

SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday July 14, 2026, 5:00P.M.

Those attending in person: Jenn Miner, Fred Ducharme, Mike Hogan, Skip Bothfeld, Peggy Miller, Jeanne Johnson, Amy Monahan, Betty Ritter, Trish Brochu-Cox, Doug Cooke (there was no one online)

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Jenn Miner at 5:04 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Mike Hogan with a second by Fred Ducharme, motion carried.
3. Approval/signing of Bond items:
 - a. Warning - Trish wanted to know about the Kenwood phone. Fred said that as a SB member he does not feel that we have received enough information. He stated the Hazmat man for the state uses the Kenwood phones and found no reason not to go with Kenwood. Jenn stated she has some information on leasing and there are still question. The SB has a copy of both radios – Motorola and Kenwood quotes. Motorola has a longer life was basically the only difference that Skip could determine. Jenn stated there has been no plan to replace over the years in a rotating cycle, but we do need to have a yearly plan in place to replace the radios. Amy believes if we go to Kenwood we would not need the bond. Borrowing from CCIF was 1%. Jenn stated that there is money the FD didn't use last year, and \$14,000 for this year for radios. We do not need to wait. We could get as many radios as we can for \$30,000 and have a vote on November election. Amy stated that we could do a conventional bank loan, and we would not need voter approval as it is under 5 years. Jenn stated this it is much more responsible for the residents. Trish stated the residents have already voted on the \$125,000 and the residents would understand. Fred wanted to know how long it would take. Jenn felt that it would not take long. Amy said it would be not long to be procured. If anything happens to the radios during a fire, they are covered under insurance. A motion was made by Mike that disregard the warning and give permission for the Treasurer to borrow money for Kenwood phones with a second by Jenn. Motion carried. Amy will start tomorrow to contact 3 banks to get the best interest rate.

The following was not necessary as we would not need to bond for the radios with the above vote.

- b. Declaration of intent
 - c. Proposed ballot
 - d. Resolution Certificate
4. Set tax rate/action

Tax Rate: 1.2327 for residents; 1.3016 for non residents. The tax total tax rate will be 1.8538 . The tax rate for last years was 1.8547. Jeanne indicated that it may be worse next year because there are two parcels that are asking to tax exemption. A motion was made by Mike to set the new tax rate, with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

5. Other Business – Jeanne asked that the SB acknowledge receipt of the letter to the State for the reappraisal. A motion was made by Skip with a second by Fred. Motion carried. Jeanne noted this will be in the coming years (no date has been set yet for this).

Trish – she had a question regarding burn permit policy concern. She has noticed that there are three people to be listed for burn permits. She has a concern because the Town Clerk's office is closed on Friday. If there is snow on the ground what happens then? Jenn stated we are not sure about this. Jenn stated there will be conversation with the FD regarding this. It seems that we can designate others to approve the burn permit other than the fire chief. She noted that other towns are doing this already.

Jenn would like the Board to give approval for her to contact the town attorney for a legal review of the property that is now housing the fire station. Motion was made by Skip with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

6. Executive session: Assistant Town Clerk – a motion was made by Mike with a second by Skip to go into EC at 5:36 p.m. Motion was carried. (Please note that 4 members were present and Fred left for the ES.) The board exited ES at 6:10 p.m. with the following decision.
 - a. Brittany's wage was negotiated after she was elected, and therefore a Cost of Living Raise is not applicable until 7/1/27. A motion was made by Mike as follows, Second by Skip Motion carried.
 - b. The Assistant Town Clerk's hours and salary as follows: 32 hours per week @ \$23.50 per hour subject to an increase in hours or overtime based upon office needs for vacation and election coverage. This rate of pay will be retrospective to 7/1/2026.
 - c. Additional Other Business:

The CFD Dry Hydrant Bid that was voted upon last week for T. Greaves on 215 N will be an agenda item for discussion /action at the July 21st meeting. With the potential change in what work may need to be done, the board is putting the previous bids aside under re-consideration.
 - d. Motion to leave ES was made by Mike at 6:10, second by Peggy, motion carried.

7. Motion to Adjourn – a motion was made by Mike with a second by Skip, motion carried and we adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter (taking minutes for Brittany Butler, Town Clerk was on vacation)