

Town of Danby
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2025
Town Office, Danby, VT 7:00pm
<https://www.danbyvt.org/government-information>
ZOOM MEETING ID: 813 2851 1750
Recording accessible at www.peg.tv

Public Present: Kim Corey, Suzanne Crosby, Tracey Porter, Richard Porter, Bill Payne, Renata Aylward

Virtually Present: Gary Derr, Annette Smith, Christopher Hardaway, Terry P.

Call to order 7:02pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: (Haines, Fuller, Abbott, Heaton, Bender)

- **Present:** Haines, Abbott, Heaton,
- **Absent:** Fuller, Bender

Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment Statement

- Heaton stated we are all familiar with public comment and will summarize the remote access statement and asked if everyone was ok with moving forward. No comment from public so continued with meeting.

Motion to Set Agenda

- Add to Treasurer report discussion on option of direct deposit for town employees and electronic tax payments for employees.
- Under new business discussion on BRSU asking Danby, Mt. Tabor to hold a non-binding referendum vote to close Currier school.
- ***Motion by Haines to set agenda, seconded by Abbott***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Public Comment

- Payne asked if Shelley Taylor would be attending to provide comment. She is not in attendance so she will not be able to comment. Also asked if discussion on Transfer station allowed after public comment completed during SB meeting. Heaton stated that is not an issue.
- Annette Smith asked who is speaking. Heaton stated Abbott and Haines also present, and Heaton is acting chair. Asked camera can be turned on. No remote camera available. She commented Transfer Station 4 out of 6 people showed up and more work is required to make decisions.

- Renata asked about if audit will be conducted. Heaton explained when we talked to the outside auditing firm it was recommended we get things cleaned up internally before hiring them for the outside audit.
- Richard Porter asked timeframe. Haines stated we are contracted with NEMRC to provide support and we are going to be over 100 hrs easily before we get this straightened out.

Motion to adopt Minutes of Select Board Meeting of July 10, 2025

- ***Motion by Haines to adopt minutes, seconded by Abbott***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Motion to accept updated Local Emergency Management Plan: Tom Johnston

- Heaton stated per Tom Johnston no changes to form and Tom could not make it tonight.
- ***Motion by Haines to accept plan, seconded by Abbott***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Report of Transfer Station Relocation Committee: Steve Haines

- Discussion about transfer station and still lots of work to be done. Concerns of public over location, residents near 4-corners, safety concerns there as well as current location. Steve explained the safety issues with the current transfer station, especially during winter storms and access to dumpsters while trucks are being loaded. Need additional time to get quotes from contractors and discuss. Heaton explained this was a committee to explore the town's options for relocating the transfer station and report back to the select board and weren't making the decision. Will come back to the board on November 13th.

Motion to sign Grant GAO999 (Ditching)

- ***Motion by Haines to sign grant, seconded by Abbott***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***
- Grant signed by Heaton Vice Chairman

Discuss proposal for new Town Clerk Computer

- Discussion concerning need and budget funds under office equipment reserve.
- ***Motion by Abbott to purchase new computer, seconded by Haines***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Planning Commission Report: Shelley Taylor Removed as not present.

Auditor's Report: Accept resignation of Matthew Blouin

- ***Motion by Haines to accept Matt Blouin's Auditor resignation, seconded by Abbott***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***
- Matt stated he can reconsider helping with Auditing once things are caught up and time is well spent. Cannot consider now as started working at new job and time needs to be spent doing work efficiently.

Treasurer's Report: Katlyn Parker

- Also discussed employee HRA to account separate from general account. This would help with security and ability to follow.
- ***Motion by Haines to pass, seconded by Abbott***

- ***Motion passed unanimously***

- Discussion on potential check scanner that would deposit direct to town account. Not enough information on cost, maintenance, replacement, and overall value vs. expense of trips to the bank. Katelyn to provide more information to the board before a decision is made.

- Set tax rate. Proposed municipal rate of 0.4572 and local of 0.0016. 2024 municipal rate was 0.4407 and local of 0.0021. Overall (total) is about the same tax rate.

- ***Motion by Abbott to set new municipal tax rate at 0.4572 and local agreement rate of 0.0016, seconded by Haines***

- ***Motion passed unanimously***

- Option for employees to receive pay via direct deposit as well as make tax payments directly. No charge for town and not more difficult for treasurer to do. Katlyn will set rules for how this is done.

- ***Motion by Haines to pass direct deposit option, seconded by Abbott***

- ***Motion passed unanimously***

- Discussion on tax payments for employees. Concerns over security of town and employees accounts. Understanding how this works for other towns too would help. More information needed and Katlyn will discuss with NEMRC by 9/3.

A Dump Day 2025

- Discussion concerning rescheduling for this fall. Concern as already canceled once and lack of interest to support (people available to work to support that day).

- ***Motion by Haines to table dump day this year, seconded by Abbott***

- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Road Commissioner's Report:

Employment application from R. Lewis (unspecified)

- Reviewed by all members followed by discussion.

- ***Motion by Haines to hire Riley to run mower, seconded by Abbott***

- ***Motion passed unanimously***

- Drug test required prior to ability to drive town truck(s)

Current projects

- Larry and Haines continuing with ditch and grading work. Washouts have required prioritizing fixing some roads prior to going back to ditch work.

Discuss loan of equipment and manpower to Town of Pawlet

- Haines stated Pawlet completed the project and does not need our help. They needed help to quickly get ready for blacktop work. They would have provided 120 hrs. of help to Danby for 80 hrs. of help to them. No action taken.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Non-binding vote for closing school. Lots of discussion but insufficient information to understand what town would be doing vote on and what would be done with the results.
- ***Motion by Haines for the Select board to reach out to the BRSU for more information, seconded by Abbott***
- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Motion to Adjourn by Abbott, seconded by Haines

- ***Motion passed unanimously***

Meeting adjourned 8:07

Matthew Blouin

Meeting Facilitator