

Town of Danby
DRAFT Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026
Town Office, Danby, VT 7:00pm

<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>

ZOOM MEETING ID: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81328511750> (Passcode: YNc5S5)

Recording accessible at www.pegtv.com

Public Present: Tracey Porter, Rick Porter, Brett Blanchard, Bill Payne, Matt Blouin

Virtually Present: Annette Smith, Renata Aylward, Gary Derr

Call to order at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: (Haines, Fuller, Abbott, Heaton, Bender): All present.

Motion to Set Agenda

- Changes announced
 - Treasurer is not present so Treasurer's Report will not be covered.
 - Bridge 7 Maintenance Agreement also will not be covered.
- ***Motion by Fuller, seconded by Heaton.***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Public Comment

- Annette Smith asked for video could be on tonight. Bender stated no and organizational meeting coming up in March would be appropriate time to propose changes.
- Matt Blouin asked why dump was closed yesterday. Brad stated it will be discussed later in meeting.
- Matt Blouin if more could be shared concerning other board members opinion on video. Bender reiterated the March organizational meeting is when that can be reviewed.

Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment Statement

- Skipped reading with no objection from public.

Motion to adopt Minutes of Select Board Meeting of December 11, 2025

- ***Motion by Haines, seconded by Heaton.***
- Matt Blouin stated change to final draft may be needed as Andrea was attending virtually and no last name was provided. Bender suggested adding "(?)" after Adrea's name.
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

To hear the complaint of Brett Blanchard regarding November 5, 2025, incident Lilly Hill Rd.

- Brett Blanchard stated he saw town truck slowly hit mailbox (not a big deal) and slowly sand blasted car and debris hit windows on garage. Driver did not see the car and he apologized. Brett filled out town complaint and sent it to Town Clerk.

- Fuller asked if there was any damage. Two broken windows on garage and paint chips and marks on car. Fuller stated contact insurance company through town. Haines said it would not be disputed, and the town's insurance company would go directly to him. Brad suggested setting up an appointment to let Janice. Haines said Janice is typically Monday through Wednesday.

Transfer Station Report: Steve Haines

- Transfer station moving no work being done on that due to (road) work and holidays.
- Sunday afternoon Cliff had a heart attack. Monday road crew helped run dump.
- Wednesday they had compactor break and in middle of storm. Opened dump by 10:30 and did best they could to run and still work on vehicles and roads. Road crew is trying to help but cannot do everything. Some people had been rude concerning dump closure.
- Haines stated last year town lost 61k and if Cliff cannot do job, he felt town should close transfer station and residents can go to East Dorset or do private pickup. Haines does not want to be treated like crap and it is not worth it.
- Fuller stated people who can afford public pickup will share burden, but those who won't it will result in more waste on side of road. Heaton and Bender also stated they had concerns with closing the dump being difficult due to trash being disposed on side of town roads.
- Fuller stated we used to have to deal with roadside garbage and does not make town look good. Heaton also stated having a plan to communicate to the public when the dump has close unexpectedly would help.
- Fuller stated finding someone to be backup occasionally will be nearly impossible. Would added member on road crew be the backup in the future?
- Bender stated this problem has gone on as long as he remembers. He suggested raising the fee for the stickers.
- Fuller stated he had spoken with Cassella about less pickups as loads not as full as they would like. Haines said trash every Thursday pickup and recycling is every other. Fuller stated we could go with another carrier if Cassella is not doing what we need them to do. Maybe invite a representative to meet to discuss options. Public would like to hear status.
- Cliff had two stents put in and feels well. He is home now.
- Rick Porter asked if you could do time counting at the beginning of week and end to see if time changes to understand if full. Fuller stated the gauge is calibrated and should work, but Cliff may not understand how to read it.
- Haines asked if we could invite Casella to next meeting. Would like to talk to them about number of pulls.
- If road crew is backup, then moving dump to four corners should not even be considered per Haines. Can't be sending people from town garage to four corners if utilizing road crew is plan going forward.
- Fuller stated the road crew as backup is short term and not sure on long term plan.

Road Commissioner's Report:

- Haines stated too many days of snow the past month.
- Haines has been keeping up with maintenance and repairs on equipment.
- Fuller stated that if snow continues, we may run out of salt.
- Haines stated that based on sand usage we may also run out of sand too.

Advertising Road Crew Vacancy/Report on applicants/Recommendation

- Town has received 35 applicants. Heaton stated about ten were qualified and we have interviewed two. Based on current traffic to our job posting we will end the ad in about two weeks. We are at least getting qualified applicants now, so it has been worthwhile so far.

VTrans 2026 Small Scale Local Grants

- Bender discussed several aspects of work which will be between 5 and 50K for this year.

Old Business: Wording for Assistant Clerk Position Advertisement

- There was much discussion on VT law and Road Crew Union Contract wording which contradict each other. Discussion concerning union contract requirement of five people being required, Clerk's responsibility and authority, as well as Select Board's authority over Assistant Clerk. No decision or motions made.

New Business: FEMA Flood Map presentation Jan 13, 2026, 9:00am

- Bender stated really useful information for people. See information below for meeting specifics:

Date and time: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Meeting link: Click here, if viewing this letter digitally

Otherwise, please find the link in the invitation email or project website:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24265869907638?p=Opa4FV10cEBkNdvg6C>
(If you do not have access to the website, you can fill out this form.)

Telephone
line: 202-640-1187

Meeting or conference ID: 339 682 686#

Motion to adjourn meeting:

- *Motion by Haines, seconded by Fuller.*
- *Motion passed unanimously*
- Meeting adjourned at 7:47PM

Matthew Blouin
Meeting Facilitator