

Town of Danby Select Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT August 13, 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.com

Attendance

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

Select Board Members Absent: None

Public Present: Tara Goodell, Joel Baker, Ed Baker, Matthew Blouin

Virtually Present: Terry Parker, Christopher Hardaway, Michael Miller, and Home

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at approximately 6:31 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

- Recited

Roll Call

- Fuller, Abbott, Bender, and Heaton present (Haines entered ~10 minutes late)

Procedure for Remote Access and Public Comment

- Not Reviewed; no objections from public

Motion to Set Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda with amendments: Add Tara Goodell drainage discussion following approval of minutes and remove Liquor License Process
 - ***Moved by Fuller, seconded by Bender***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Public Comment

- No public comment, either in person or remote

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve July 9, 2026 Select Board minutes
 - ***Moved by Bender, seconded by Abbott***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Tara Goodell Drainage Concerns

- Tara Goodell discussed ongoing drainage problems affecting her property along Scottsville Road.

- Board discussed roadway runoff, ditching, culvert maintenance, and options to redirect water away from the residence.
- Concerns were raised regarding long-term maintenance challenges associated with catch basins and culverts on gravel roads due to sediment accumulation.
- Tom Fuller to review on site with Joel Baker.
- Road Commissioner and Board members agreed to continue evaluating potential long term solutions..
- Additional concerns regarding truck engine brake usage in the area were also discussed.

Tax Rate Setting

- Treasurer presented the proposed 2026 tax rates.
- Municipal Tax Rate established at **0.4910**.
- Local Agreement Tax Rate established at **0.0019**.
- **Motion:** To set the Municipal Tax Rate of 0.4910 and Local Agreement rate of 0.0019.
 - ***Moved by Bender, seconded by Abbott***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Treasurer's Report – Katlyn Parker

- Tax bills are expected to be mailed in early September.
- Tax payments will be due November 13, 2026.
- Board discussed continued employee issues associated with Health Equity account administration and reimbursement processing.
- Discussion included possible alternatives for future employee health reimbursement administration.
- No action taken.

Sullivan, Powers & Co. External Audit Proposal

- Board reviewed the audit proposal submitted by Sullivan, Powers & Co.
- Proposal amount was approximately \$26,000.
- Discussion included prior audit experience, engagement scope, and scheduling.
- **Motion:** Accept the Sullivan, Powers & Co. audit proposal
 - ***Moved by Fuller, seconded by Bender***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Kraft Hill Bridge Repairs

- Board reviewed the bridge repair proposal submitted by Damon Ferenc Masonry.
- Additional contractors had been contacted but no additional bids were received.
- Discussion included grant requirements, Town in-kind contributions, and project timing.
- **Motion:** Award Kraft Hill Bridge repair work to Damon Ferrance Masonry for \$30,000
 - ***Moved by Fuller, seconded by Haines***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Cargill Salt Contract

- Board reviewed the annual road salt contract with Cargill.

- Pricing and historical costs were discussed.
- **Motion:** Approve the Cargill salt contract at \$106.50 per ton delivered
 - ***Moved by Fuller, seconded by Haines***
 - ***Passed unanimously***

Highway Department / Road Commissioner's Report

2026 Small Scale Highway Safety Improvement Program

- Town received notice of a Small Scale Highway Safety Improvement Program award.
- Possible uses discussed included guardrail improvements and other roadway safety projects.
- Additional clarification will be requested from VTrans regarding funding requirements and eligible work.

Current / Planned Projects

- Approximately nine culvert replacement projects have been completed since the previous meeting.
- Additional culvert installations remain planned.
- Discussion included grading, chloride applications, paving activities, and roadway maintenance priorities.
- Tinmouth Road paving project has been completed.
- Board discussed the benefits of roadway rolling and compaction to improve gravel road performance.

Road Crew Open Position

- Road crew position remains vacant.
- Advertising efforts continue with limited applicant response.
- Board agreed to continue recruitment efforts prior to winter operations.

Executive Session – Personnel Matter

- **Motion:** To enter Executive Session for personnel matters.
 - ***Moved by Fuller, seconded by Haines***
 - ***Passed unanimously***
- Board entered Executive Session at approximately 7:10 PM.
- Board exited Executive Session at approximately 7:45 PM.
- No action taken.

Old Business

Health Equity

- Board continued discussion of employee account access and reimbursement issues.
- Options for alternate reimbursement methods and potential future providers were discussed.
- No action taken.

New Business

Town Plan Discussion

- Fuller requested the Board consider asking the Planning Commission to hold a hearing on redesignating approximately 12.5 acres from Agricultural/Residential to Commercial/Industrial.
- Board discussed the process and agreed a written request should be submitted for consideration at a future meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn
 - ***Moved by Bender, seconded by Haines***
 - ***Passed unanimously***
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Blouin

Meeting Facilitator