SB Bowen voted in favor of the motion. SB Wysocki and SB Vines abstained from the motion. The motion was passed.
        i. Before the end of the Meeting, Rivera stated he appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Collective Bargaining Committee and looked forward to it but, he would not accept any stipend as he has never accepted a stipend for his work with the Town.
    - SB Rasenas made a motion to proceed with an Ethics Investigation with TM Cushing appointing an independent investigator. SB Bowen seconded the motion. SB Wysocki and SB Vines seconded the motion. CH Haff abstained. The motion was passed.

9. **Adjourn**

    The Meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm.