Minutes of January 27, 2026 Meeting
Warren Select Board

Members Present: Camilla Behn, Devin Klein Corrigan, Joel Taplin, Kalee Whitehouse
Staff Present: Andrew Bombard, Road Foreman; Jeff Campbell, Fire Chief; Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator
Others Present: Jim Crafts, Susan Cummiskey, (Library Board), Pierre Hall (Recreation Committee), Quayl Rewinski

Ms. Klein Corrigan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in person at the Warren Town Offices and online via Zoom.

Public Comment

Nobody requested time to comment.

Agenda Changes

A discussion of the LUDRs was added under Other Business.

Executive Session

MOTION: *A motion to enter Executive Session per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) [personnel], inviting Ms. Campbell and Mr. Bombard to join, passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 6:02 pm and returned to open session at 7:30 pm.

MOTION: *Ms. Behn moved to approve a payroll increase for Jordan DeFreest to $33.50/hour as of the first pay period in February 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taplin, and passed unanimously.*

Continued Municipal Budget Discussion

<u>Wastewater</u>

Ms. Campbell reported on her conversation with Nate Fredericks of Simon Operating Systems, where budget items were clarified and the draft budget was tailored to keep budgeted amounts in line with the current year's actual expenses. Ms. Campell noted that nutrient loading testing only takes place every four years, and so is not included in the FY27 budget. This budget reflects an increase of 4.94%.

<u>Building Improvements</u>

Ms. Campbell indicated that some of these expenses are more repair-oriented, and so should not be considered as capital expenses. It was suggested that sidewalk replacement work should go into Town Improvements, and potentially the installation of new security cameras should be included in this section of the budget. Ms. Campbell had received information indicating that the camera work will cost approximately $26K, but that an associated RFP needs to be published before a final number is available.

It was confirmed that the Planning Reserve account did not need a contribution, as there is a balance sufficient to cover the anticipated Town Plan consulting work. It was also agreed that a contribution to the Appraisal Reserve is not needed in the FY27 year. It was indicated that Jito Coleman will propose additional Reserve funding for the Conservation Fun at Town Meeting, with the draft budget contribution remaining at $20K.

With these changes in mind, as well as consideration of current reserve fund balances, it was agreed to adjust the amount to be budgeted for repairs to the Trout Hollow and Main Street bridges, with an amount of $195K agreed upon.

Ms. Klein Corrigan outlined that the return on investment of a large outlay for repair work on the East Warren Schoolhouse is not viable, and suggested that the Town plan for completing $40K of repair and painting work in the coming year and anticipate spending a similar amount every several years. The current reserve fund to be used for this work has an adequate balance.

Mr. Campbell provided some information on work needed at the Sugarbush Fire Station to accommodate the ladder truck; it was confirmed that the $20K budgeted for this work would be adequate.

Salary and benefit amounts were reviewed. The Road Crew amounts were updated and it was agreed to budget $40K for the Town Treasurer position.

A revised Budget total and related increase was reviewed.

Board members discussed and confirmed that the anticipated budget increase is necessary due to the Town's needs as reflected for the new Town Garage, the additional Road Crew position, utility expense increases, maintenance of Town properties, and Capital contributions.

MOTION: *Mr. Taplin moved to approve the FY27 Budget in the amount of $5,411,053. The motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan, and passed unanimously.*

Town Report Review

The Articles included in the Town Meeting Warning were reviewed. It was confirmed that Misha Golfman will be present to provide information regarding the proposed $15,150 expense for a project management position related to the Active Transportation Corridor work. No changes were made to the language of the Articles.

MOTION: *Ms. Behn moved to approve the 2026 Town Meeting Articles as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whitehouse, and passed unanimously.*

Board members agreed on the cover art to be used for the Town Report, and reviewed that dedication language.

Other Business

Ms. Behn provided an update regarding Sharon Murray's suggestions for addressing the discrepancy between language in the draft LUDRs and that of the STR Ordinance. It was agreed to reference the Ordinance in the LUDRs and to require that a permit be issued for new STRs, in coordination with changing the Ordinance to include the issuance of a license rather than a permit to avoid confusion with the required zoning permit. Ms. Behn will provide Ms. Murray with this information so that a final draft may be posted in time for warning the February 17 Public Hearing.

Administrative Items

MOTION: *Ms. Behn moved to remove Dayna Lisaius as the NEMRC Cloud Administrator and to appoint Ms. Campbell to that role. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whitehouse, and passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of $47,290.75 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 13, and 20, 2026 passed unanimously.*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

Devin Klein Corrigan, Chair

Camilla Behn, Vice Chair

Kalee Whitehouse

Joel Taplin

Harvey Blake