

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026
MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3RD FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

Shari Cornish, Vice Chair
Tim Ricciardello
Larry Fliegelman
Derek Richardson

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Tonia Chase, Clerk/Treasurer

Special Meeting

8:02 A.M. – Shari Cornish, Select Board Vice Chair called the meeting to order.

8:02 A.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda - none

8:02 A.M. – Communication from the audience - none

8:03 A.M. Select Board to approve the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of July 21, 2026

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Special Select Board meeting of July 21, 2026.

8:03 A.M. – 8:10 A.M. Item #1 Select Board to consider approving the FY26 tax rate presented by Tonia Chase, Town Clerk/Treasurer – Action needed

Tonia reviewed the proposed FY27 tax rates, noting a slight increase from the previous year, and asked if there were any questions. Shari commented that non-residential properties continue to pay a lower tax rate than residential properties and stated that she believes the legislature should address the issue. Tonia explained that the difference is due to the education tax rate. Tonia reported that the proposed tax rates would be 2.3006 for homestead properties and 2.2451 for non-homestead properties. She explained that the municipal rate increased by 3.79% and reviewed the local agreement rate, which covers voter-approved tax exemptions and qualifying veterans' exemptions. In response to questions, David identified the three voter-approved exempt properties as the Masonic Temple, Rescue Squad, and Caledonia Grange. Tonia and David also discussed other tax-exempt organizations and noted that the Yellow Barn and Hardwick Electric make PILOT payments. Tonia summarized the overall changes, reporting increases of 1.96% for the homestead tax rate and 1.85% for the non-homestead tax rate.

The Board noted that the agenda incorrectly referenced FY26 instead of FY27. Tim amended his motion to reference FY27, correcting the agenda error.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Derek Richardson, the Select Board voted to approve the FY27 tax rate as presented.

8:10 A.M. – 8:11 A.M. – Item #2 Select Board to consider allowing individuals running for Justice of the Peace in the November Election to appear on the General Election ballot.

Tonia explained that, because Vermont mails the General Election ballot to all registered voters, the Select Board must approve placing the Justice of the Peace race on the ballot. She noted that doing so allows the votes to be counted by the tabulator rather than by hand.

Upon motion by Tim Riccardello, seconded by Larry Fliegelman, the Select Board voted to approve allowing individuals running for Justice of the Peace in the November election to appear on the General Election ballot.

Select Board Reports: None

New Business: Tonia reported that, after more than a decade, work organizing the basement vault has been completed. Except for storing maps, the project is finished, and the Memorial Room is once again available for meetings.

Old Business: Shari asked whether any ordinance changes were needed before the Downtown Partnership could install sidewalk stencils requesting that bicyclists walk their bikes along the business district on Main Street. David stated that no ordinance changes were necessary and that the stencils could be installed. He added that bicyclists riding on the sidewalk should be reminded not to do so when possible.

Derek requested an update on the bridge wall project. David reported that crews were preparing for the second concrete pour and were installing the drainage pipe from the catch basin on South Main Street.

8:15 A.M. Shari Cornish, Select Board Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes approved by: _____
Shari Cornish, Select Board Vice Chair