

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
7:30 A.M. MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Chair
Shari Cornish, Vice Chair - *absent*
Tim Ricciardello
Larry Fliegelman - *Zoom*
Derek Richardson

Others Present

Casey Rowell, Finance Director
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Thad Leugemors, State Flood Recovery Team - *Zoom*
Mark Johnson, VT Emergency Management - *Zoom*
Brian Eberhardt, Vermont Emergency Management - *Zoom*

Special Meeting

7:31 A.M. – Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair called the meeting to order.

7:31 A.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda - none

7:31 A.M. – Communication from the audience - none

7:31 A.M. – 7:37 A.M. Item #1 Select Board to review and approve the meeting warning for the May 19 Special Town Meeting – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the corrected meeting warning for the May 19 Special Town Meeting with the one edit of changing the Annual Town Meeting to Special Town Meeting.

7:37 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. Item #2 Select Board to discuss the 428 fixed cost offer from FEMA for the wastewater plant and decide if they want to accept the offer or do a straight Public Assistance project – *Action needed*

The Board reviewed FEMA funding options for the wastewater treatment plant, including a Section 428 fixed-cost option and a Section 406 standard Public Assistance option, as well as the potential to convert to an Improved Project. The 428 option would provide a fixed \$8.2 million with greater flexibility but would cap funding and shift the risk of cost overruns to the Town. The 406 option would reimburse up to 90% of eligible costs, offering greater financial protection but less flexibility and more administrative requirements. The Board discussed that starting under the 406 option would allow the Town to complete design and better understand project costs before deciding whether to pursue an Improved Project.

Mark Johnson discussed the Section 428 option, noting it can be combined with USDA funding; however, those funds require 90% design completion and are nationally competitive rather than earmarked for Vermont. He emphasized that while the Town has worked toward this offer for two years, it is acceptable to decline it and pursue the option that best meets the Town's needs. He also noted that the estimate to repair the plant in place with current codes and standards is approximately two years old.

Thad provided background on alternatives previously developed by Aldrich & Elliott, noting that the preferred long-term solution had been to relocate the facility out of the flood zone. He also expressed concern about the age of the existing cost estimate and noted that if the Town accepts the 428 offer, it would not be able to request additional FEMA funding if costs exceed the fixed amount.

A motion was made by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, to proceed with the Section 406 Standard Public Assistance option and authorize the Town Office to move forward accordingly. The motion passed unanimously.

Ceilidh asked about the timeline under the 406 option. Mark Johnson stated that July 14, 2027, is the estimated completion date and noted that FEMA may grant extensions if the project is actively progressing. He emphasized the importance of moving forward with repairs and noted that, as a large project, the Town may request quarterly reimbursement through the Vermont Department of Public Safety.

Larry asked about the status of draft flood maps. Thad stated that the process began in 2018 and was expected to take four years but has been delayed. Flood insurance studies are now anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. He noted that if map updates occur during construction, the Town may be able to adjust accordingly.

Brian Eberhardt shared his experience with the City of Montpelier, where flood map changes occurred during ongoing repair projects.

No Select Board Reports, New Business, or Old Business

8:12 A.M. Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Finance Director

Minutes approved by: _____
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Select Board Chair