

GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

Sep. 16, 2025 – 5:00 pm

All Meetings are audio recorded.

Item 1: Roll call and determination of a quorum.

Roll Call: Chair Amy Chapman, Selectman Norman A. Milliard,
Selectman Robert Oickle, Town Manager Kim Sparks, Fire Chief Ken Cole
Quorum present.

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Introductions

- a. Zoom participants - None.
- b. Participants present - None.

Item 4: Chair Statement (if needed)

If you wish to speak, please wait until the Chair has opened the floor to Public Comment or until we are at the agenda item you wish to speak on. Once the Chair has recognized you, please stand, state your name for the record, the agenda item, and the nature of your business. All comments and questions must be addressed to the Chair.

Item 5: Approval of Warrants

Expenditure Warrant # 10 - \$ 57,507.30 covering period Sept. 2- Sept. 8, 2025

Expenditure Warrant # 11 – \$ 454,322.63 covering period Sept. 9 – Sept. 16, 2025

Includes Voucher 291, payable to Michie Corp, \$ 146,564.00 – Irish Neighborhood Bridge

Includes Voucher 292, payable to Everett Excavation, \$ 152,363.61 – Irish Neighborhood Bridge

Includes Voucher 306, payable to MSAD 44, \$ 125,687.00

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 10 and Warrant # 11 as presented. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes

Item 6: Review and approve minutes of September 2, 2025

The Board reviewed the minutes. Selectman Milliard asked that we correct Chair Milliard to Selectman Milliard on page 8. Kim stated that she would gladly make the correction.

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Vote: 3-0. Meetings are accepted as amended.

Item 7: Selectmen contacted outside of meeting

Chair Chapman – no contact.

Selectman Milliard – no contact

Selectman Oickle – stated that his neighbors stopped by - Paul Duclos and Rich and Loni Schnieder. Selectman Oickle stated that they asked him questions about the tax increases and everything. He stated that they were appreciative of the notice and all. He explained the increases from the school department and the count. He explained to them that we were just as upset as they were, and we were going to work on it. So, they seemed to be okay. Nobody likes to get that kind of increase in taxes.

Item 8: Comments from the Public – no comments

Item 9: Agenda Items – (15-minute limit per item)

- a. Discussion with Fire Chief Ken Cole regarding pump rebuild for Engine 4.

The Board reviewed the pump repair estimate from Reliance Equipment – copy attached. Chief Cole stated this started about two years ago. A couple years ago, as we sent our trucks up there every year for the annual pump testing, they also did any maintenance and updating and greasing and servicing and oil filters changes and a state inspection. Everything they go through and soup the nuts to the bottom. So, about a couple years ago we started getting notification from them that the pump wasn't up to snuff.

Chief Cole stated that the repair estimate was about \$10,000, He explained that the pump is around 10% below where it should be putting out. I talked with Kim about it, and we decided to just continue to see if it would hold at that point or if it continued to get worse. Comes the next year, it dropped maybe another 6% or so the following year. This year coming into it, the pump has dropped even more. It still passed its capacity test, load testing. However, we talked with them in depth, I talked with the mechanic up there at Reliance and he said, I'll look into it." They were supposed to get us a quote way back on repairing it and for whatever reason, they got busy. We never got the substantial quote that you have in front of you here. But we had a guesstimate of maybe \$10,000, \$12,000 is what the guess was. So, this year, the last two calls Brian had taken it to, one of them was the Woodstock fire. They had a woods fire down here off of Billings Hill. That was the truck that was responded and used for a brush fire. We were pushing a significant amount of hose to the next truck crew up and out in the woods, and they kept calling and asking for more and more and the pump wouldn't do it. It was maxed out. So, it has appeared even since its last testing. It doesn't take a lot. Those impellers, a rock or small debris can get in there and start tearing them up almost like a boat propeller kind of thing. So, it appears that it has dropped off significantly even since our last test and it's not performing the way it really should be. So, our options, I don't think we're going to buy a new truck. I don't think we can replace that truck for \$10,000, \$11,000. So, it's to the point of whether we bite the bullet and repair it now or we keep kicking it to the curb and watch it get worse. It's not going to self-heal.

Selectman Oickle asked if it was anything that was budgeted.

Chief Cole stated that this pump repair was not budgeted and explained that he has enough money in the budget, but this is going to take away from other materials like turnout gear, stuff I intended to buy for our equipment. So, I'm going to have to scale back on purchases. So this \$10,000, we had talked about maybe getting a drone for the fire service use. This may cut into that.

Selectman Milliard asked if this was doable.

Chief Cole answered yes and stated that he will not go over budget. He just needs to cut back some of the line items to make it happen.

Selectman Milliard asked how much a drone is projected to be.

Chief Cole stated that there's another company that we work with, Fire Tech and Safety, and he spoke with their drone expert that does the representations. He's going to come up and give us a demonstration. And he's been doing some departments, running police departments, that the last one he did was around \$10,000.

And they have different levels. You can get them with infrared heat signature, which is great for search and rescue at night. Obviously, infrared, you can have them with voice so that you can speak from the drone to the people and hear back-and-forth conversation. So, everything adds or takes away from the options they have. And then you need to go through the process of FAA licensing a couple of people. I'm thinking probably at least three people to be able to operate it so that somebody doesn't show up. We have the drone, but no operator. So probably three of us would be licensed through the FAA and be able to operate the drone. And they've come so far that the technology has that they go up, and if the battery starts to get low, they come back to you and perch in your hand, and you really don't have to be like a helicopter pilot anymore, really. And they are crash resistant. I'm not going to say proof, but... Do you get insurance on those?

Chair Chapman stated that it seems like people are always crashing their drones. I'm learning.

Chief Cole stated that he believes it has a place in the fire rescue service. It hasn't really been pushed or promoted that far yet, but I think it does. Obviously, we've had rescue calls from hunters, hikers, and even forest fires. If you put it up in the air, it gives us the chance to see what area we need to work on or concentrate on, maybe it's going this way and not this way. So, we don't send all our crew out there or get anybody in safety in danger that it's going up in an area where they could get ahead of it and potentially be in trouble.

Selectman Oickle stated, so Ken, I assume that wasn't budgeted. The drone?

Chief Cole answered the drone. No, we talked about it. But it's not budgeted.

Selectman Oickle stated that it's not a line of work. The pumps not budgeted, so you're going to have to draw from something that is budgeted. Is that what you're saying?

Chief Cole answered no, the equipment I was going to buy, that was budgeted. Personal protective gear and equipment, I will have to scale back on to afford this. But I do have enough in my budget to do this.

Selectman Oickle stated scaling back on that, is that an issue?

Chief Cole answered no. He was hoping for some new recruits, and I don't have the need. I have enough to cover what we have right now adequately. I don't have... I was hoping for a couple more new recruits to come through that I would be able to outfit and pass the gear down through, and I don't have that currently.

Selectman Oickle asked if there is anything else like this that you're concerned about?

Chief Cole answered no, all the other trucks and equipment seem to be running okay. These things... This one we've known about for a while. On the other trucks, everything seems to be okay. Everything seems to be up and running fine on the other equipment.

Selectman Milliard stated especially, I mean, your firetruck's got to run, because that's a key piece of equipment. Well, it sounds like it's becoming a safety issue.

Chair Chapman stated if we can't deliver what you need to be able to deliver with it. I assume you're supportive of... Oh, yes. We don't need a motion, do we?

Kim stated that no motion is needed. We just wanted to make you aware.

Chief Cole stated that this is a huge purchase, and he didn't want to surprise anybody with anything like that. Why did we spend \$10,000 on this truck that we didn't have? It was just good communication. Yeah, open minds. Hopefully they don't find anything else when they tear it apart. But they've put a little flush factor in here. It's like, what, \$300, \$400, but that's not much. But they kind of led me to believe they went on the high side. If it needed stuff, they kind of included additional pricing and so on and so forth. I'm hoping if it did exceed that, it wouldn't exceed it by 10%, because that would not be a good quote.

Chair Chapman stated okay and thank you.

b. Review response from MDOT regarding bridge closings

Kim gave everyone an updated email response from Jerry Dostie from MDOT regarding the 5 Bridges the State will be working on. Next up, a response from MDOT regarding bridge closings. Kim explained that Mr. Dostie explains that they have changed their position on the bridge over Twitchell Brook on Greenwood Road, they're going to now make it one lane instead of full closure.

Selectman Milliard stated well, it's good that they heard some concerns.

Kim stated yes, but they're still saying full closure on the other two roads, the other two bridges on Rt. 219. Like he said, it wouldn't be at the same time. And then they also will be having public hearings. And I would really like to invite everybody in Greenwood City to those public hearings.

Chair Chapman stated invite those that would be impacted by those two closures. Otherwise, it's going to be nobody told me.

Kim stated give them the chance to also give MDOT feedback.

Chief Cole stated that one change that has happened since our meeting with him is I've assumed the new position of road foreman, the one before I just spoke as fire chief. But I'm still a proponent of keeping them all open to one lane, even though it costs more. So basically, Twitchell Brook is going to allow my responders from Greenwood City to come up back and forth. But it's not going to allow us to do anything over on the 219, two bridges over there.

Kim stated her concerns for mutual aid to get to Greenwood from West Paris to Greenwood City.

Chief Cole stated that since we've had that meeting, I think that was prior to you and I meeting with the West Paris fire chief and the town manager. Or you maybe have apprised them of that already. We had a good conversation. The meeting went well, and we still have mutual aid with West Paris. It seemed to be a good two-way conversation. We explained to them how much we appreciate them and need them. Because if you eliminate us from your mutual aid service, you're really trying to... You're really doing a disservice to the public. You're doing a disservice to your taxpayers and your people just passing through.

Chief Cole stated that his position is still to keep all bridge lanes open.

c. Discussion on Minutes with TurboScribe Software

Kim explained that she had two sets of minutes from the last meeting. She explained that one set of minutes is written with the transcription in the minutes and the other is a summary with the transcription attached.

Selectman Oickle stated and like Norman and I say, anything to make your life easier. Selectman Milliard asked if Kim could explain how it works.

Kim explained that she downloads the audio recording into the software. Once it is downloaded the system then does the transcription. She explained that the transcribing takes about half the meeting time. So, if the meeting was an hour, it would take a half hour to... Transcribe it. Once it is transcribed the system emails you a PDF and you can print it out.

Selectman Oickle asked on average, how long does it normally take you to do these minutes?

Kim explained it depends on the meeting but usually like four to five hours.

Chair Chapman asked the half hour that it's doing its thing is not hands-on for you? You're just waiting.

Kim answered yes, she can work on other things while it is transcribing.

Chair Oickle stated so, basically, it's paring it down from four or five hours to an hour. Exactly. And then this transcription that you got back. And you went back in and added names.

Kim answered yes. She said it took her about an hour to add names and make some corrections like it had Delorem instead of the Delorme. It seems like a great system, and it should get easier then more we use it.

You get that kind of detail. So, on average, how long does it take you to do the minutes for the Planning Board? Usually theirs are longer, more detailed. Okay.

Selectman Oickle stated if you have these long transcriptions, and then you summarize or pare down or whatever, then somebody comes along and wants minutes of the meeting, and you give them the short form, and they're like, I thought somebody said something, but you still can produce this.

Kim answered yes and they could also get a copy of the audio recording of the meeting.

Selectman Milliard stated that it's good to have it, because... I think we should just go for it, and, you know, and then if it's an issue whereby it's taking you longer to put who said what... Then maybe it's just a matter of us getting into the habit.

Selectmen Oickle stated that we'll work with it.

Selectman Milliard stated that he thinks we're on a good track, because when we do have people here, and you read that chair's statement, it makes them aware that if they want to say, they have to say who they are. Now, do we need to tell people that we're using this software? Or does it matter? No, it doesn't matter. How we're keeping it. That could be, just

as a thought, that little addition to the chair's statement could be we are recording audio-ly. So, it's important to know who's speaking.

Selectman Oickle asked if Kim could get them copies of the draft minutes soon after their meetings, so they have time to review before their next meeting.

d. Thanks to Congo Craftsmen for building our little library

Kim stated that she meant to have a thank you card for the Board to sign – she will have it ready for their next meeting.

e. Appointment for Public Access Officer – Kim Sparks

Kim explained that they just learned that this appointment was needed after having the Freedom of Information Access training a few weeks ago.
The Board signed the appointment paperwork.

f. Review draft Freedom of Access Policy

The Board reviewed the draft and asked Kim to have a copy for them to sign at their next meeting. Kim stated that she would do that.

g. Review and sign Tax Abatement for Samuel Hartzell Sr. Map R01-3
Mobile home does not have a basement – (\$64.60)

The Board reviewed and signed the Tax Abatement for Sam Hartzell Sr, for Map R01-3 for \$ 64.60.

h. Review and sign Tax Supplemental for Paula Lamb, Map R14-2-5
New assessments applied to lot 3 and should have been lot 5.

The Board reviewed and signed the Tax Supplement for Paula Lamb, for Map R14-2-5 for \$ 5,728.63.

i. Review and sign Tax Abatement for Paula Lamb, Map R14-2-3

The Board reviewed and signed the Tax Abatement for Paula Lamb, for Map R14-2-3 for Sam Hartzell Sr, for Map R01-3 for \$ 5,109.18.

j. Review and sign Hick Cemetery Conveyance for Joseph and Pamela Hebert

The Board reviewed and signed the Cemetery Conveyance for Plot 13A – Old Section in the Hick's Cemetery for Joseph and Pamela Hebert.

Item 10: Other business and communications

Mr. Magner – Selectmen asked what the status of his business being operated on Howe Hill Road without any permits. Kim explained that the only activity on the lot recently is a company that is building Mr. Magner's garage. Chair Chapman asked if it was Mr. Magner's business building the garage. Kim stated that it is Fellows Construction doing the work and they are out of Massachusetts. Kim explained that everyone is keeping an eye on the place and will report to the Town if they see any business activity from Mr. Magner.

Chair Chapman stated that the State's minimum wage is increasing in 2026.

Chair Chapman stated that they have a letter from Korey Morgan, Director from the Western Foothills Land Trust explaining that they are still working on finding ways for the Town to preserve the Finnish Picnic Grounds of the West Paris Road. Kim explained that Korey was excited to work with our Conservation Commission to see what can be done. She stated that Korey suggests that we find a group who would sponsor this like the Finnish Historical Society.

Selectman Oickle asked if they just let the Finns use it?

Chair Chapman stated exactly. It used to be the farm on the other side of the road. Chris Dunham's trying to do some research. He's asking for people's memories or pictures or old, yeah.

Selectman Oickle asked if it has been used since we got it?

Chair Chapman answered not really. Just for trapping.

Kim explained that we have it hayed with the gentleman keeping the hay, just so we can keep it kind of like bush hogged, keep it a field. At one point, someone wanted to put a racetrack there. We've had one neighbor offer to buy it from the town, so he could preserve it, because he was afraid, we were going to develop it. And that's when Betsy's group stepped in and learned about the Finnish history of it.

Chair Chapman asked if the farm was on the other side of the road. Or on the other side of the railroad?

Kim explained that it's still there. It's on Old County Road.

Chief Cole stated that it used to be owned by the Savage family for a while. Yes. And then they've sold it, and I can't think of the new owner's name, but it's a little there.

Chair Chapman asked if the railroad tracks were in between.

Kim answered yes.

Chair Chapman stated that okay, because that's what Chris was saying in his, it used to be contiguous land of the farm, but the railroad went from there.

Selectmen Oickle asked if when it came before the town for those purposes, it was rejected?

Kim explained that none of the voters wanted a racetrack there.

Selectman Oickle stated so you told them that we were working to conserve it and looking for partners or whatever. And did that all make sense? I guess I'm just trying to understand, if we had something since 1970 that hasn't been used at all.

Kim stated that it's just a historic place, I guess. That's what we recently learned about.

Selectman Milliard stated that it hasn't been generating any tax dollars for a long time since 1970. But we have it.

Selectman Oickle asked if we have any other property like that?

Kim answered that we have the tire dump, brush dump and recently foreclosed on Sonny Beller's home. Sonny used to work at the stump dump. He passed away and left no heirs, left no will.

Selectmen Oickle asked if we foreclosed on it because of taxes. Because nobody was paying the taxes. Right.

Kim answered yes, and we have to wait a year after foreclosure before we put this out to bid.

Selectmen Oickle asked so when that happens and the town acquires property, and then how does it get determined what happens to it?

Kim explained that it is up to the selectmen.

Chair Chapman replied that it's up to the select board. She explained that every year at town meeting we get permission to put things out to bid or whatever. So, it goes to that point.

Kim stated yes. And we'll be just doing a quick claim deed to the new owner. So, because of that, you can only sell for roughly what the back taxes were. If you do a warranty deed, which would cost us more, you can then sell it with a real estate agent.

Selectmen Oickle asked if that requires a title search anyway.

Kim answered yes.

Selectmen Oickle stated that somebody's going to get that for pretty much the back taxes? If someone wants to bid higher.

Item 11: Town Manager update to the Board of Selectmen - see attached.

Item 12: Meetings and Events

Sept. 22nd – Planning Board Meeting 5:30pm GTO
Oct. 1st – Ken Cole starts as Highway Foreman
Oct. 6th – Conservation Committee Meeting, 10:00am GTO
Oct. 6th – Planning Board Meeting 5:30pm GTO
Oct. 7th – Selectmen's Meeting 5:00pm GTO
Oct. 13th – Indigenous Peoples Day, Town Office Closed
Oct. 21st – Selectmen's Meeting 5:00pm GTO
Nov. 3rd – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO
Nov. 4th – Election Day, 8am to 8pm – Legion Hall
Nov. 5th – Selectmen's Meeting, 5:00pm GTO
Nov. 11th – Veteran's Day, Town Office Closed
Nov. 18th – Selectmen's Meeting, 5:00pm GTO
Nov. 27th & Nov. 28th – Thanksgiving, Town Office Closed

Item 13: Adjourn - having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.