

TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT

Selectboard Meeting — Minutes

Monday, October 12, 2026

Meeting Date: October 12, 2026

Time: 7:03 PM – 9:58 PM

Location: Conference Room, Town Offices, Holley Hall, 1 South Street, Bristol, VT (remote access via Zoom)

Members Present: Ian Albinson (Chair), Joel Bouvier, John "Peeker" Heffernan, Michelle Perlee, Jessica Teets (Vice Chair)

Staff Present: Gregory W. Faust (Town Administrator), Brett LaRose (Fire Chief), Sharon Lucia (Town Clerk/Treasurer)

Others Present: Steve Palmer, P.E. (VTM Engineering), Jill Marsano (VTUMS), Cyrus Marsano (VTUMS), Shawn Oxford, Dave Sharpe, Michael Miller and one participant via Zoom identified only by the display name "mdavi"

1. Call to Order

Chair Ian Albinson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Michelle Perlee moved to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. Moved by Michelle Perlee, seconded by Joel Bouvier. *Passed unanimously.*

3. Public Forum

Albinson opened the Public Forum, five minutes per person for non-agenda topics, and asked whether anyone in the room or online wished to speak. He noted that most of those present had come for the water presentation. No public comment was received.

4. Consent Agenda

Perlee moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Albinson reviewed each item before the vote.

4a. Approval of past meeting minutes (September 28, 2026)

Albinson asked whether there were any comments on the September 28 minutes. Perlee said she had none. The minutes were approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

4b. Approval of Check Warrant and any liquor/tobacco licenses

Albinson reported the check warrant total of **\$2,318,547.10**. Perlee noted that the total includes the school payment, and Albinson confirmed that it includes the school tax payment to the Mount Abraham Unified School District. No liquor or tobacco licenses were presented.

4c. Acceptance of committee and subcommittee minutes

Albinson noted that this was the Board's standing consent line for committee and subcommittee minutes, and that no minutes had been received because those committees had not yet met.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda, items 4a through 4c. Moved by Michelle Perlee, seconded by Jessica Teets. *Passed unanimously.*

5. Regular Business

5a. Revolving Loan Fund Committee – interview and appointment (Shawn Oxford)

Shawn Oxford had confirmed he would attend in person but had not arrived when the Board reached item 5a, so the Board took up item 5b first. Oxford arrived early in the 5b presentation, and the Board paused 5b to take up 5a.

Oxford introduced himself. He said he has been a homeowner in the community for about 30 years and has spent the last 21 with Bristol Financial Services, where he works with numbers every day. He described his involvement in community activities, including town sports, and said he had been asked to serve and saw it as a good way to give back. In response to a question from Joel Bouvier, he said it was Perlee who had approached him about serving.

Albinson said the Committee has two vacant positions, each a three-year term, and that according to the Town website all but two of the Committee's terms expire in 2027, including the two vacancies. Perlee said all of the Committee's terms are three years, but she was not sure of the dates on any of them.

Bouvier noted that Oxford coaches the varsity basketball team and asked how he would find the time. Oxford asked whether the Committee meets on a regular schedule or only as applications come in. Town Administrator Greg Faust said he expected the Committee to begin meeting more regularly. He explained that the Town is considering policy changes under which the Revolving Loan Fund would move from being a lender of last resort toward more proactive business engagement and economic development, in connection with the economic development portion of the Local Option Tax, and that he and Oxford would likely work together more often. Asked whether meetings fall on Monday nights, Faust said meeting times vary and can be set to suit members' schedules. Oxford said he works across the street and can readily make time during the day.

Perlee explained that the Committee has met only when an application is received, that it must meet within a set number of days of receiving one, and that members coordinate a date. She said the past year brought the first meeting in years other than for refinancing. She also noted that the Committee already has a chair who has agreed to serve, so no chair appointment was needed. Oxford said he had questions about the Committee but would raise them with the Committee directly.

Albinson said the appointment would run until March 2027.

MOTION: To appoint Shawn Oxford to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee for a term ending March 2027. Moved by Joel Bouvier, seconded by Michelle Perlee. *Passed unanimously.*

Albinson welcomed Oxford to the Committee and invited him to stay for the water presentation.

5b. Bristol East Water Line Replacement – public presentation of the 90 percent design (Steve Palmer, P.E., VTM Engineering)

Albinson introduced the item as the 90 percent design review for the Bristol East Water Line Replacement Project, presented by Steve Palmer, P.E., of VTM Engineering, the Town's water

engineer. He stated that this was the warned public presentation for the project's federal environmental review and that these minutes will become part of that record. He said no Board action was planned. Faust said there were two decisions the Board was ready to make at the end of the presentation and that he would point them out as they came up.

Materials from the existing system. Palmer opened with pipe and fittings recovered from Bristol's streets. He showed a section of wooden water line pulled from the corner of Elm and Taylor Streets, which he estimated dates from the 1860s or 1870s. Jill Marsano of VTUMS noted it had not been part of the active water line. Palmer showed an abandoned, unmapped sheet metal, cement-lined line from Pleasant Street, which he believed was installed in the late 1800s mainly for agricultural service; a section of 1905 water main of the kind still in service today, unlined and with heavy mineral buildup inside; and the corporation stops and curb stops now being installed, which Marsano explained are the parts that most often fail on old services under the road. He showed a galvanized service recently removed near Pleasant Street that had many holes along a short stretch, and compared current type K copper with much thinner old copper pulled from Elm Street. Palmer said much of the trouble residents report with copper services comes from thin, inexpensive copper, and Marsano said VTUMS checks that heavy type K copper is used on new work so services last.

Background. Palmer said Bristol has experienced significant water loss, more than the 15 to 20 percent the American Water Works Association describes as typical for a community, along with inadequate flow, pressure and fire flow. He said that in recent fire flow testing with Cyrus Marsano of about a dozen hydrants in the eastern part of the system, some could not supply enough water to fight a fire. In 2020 the Town contracted with Green Mountain Engineering (GME) to evaluate the distribution system and prepare a preliminary engineering report (PER), the first of three steps (report, design and construction) for State and federal funding. The PER, submitted in 2021, confirmed that more than half of Bristol's distribution system was installed in 1905. In 2022 the work was organized under a master plan into four phases, because the total, then about \$12 to \$13 million, was too large for the State to finance at once: Pine Street (completed), Bristol West (everything west of North Street, now under construction), Bristol East (generally east of North Street) and Rockydale (the mountain runs, including the run back to East Street).

Palmer said he, Faust and Marsano review the master schedule about quarterly, because a missed date can mean missed funding. He noted several qualifications to the schedule. The transmission line replacement will be fitted into the schedule once funding is confirmed. Lawrence Lane, which is 1905 pipe, was found to be missing from the inventory, and because only work included in the PER is eligible for State or federal funding, a PER amendment will likely be done in Phase 4 to add it. For Phase 4, he recommended a short alternatives analysis before design, possibly next spring and summer, noting that a cross-country route could raise wetland, endangered species and other permitting issues. In response to questions from Perlee, Teets and Albinson, Palmer and Marsano explained that the Phase 4 lines include the cross feed that lets water from the tank reach the system other than by Mountain Terrace, and that the system also has a newer 12-inch line down Mountain Terrace. Asked whether private wells could replace that service, Palmer said the option should at least be evaluated, and Marsano said there would be real challenges, including the cost of leaving the public system and well separation distances.

Approach. Palmer said that, in most cases, the new mains will be built parallel to the existing lines with some separation, so that the old system keeps operating during construction, the new main is tested and approved, and services are then transferred one at a time with only a short

interruption, as is now happening on Elm Street in Bristol West. The old lines are abandoned in place rather than removed. He said locating what is already in the ground accurately, work he and Cyrus Marsano have spent a great deal of time on, is the most important part of the design, because surprises in the field are costly.

Garfield Street and Fitch Avenue. On Garfield Street the new main will run up the side of the road away from the existing line and the power lines, tying into the newer section installed when North Street was rebuilt. Bouvier recalled that work was done around 2008 or 2009 with federal stimulus funding. On Fitch Avenue the main will run in the green belt where possible to avoid replacing pavement, though some road edge will be removed to fit a trench box. Bouvier, Palmer and Faust reviewed the number of curb stops on the street.

North Street. About 1,150 feet of 1905 main on North Street, from Spring Street to just past Pine Street, will be replaced, running on the right-hand side. Palmer said he and Cyrus Marsano still need to determine whether a stormwater line runs in the road, since pipes run from the catch basins; if one does, the main may shift east to keep five feet of separation. Bouvier described where he recalled drainage from that area ties in, and Palmer said they may run a camera through the lines.

Mountain Street. The new main will tie in at Garfield Street and run up the west side of Mountain Street past Spring Street to Crescent Street. At Spring Street the main must cross a 48-inch storm line. Palmer said he prefers to go under it, and deep enough to allow for the larger storm line under discussion for that street, noting that crews who installed the storm line found the ground difficult. Bouvier asked that the work be done in summer because of the school. Teets said the early education program has moved to the high school, and Albinson suggested coordinating with that program. Perlee and Bouvier noted that the intersection near the school lacks a hydrant, and Palmer said the rules require a hydrant at every intersection and that one will be added. Bouvier asked whether directional boring could be used on Mountain Street to avoid fittings. Palmer said he will discuss it with the directional driller working on Bristol West, but that directional drilling works best in consistent soil or solid rock, and the ground there reportedly includes large boulders and sand. Cyrus Marsano explained that directionally bored pipe is a different material requiring its own fittings.

South Street and the mill line. On South Street, the newer main installed about 15 years ago, in coordination with the North Street project and after the bridge was replaced, ends near Pump House Road, and everything farther west is 1905 pipe. Bouvier recalled that the line down Pump House Road was added as a backup after an earlier river crossing failure. Faust said he had been told the fittings at the Pump House Road corner are set in cast-in-place concrete, and Jill Marsano explained the difficulty of connecting to it. The proposal is to run the new main along the north side of the road at the edge of the pavement.

Palmer then raised a four-inch line that runs from a meter pit in front of a house on South Street along private property owned by the mill to a hydrant in the mill yard. He said he had done no research on an easement or right-of-way. Faust said he had found no easement, only a 2007 letter agreement under which mill owner, Clarie Lathrop Band Mill, agreed to give the Town access to the four-inch line for maintenance; the question was raised again in 2025 and never closed out, and the line and hydrant were installed in about 1957. Marsano noted that access for maintenance does not mean ownership. Palmer said the Town's new ordinance would require an easement for the Town to own a main on private property, that he will submit drawings to the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division within about six weeks, and that he needed direction: end the new main at the meter pit, with a better meter pit, or replace the line to the hydrant as a

public main, which is in the PER and so eligible for 50 percent funding. Asked whether the Town has similar lines, Marsano compared it to the two-inch line serving the Thomas development off North Meadow Lane, where the Town owns only the meter pit.

Bouvier said he had met with the owners and they are open to an easement. He also said a main to that area would be valuable if the Town ever pursues a municipal wastewater system, noting that the river was reclassified in that section to allow a discharge. Perlee said the line from where it leaves the road to the hydrant is all on a single owner's land, which would make an easement simpler. Marsano said a recent flow from the hydrant was adequate for some uses but not enough to fight a fire. Heffernan said the meter pit was installed because the mill used the water to soak logs, and Marsano described a 22-gallon-per-minute leak the mill had on a branch line and the abandoned branch lines beyond the hydrant, saying it would be good to keep metering at that location. Palmer said that if the Town is going to own the line he would suggest removing the meter and making it a public line. Bouvier noted that, at the lowest point of the system, a hydrant there would also be useful for flushing.

Asked whether the Board wants the easement pursued, Albinson said yes, if the owners are still amenable. Marsano asked that a meter pit at grade be used so the meters can be reused.

CONSENSUS: The Board directed the engineer to pursue an easement with the property owner so the Town can replace the four-inch line to the mill yard hydrant as a public main, with a meter pit at grade. This was the first of the two decisions the Town Administrator identified. No motion was made.

East Street. On East Street, between Mountain Street and near Lord's Prayer Rock, the new main will run largely on the north side of the road. Because of an existing stormwater line along the sidewalk green belt, which Palmer must stay five feet from, part of the main will be in the pavement. Palmer described two stone culverts under East Street; Public Works Foreman Eric Cota believes the smaller one is abandoned, about six feet deep, and the main will go under it if possible. Marsano asked how the main would be lowered to pass under obstructions, and Palmer said the design can be made deeper so the line approaches gradually.

Near Drake Smith Road, Palmer proposed removing an existing hydrant that serves one house from a line down a steep backyard, keeping the nearby hydrants, and converting that line into a service by running a new service inside the existing pipe as a sleeve. Teets said the remaining hydrants are not far away, and Marsano said a fire truck would have difficulty using the existing hydrant location. Bouvier suggested adding a hydrant at the corner of Drake Smith Road and East Street near the Teets property, so crews would not have to close East Street during a fire, and Palmer said he would look at it. Palmer explained that he wants to keep the main toward the center of the road because of a steep drop-off and frost concerns, and that he now expects large boulders based on Heffernan's experience in that area. He said building the main in place of the existing line would require temporary water for the houses, which he wants to avoid.

The proposed eight-inch main will extend beyond the last house near Lord's Prayer Rock. Palmer said this would allow temporary water to be supplied to Rockydale during Phase 4 construction regardless of which alternative is chosen. Teets asked whether the alignment would put the work in the middle of the road. Palmer said East Street will need to be closed during construction, and Teets asked that one lane be kept open if possible. Cyrus Marsano asked where State responsibility for the road begins, and Palmer said traffic routing would be part of the alternatives analysis.

Palmer said the neighbors at 80 and 82 East Street want to make sure the 100-year-old trees there are not damaged, and that the existing curb stops are very close to those trees. He proposed running the services up the existing driveway, where the Town owns part of the right-of-way, which would avoid the trees but would require an easement from number 80 for the service to number 82. He said the survey work defining the right-of-way is under way.

Main Street. Palmer said a stone culvert crossing Main Street is still active and very deep, and his plan is to pass the main through it inside a sealed sleeve, which requires a special exception from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division. Heffernan and Bouvier suggested replacing the culvert with a new pipe across the road, noting that it carries drainage from Main Street and the Shaw's parking lot and drops steeply down the bank. Palmer said replacing it would require study beyond the water project's scope, and suggested coordinating with the stormwater consultants working on Mountain Street. Bouvier asked whether a break in the main inside the culvert would be a risk, and Palmer said the sleeve would protect against that.

Palmer described the evolution of the Main Street design. The 1905 main runs down the middle of the road, and two loops installed on either side of the street feed the buildings. The inventory listed the loops as 1905, but Marsano reported that they were installed in the late 1970s or early 1980s and are ductile iron. The first approach, replacing the main and the loops, would have required temporary water in every building. Palmer said that approach ran into the National Register status of the downtown block and a requirement from the Division of Fire Safety for 24-hour fire watch in every building with residential units. The second approach would replace the center main and use the existing six-inch ductile iron service lines into each building as sleeves for new services, avoiding excavation of the sidewalks; it would require construction easements from every owner, a Division of Fire Safety permit for each building and a licensed plumber inside each building. The third approach would replace only the main, placed along the outside of the parking spaces so that probably one lane could stay open, and tie into the existing loops and services. Palmer said there is no single right answer, that the third approach would cause much less disruption to the community and that, in any case, Main Street work would likely be done at night.

Marsano said the loops could last another 100 years given that they are ductile iron. Perlee observed that the loops would have to be replaced eventually, and Palmer noted that 50 percent funding is available now and may not be in the future. Teets asked whether the loops are known to be in good condition, and Palmer said he has not excavated them, but that sand and gravel soils have preserved the infrastructure well and properly bedded pipe should last 100 years. Teets said she was inclined to leave the loops as they are, reasoning that if a problem arises later, owners would be motivated to grant easements. Faust said that, beyond the water work itself, a priority is not disrupting Main Street businesses, and Albinson recalled the business impacts of the long bridge project in Middlebury. Bouvier suggested an insulated main at a shallower depth that businesses could later tie into directly if the loops fail. Palmer said that would make sense if the loops were being replaced, but that if only the main is replaced he would keep it at six feet. Perlee said shop owners should be told that this work is likely coming at some point in the future.

Albinson said that, given the age of the pipe now serving the businesses and the ability to use it, the third approach appeared to offer the least interruption to businesses. Bouvier and Faust agreed, Faust noting that it means one trip down the road. Palmer confirmed the direction as replacing the main and tying into the existing service system, and said he wanted a plan from this

meeting so he could meet with the shop owners, possibly on October 21. He said the new Main Street main will be 12-inch, all the way to the Bingham residence.

CONSENSUS: The Board directed the engineer to proceed with the third Main Street approach: replace the 1905 center main and tie into the existing loops and building services rather than replacing them. This was the second of the two decisions the Town Administrator identified. No motion was made.

Palmer also noted a 1905 hydrant line running down an alley behind Main Street to a hydrant near the mill, serving at least two houses. He proposed eliminating that hydrant in favor of one on Main Street, after consulting the Fire Chief, and said the services there will likely need to be replaced, possibly through a grant Faust is pursuing.

Bristol West update. Palmer reported that tie-ins are under way on Elm Street, with Taylor Street likely by the end of the week. The main is in on Pleasant Street between North and just past Maple Street, and all of the main is in on Maple Street. Three tie-ins remain, one this Thursday and others in the following weeks. By the end of this construction season, Taylor, Elm and Maple Streets will be complete, with Pleasant Street beyond Maple if time allows before the asphalt plants close. He said the project is under budget and on schedule. Next spring work will start early near the park and must be finished before July 1 because of summer activities there, followed by Church Street and the remaining streets. In response to questions from Bouvier and Cyrus Marsano about West Pleasant Street, Palmer said that segment will be done this year only if it can be paved before the plants close.

No members of the public offered comments during the presentation. Board members thanked Palmer, and Palmer offered the Town the section of wooden water line for display.

5c. Town-wide police question – Town Administrator's plan, discussion and possible action

Albinson displayed the Town Administrator's public guide on the screen and noted that it is posted on the Town website.

Buvier asked about the per-resident figures in the guide. Faust explained that he had been asked to provide a figure for all residents, about \$186 per person town-wide based on the FY2027 District budget of about \$701,000, and that the figure is much higher when spread across District residents only. Bouvier said that dividing the budget by roughly 1,700 District residents gives about \$412 per person. Faust added that the figure would be larger still if staff were added.

Albinson said the question of the police district has been raised over many years, with several committees and discussions, but the Town has never been in a position to collect the data needed. He said that a March 2027 question would go to voters with very little information, and that the more basic question is what kind of police department Bristol should have, before asking who pays for it. He said the plan he had circulated proposes taking more time to analyze the department, using the new public safety subcommittee, and seeking grant funding for an outside organization to conduct part of the work, as is being done for the Town Plan update.

Teets said the available call data shows the volume and type of calls but not calls people do not make, calls that go to the Vermont State Police, or whether residents were satisfied. She said that without information on residents' needs, the vote comes down to budget alone, and asks people outside the District to pay for a service whose shape they do not know. She described possible models, including a smaller department relying more on the State Police or a sheriff, regionalized services and greater use of a community service officer, whose service is less expensive. She said community outreach tends to reach the same voices and that a professional research firm

using a representative sample and trade-off questions could show what residents want and are willing to pay for.

Faust said residents outside the District currently have no say in policing matters under the existing structure, that residents in different parts of town have different needs, and that the Town could do better at informing residents outside the District about the services they already receive, including when traveling through the village. He said he had provided examples of towns where changes went poorly without the right information, citing Waterbury. Perlee asked about Hinesburg, and Bouvier said Hinesburg and Richmond now share a chief. Heffernan noted that residents from outside the District receive those services at no cost when they are in the District.

Town Clerk Sharon Lucia asked what share of police time goes to emergencies residents have no say in, such as shootings, stabbings, crashes and burglaries. Teets said the research would help determine how large the department should be, with the Police Department involved throughout. Lucia said the matter keeps being pushed out.

Dave Sharpe asked whether the vote would use the Town checklist for all voters or a separate vote of District voters. Albinson said any change affecting voters outside the District requires their vote, explaining that the merger charter allows the District to be ended, making the department town-wide like the Fire Department, or its boundaries to be changed, in which case current District voters and voters in the added area would vote. Sharpe said that when he voted for the merger, his understanding was that a town-wide police district would not be imposed by a town-wide vote, and that a town-wide change would require separate votes of District voters and of voters outside the District. Albinson said the charter is not specific on that point and that it could be added to the questions for Town counsel. Sharpe said residents outside the District might contest it. Teets and Heffernan discussed with Sharpe how separate ballots would be counted. Bouvier said he recalled a provision in the merger documents giving District voters a separate say, and Albinson said the only such provision he knew of concerns the District's ability to disband.

Sharpe said the comparison chart in the guide counts all Bristol residents, not District residents. He said that, as a resident outside the village, he would like to see enforcement of zoning, junkyard, health and environmental regulations outside the village, which the Police Department does not do. Albinson said the Town would need to determine whether a larger department could take part in such work, noting existing coordination with the Health Officer, and said this is the kind of information the Town wants from residents. Teets said that kind of enforcement could be done by a municipal enforcement officer rather than a police officer, and that the Planning and Zoning Administrator has recently increased enforcement. Sharpe thanked the Board for its work, including on the water project. He said the last analysis indicated everyone would pay much more without much change in service, and that paying much more while breaking the merger agreement, without quality enforcement outside the village, would make him angry. Albinson said the Board does not want residents to feel uninformed when they vote, whichever way the vote goes.

Bouvier described his own research comparing Bristol with Brandon and Vergennes. Sharpe said a smaller budget would mean less police coverage outside the village than residents now receive from the State Police.

Albinson said he believed the Board needed more time and information. He explained that putting the question on the Australian ballot is a two-step process requiring voters first to

authorize the Australian ballot for the question, which could be asked at Town Meeting in 2027 for a March 2028 vote. Lucia noted that the police district budget is already voted by Australian ballot. Albinson said voters could also be asked whether to vote all public questions by Australian ballot, noting that a past proposal to move appropriations to Australian ballot was voted down. Sharpe suggested framing the question as a choice between a floor vote and an Australian ballot, and Board members discussed how a no vote would be explained, since the authorizing question must be a yes or no floor vote. Faust and Teets mentioned the electronic voting keypads discussed at the previous meeting. Bouvier noted that Monkton is holding a special town meeting on an Australian ballot question.

Sharpe raised an unrelated suggestion about property taxes: that the Town adopt the grace period for tax payments he understood the State allows, a single late penalty and a simpler single monthly interest rate. Lucia asked him to provide the statute.

Heffernan said the Board needs more information and that Police Chief Bruce Nason has said the same: the Town needs to know what residents want before it can tell them what it will cost. Perlee said residents outside the District also need to know what services are already provided. Albinson said there is no recent analysis of the department, and Lucia cautioned that some police information is confidential. Perlee asked whether a special meeting would be needed this year. Albinson said that a 2027 town-wide vote would require a special meeting, while a 2028 vote would allow the authorizing question at the 2027 Town Meeting.

Lucia suggested that, because police district matters are already voted by Australian ballot, a separate authorizing vote might not be needed. Faust reported from the record that in 2011 a special District meeting voted by paper ballot, 15 to 14, to adopt the District budget by Australian ballot each March and to move District public questions to the ballot, and that a 2012 questionnaire at the presidential election found that of 1,139 voters who answered, 50.6 percent favored expansion, 21 percent were opposed and 27 percent were undecided. Albinson said the Board would review the 2011 minutes, any video and a possible 2025 Town Meeting discussion to determine whether a separate authorizing question is needed. Heffernan asked whether voters had already given the Board permission to put the question on the Australian ballot, and Perlee said voters had directed the Board to investigate it. Perlee asked whether a resident petition could ask the question.

Heffernan said none of this solves the immediate issue of funding the department and providing effective policing. Albinson noted that Faust has related material for a later meeting, and Perlee said that would be an executive session discussion. Teets said the Board should plan to explain at Town Meeting what has been gathered so far, what is still needed and the process ahead. Faust said the questions should focus on what police services mean to residents and what they would prioritize at a given cost, said the Board can set metrics to evaluate the department at any time, and said the department faces pay and benefit challenges in keeping up with neighboring towns. He added that paving costs for Bristol West have risen by six figures since the contract was signed. Heffernan said other departments may face similar issues.

Albinson summarized the path in the guide: gathering facts this year and into next, hearing from residents and officers, narrowing the options in the fall of 2027 and a town-wide question by Australian ballot in March 2028. He said that if the Board agreed on 2028 he would begin the work, working with Teets, including pursuing grant funding for an outside organization, and that he would not accept that charge for a 2027 vote because there would not be enough time. He said a project of this scope requires an outside organization and that the new subcommittees give the Board a good range of people to draw on.

Albinson said he did not believe a motion was needed and asked for a consensus to proceed toward 2028, with the coming year's work guided by documents prepared or assisted by the Town Administrator. Perlee and Teets agreed. Bouvier agreed and asked for a status report in April or May rather than waiting until March. Faust said he looked forward to the report from Bouvier as a member of that subcommittee. Albinson asked whether the Board felt a motion was needed and noted the consensus would be recorded in the minutes.

CONSENSUS: The Board agreed to proceed toward a town-wide police question by Australian ballot in March 2028, spending the coming year on the work set out in the Town Administrator's plan, with Ian Albinson leading the effort with Jessica. No motion was made.

5d. Selectboard roundtable

Bouvier asked whether anything further had been done about charging businesses without grease traps, noting that grease traps had recently been pumped again. Faust said they would discuss it after the meeting rather than address billing questions at the table. No other Board member had anything to report.

5e. Town Administrator's report

Faust had nothing to report.

6. Other Business

6a. Correspondence, reports, and communications received

None.

7. Executive Session

Not anticipated and not held.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn the October 12, 2026 Selectboard meeting. Moved by Pecker Heffernan, seconded by Joel Bouvier. *Passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Albinson, Selectboard Chair