

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting** was called to order at 6:00pm by Kurt Youland and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present: Steve Maheu, Kevin Nichols, Kurt Youland, Warren Hood, Angelo Terreri, Kurt Schaub and Kent Harrington. Guest: Tracey Terreri, Elaine Terreri, Sandy MacPeck, Linda Arsenault, Cody Craig, Nicole Bergeron, Danielle Bergeron, David Bergeron, Wayne Viger, Carolyn Viger, Dick Nemi, Noreen Nemi, Jamie Bernier, Courtney Lacasse, Dylan Luce, Jeff Gondeck, Nick Merry, Mike Nemi and Jeff Timberlake.
- 2. Adjustments to the Agenda:** Motion and second to add Fire Department Discussion as 3-2, unanimous vote.
- 3. New Business: 3-1: Paving/Construction Adjustments:** A revised rundown of the upcoming road construction projects, based on the bids that were received and our budget. A couple of roads were removed, plus Plains Road was reduced, but not to the point where Spencer will increase the price per ton. The tonnage remaining will get us from Route 219 to a point below Merrill's Mill Road, but not all the way to Tidswell. Motion and second to accept revisions, unanimous vote. **3-2: Fire Department Discussion:** Chair, Kurt Youland started off that all comments must go through him as Chair and he asked if residents who would like to speak to please raise their hands and he will acknowledge you when it is your turn to speak. He also asked if others would please refrain from making comments when others are speaking. Wayne Viger asked the question as to why Nick Merry resigned and stated that if he was doing a good job then his criminal record should not affect his position. Angelo Terreri stated that the board did not fire Nick Merry that he resigned and that the criminal record had nothing to do with the issues. Carolyn Viger asked Nick Merry why he resigned and he stated that the board did not like the direction the department was going in and that he received a call from Town Manager, Kurt Schaub informing him that there was going to be a meeting with the board to discuss his employment, so Nick Merry, stated I resigned before they could fire me. Dick Nemi asked if the intention of the meeting was to fire Nick Merry. Kevin Nichols stated the meeting was to discuss personnel issues and that Nick Merry resigned and that no one knows what the outcome of the meeting would have been because it never happened. Guest were not happy with the boards responses and felt their comments were being cut off and that they were not allowed to speak, and at times things got a little heated and Kurt Youland reminded those present that the meeting would be conducted in an orderly manner, and due to this situation being a

personnel matter the board many times cannot comment for legal reasons, which many felt like the board was keeping secrets and not being transparent. Sandy MacPeck felt that the contempt by the selectmen and manager were palpable and that when Nick Merry was allowed to speak he was only allowed a yes or no question, which is correct but the reason for this was that board was just trying to show that there was more to this whole story then just the board didn't like the direction the department was going in. For example, Steve Maheu asked Nick Merry if he ever provided to the board the specifications of what he wanted for a truck and Nick Merry replied no. Steve also asked Nick Merry if the mileage logs that the board had asked Nick Merry to put in trucks months ago to record whenever the truck rolled, had been done and again Nick Merry said no. Steve Maheu also brought up that the board had been asking Nick Merry to get the Fire Hydrants around town functioning, which still had not been done. Kurt Youland stated that the budget for the fire department has gone up 3x more than any other department, so the comments that the board does not support the department are untrue. Kurt Youland also stated that he had found a brand-new truck and sent it to Nick and never got a response from Nick. Mike Nemi read the letter he wrote in regard to departments request for new equipment and the board stated this was not presented to them at the time of budgeting request and Budget Committee member Dylan Luce stated that this was not presented to the Budget Committee during budgeting either. Dylan also asked Mike Nemi why this was not presented at the Town Meeting. Lastly was the discussions about Social Media post, we are all well aware of ALL the social media post from all sides, with a lot of varying opinions and so called facts, and Sandy MacPeck brought up the fact that selectmen Kevin Nichols had made a comment on a post that was uncalled for by a selectmen, and Kevin Nichols acknowledged his comment and that it was wrong and he apologized for it, but unfortunately, there are many uncalled comments on social media. In conclusion, I have been taking minutes for over ten years, and have spent a lot of time with the boards both past and present, and I have to tell you that they may not be perfect but they always have the Towns best interest at heart and they do so much more then just sit on the board and I agree with Sandy MacPeck that residents need to be more involved, which the board has commented the same sentiment over and over again and yes residents are the ones who vote for them and as the one who runs the elections it is sad that none of the seats are run opposed, and that we are lucky if we have 150 residents actually vote and yet here we are complaining about our board. As a town resident and employee I can honestly say that I am happy to be a Turner resident and a town employee and I can not thank the board for all that they do, mostly things residents have no idea about and that doesn't mean I

always agree with their decisions but if more people got involved and came to meetings maybe just maybe they would understand more of what the board actually does and how they come to the decisions they come to.

4. **Old Business: 4-1: Leavitt Institute:** The bulk of the entry was painted, there is also some trim molding to be added. Had an issue with one of the heat exchangers changing over to air conditioning mode, correction is in the works. **4-2: Boofy Quimby Hall:** Nothing to report. **4-3: Transfer Station:** Still waiting for the Bradford family meeting. Looking into cost of taking the ledge out. **4-4: Public Works:** Waiting on electricians to provide quotes.
5. **Regular Reports: 5-1: Highway Manager:** Report all looked good, no discussions. **5-2: Code Enforcement: Report** all looked good, no discussions. **5-3: Town Manager: 5-3a: Trio System Upgrade:** On the list for an upgrade of our Trio Municipal software/accounting system. Among the advantages are that it will permit users to look up information in one module while actively working in another. Have opted for a cloud-based system which will allow the town to downgrade the network server here at the office. The upgrade will physically take place sometime after taxes have been committed. **5-3b: Audit:** Field work for FY2024 audit is pretty much complete. Much of the process is now taking place remotely though they still spend time in the office for hands on verification. **5-3c: County Budget Committee:** The Androscoggin County Budget Committee nominating caucuses will take place at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 21st at the Androscoggin County Building. **5-3d: Town Beach Opening:** The beach will open Friday, May 23rd. **5-3e: Tax Lien Notices:** Notices of impending tax liens will be sent on Tuesday, May 20th. **5-3f: MMA Safety Grant:** Received an email that the town was approved for an MMA Safety Grant, to be used for two sets of Dump Loks.
6. **Consent Agenda:** Motion and second to accept consent agenda, unanimous vote.
7. **Executive Session:** The purpose of the Executive Session will be to review applications for the open Fire Chief position. Motion and second to enter into executive session at 7:35pm, unanimous vote. Motion and second to exist session at 8:17pm, unanimous vote. Candidates will be interviewed on Thursday, May 22, with a Fire Department representative in attendance.
8. **Adjournment:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca M. Allaire, LCC