

Town of Danby Select Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT October 15, 2026

Town Office, Danby, VT – 6:30 PM

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

ZOOM Meeting ID: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81328511750>

Passcode: YNc5S5

Recording available at www.peg.tv

Attendance

Select Board Members Present: Fuller, Abbott, Bender, Heaton, Haines

Select Board Members Absent: None

Public Present: Rick Porter, Matt Blouin

Virtually Present: Annette Smith, Bill Richardson, Gary Derr, Christopher Hardaway, Terry Parker, and Mara Hearst

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Recited.

Motion to Set Agenda

- The draft Liquor License Policy was removed.
- Smokey House Act 250 filing notice was added under Information/Updates.
- Equipment rental was added under the Highway Department report.
- A budget workshop date and time was added.
- **Motion:** Approve the agenda as amended.
 - ***Moved by Bender, seconded by Fuller***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Public Comment

- Annette Smith provided the following comments:
 - Reported that Currier Memorial School is primarily being used to store desks and related materials and relayed that the building may be considered for future use as a special-needs school.
 - Smith noted that the Transfer Station Committee previously conducted a site visit over a year ago, but has not met recently.
 - A request was made to address potholes near the intersection of Tinmouth Road and Tinmouth Pond Road.
- No other public comments.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Approve the September 10, 2026 Select Board meeting minutes.
 - ***Moved by Haines, seconded by Bender***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Information and Updates

- Scottsville Road Dog Issue: The Rutland County Sheriff's Department visited on September 30, issued a verbal warning, and explained the complaint and written-statement process to the parties. The 45-day rabies observation period had ended. The Board considered its involvement complete unless additional documented incidents are submitted.
- Smokey House Act 250 Filing: The Town received notice that Smokey House filed an Act 250 application. The notice will be posted for 60 days. The Board did not identify a need for Town participation at this stage but will review future notices.
- Michael Dunbar Vehicle Damage Claim: The Board reviewed the claim arising from a July 24 mowing incident on Brook Road. Vermont League of Cities and Towns denied the claim after determining that warning signs had been posted. Mr. Dunbar filed a complaint with the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation. The reported repair estimate was \$749.81. No action was taken pending State review. The Board requested earlier communication regarding future claims involving Town operations.
- Currier Memorial School Availability: The school district advised that the building is being used for storage and is winterized, limiting availability for Town meetings. Discussion included emergency-shelter access, ownership and property-status questions, possible legal review, and alternative meeting locations.
- **Motion:** Select the Main Street Fire Department as the primary venue for hearings, Town Meeting, and other functions that cannot be accommodated at the Town Office.
 - ***Moved by Haines, seconded by Bender***
 - ***Passed unanimously***
- The Board will continue to address emergency access to Currier Memorial School and investigate related ownership and property-status questions. Greg and Brad to work on a letter to the BRSU from the Select Board with our concerns regarding the current use of the school and the Town's loss of an emergency shelter and meeting space.
- **Motion:** Schedule the first budget workshop for November 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.
 - ***Moved by Haines, seconded by Bender***
 - ***Passed unanimously***
- Consumer Health Solutions: Board members will review the additional proposal materials and provide questions within one week. Abbott, Heaton and Katlyn Parker will meet with the provider through Microsoft Teams Meeting before the Board decides whether to proceed.

Treasurer's Report

- Documents requested by Sullivan, Powers & Co. are being compiled for the external audit. Additional document collection is planned after the November tax due date.

- The audit firm will schedule fieldwork after reviewing the submitted materials and identifying any outstanding items.
- Taxes are due November 13, 2026.
- The Treasurer reported reduced reliance on in-person NEMRC support, while specialized assistance remains available as needed.
- Budget worksheets will be circulated before the first budget workshop.

Highway Department / Road Commissioner Report

- The bridge concrete work is complete and the bank has been stabilized. Remaining work includes replacing and correcting guardrails. Lafayette is being considered based on its site review and measurements.
- Current work includes fall grading, building the winter sand pile, stabilizing an eroding bank on Danby Mountain Road near the spring, and preparing for winter operations.
- The Town received the notice to proceed for the grant-funded guardrail replacement project at fox cobble and will complete the required bid procurement steps.
- The Road Commissioner presented a 28-day rental estimate of \$4,200 for a 307.5 excavator and \$3,200 for a mulching head, plus trucking. The equipment would be used for roadside vegetation management, subject to availability and the Department's ability to fully utilize it.
 - **Motion:** Authorize \$7,400 for rental of a 307.5 excavator with a mulching head, with timing left open through May based on availability and operational readiness.
 - ***Moved by Fuller, seconded by Bender***
 - ***Passed unanimously***
- The Town will not submit a 2028 Better Roads grant application by the October 30 deadline because no suitable project was identified for this cycle.
- The Board will seek clarification regarding a newly announced highway stormwater mitigation grant and its potential applicability.
- Line painting was reported complete.
- The Board agreed to restart recruitment for the open road crew position using the approximately \$500 remaining in the previously approved Indeed advertising budget and to repost the vacancy on the Town website.
- Scottsville Road Water Issue: The Board and Highway Department discussed drainage maintenance and longer-term options to reduce highway runoff affecting a nearby property. Potential options included improved turnouts and ditches, stabilized swales, culverts or drainage structures, and eventual paving. The Highway Department will develop a potential permanent solution and evaluate grant eligibility.

Old Business - Transfer Station

- The committee chair is working to schedule another Transfer Station Committee meeting and has been consulting with the State regarding permitting requirements and potential site issues.
- The Board requested a committee recommendation by year-end, with November preferred if possible.

New Business

- None

Executive Session

- **Motion:** Enter executive session at approximately 7:52 PM to discuss union negotiations and personnel matters.
 - **Moved by Haines, seconded by Bender**
 - **Passed unanimously**
- Returned from executive session at 8:24
- **Motion:** Pay \$6,108.16 to the 2 full-time union road crew members for unpaid Health Equity claims from 2024 and 2025. The amount being paid is the net remaining after union dues owed to the town were deducted from the total of unpaid claims.
 - **Moved by Fuller, seconded by Bender**
 - **Steve Haines abstained**
 - **Passed by all other Select Board Members**
- **Motion:** Appoint Tom Fuller and Ken Abbott to negotiate 2027 union contract.
 - **Moved by Fuller, seconded by Bender**
 - **Passed unanimously**

Motion to Adjourn

- **Moved by Haines, seconded by Fuller**
- **Passed unanimously**
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:27**

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Blouin
Meeting Facilitator