

Town of Hartland
Selectboard Meeting
January 5th, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Selectboard Members present in-person: Phil Hobbie, Chair, Thomas Kennedy, Vice-Chair, Clyde Jenne, Jim Rielly, and Trace Tancreti.

Others present in person: Sherry Clarke, Tina Skehan, Molly Delaney, Meredith Liben and Martin Dole.

Others present via Zoom: Helen Esmond, Chuck Fenton, Andrea Ambros, David Liben, Christine Knippenberg, Ellen Sauer, Toni Vendetti, Jennifer Grant, Rob Anderegg, Pam Crane, Lisa Patterson, Rachel Obbard, Bryan Upton, Randy Summarsell, Peter Kaufman, Kim Wood, Amy Ashline and Curt Peterson.

Present from CATV: Rayce Gilbert

The Hartland Selectboard Meeting was called to order by Phil Hobbie, Chair, to act on the warned agenda items.

- I. **Selectboard's Minutes and Orders:** Clyde made a motion to approve the December 15th minutes. Jim seconded the motion. It was noted that Under New Business item three regarding Open Meeting Law, needed to be clarified. All voted in favor. Jim made a motion to approve the orders through today, January 5th. Tom seconded the motion. There were questions from the Selectboard. All voted in favor.
- II. **Adjustment to Agenda:** None
- III. **Public Comments:** Sherry Clarke asked questions regarding signs on Station Rd, lead and asbestos testing at the North Hartland School and lighting in the Three Corners. Sherry also asked about the sidewalk tractor.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 1. **FY27 Budget Adoption:** John noted there were a few minor adjustments from the end of December. We are slightly under 5% now. This equates to an increase of \$44.10 per \$1,000 assessed value. Jim made a motion that we approve Fiscal Year 2027 budget as presented. Trace seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Phil thanked the Finance office and John for bringing us in at 5%. Phil also thanked the staff and administration.

2. **Town Employee Complaint:** Phil explained that complaints have been filed by the staff, one in early December and an additional letter at the end of December. The Selectboard wrote a letter to the Library trustees, which the Library Director will present at the Library Trustees meeting in January.

V. New Business:

1. **Town Meeting Articles Review:** John gave opening comments. There was discussion of the Culvert Fund and Unencumbered Fund Balance. There was much discussion. There was discussion of article five, selling the North Hartland School. There was discussion of wording.
2. **Town of Hartland MOU with Hartland Public Library:** Phil provided an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being developed between the Town of Hartland and the Hartland Public Library. He explained that the MOU would formalize the working relationship between the two entities, outlining responsibilities and business processes. Both sides are currently providing line-item edits to the draft, with another meeting scheduled for January 15th. Meredith, representing the library, expressed support for the MOU, noting its importance for continuity as board members and directors change over time.
3. **Dirt Road Speed Limit Update:** John inquired with VLCT based on complaints and comments regarding speed on dirt roads. Under VLCT guidance, they do not encourage the Selectboard to adopt speed limits as they are not enforceable unless we have an ordinance. There was much discussion.

VI. Town Manager Update: John gave the update, anticipating the lights arriving shortly. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, the 20th of January. There has been ongoing water issues at the Library, we have tracked down and fixed the problem. We still need to replace the pressure tank at the Library. We have just confirmed the Town Staff holiday party next week. We invite the board to attend. John met with a representative from the Land Trust and Hartland winter trails to discuss Trails on the Pohl property. There was discussion of incoming trucks for the Highway Department.

Minutes taken and submitted by Cheyenne Latimer.