

Present: Chairman Dan Haskins, Selectman Colton Andrews, Town Administrator Ronald Boucher, Berkshire Public Health Alliance representatives Valerie Bird and James Massey (via Zoom.)

Absent: Selectman Seth Alexander.

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Dan Haskins called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and noted that the meeting was being recorded using artificial intelligence for note-taking purposes.

II. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approve meeting minutes from June 1st.

The Board reviewed the Select Board meeting minutes from June 1st, 2026.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 1st.

SECOND: Chairman Haskins seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

IV. Approve Town Meeting minutes from May 27th.

The Board reviewed the Town Meeting minutes from the May 27th.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the Town Meeting minutes from May 27th.

SECOND: Chairman Haskins seconded.

VOTE: All in favor.

V. BRPC to review letters of support for Master Plan community outreach Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Andrew McKeever of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission appeared before the Board to review the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan and discuss a letter of support from the Select Board. Mr. McKeever explained that the plan establishes the Town's vision for conservation lands, natural resources, and recreational opportunities over the next ten years while also making the Town eligible for several state grant programs. He reviewed the public outreach process, which included surveys, community meetings, and engagement with students at Clarksburg School. Major goals identified in the plan included preserving natural resources and

rural character, expanding recreational opportunities and accessibility, and directing development toward already-developed areas while protecting open space. Mr. McKeever noted that the draft remains open for public comment and is currently under state review. The Board expressed appreciation for the work completed and agreed to provide a letter of support once revised language was prepared.

VI. Review of 750 Daniels Rd. Board of Health checklist updates.

The Board next reviewed the status of 750 Daniels Road with representatives from the Berkshire Public Health Alliance participating remotely. Valerie Bird and James Massey provided an update on the property, noting that although some junk vehicles had been removed, significant concerns remained regarding trash accumulation, air quality, unsanitary conditions, and lack of electrical service. The Board discussed the ongoing issues with the property owner and occupant, including prior orders to vacate, unlicensed and unvaccinated dogs, and continued nuisance conditions affecting neighboring properties. Health officials reported that progress had been minimal despite more than a year of efforts to address the violations. Following discussion, Selectman Andrews expressed support for pursuing receivership through the Attorney General's Office. Valerie indicated she would contact the Attorney General to begin that process and arrange participation at a future meeting.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews made a motion requiring the property to be completely vacated by Friday, June 19th at 3:00 p.m.

SECOND: Chairman Haskins seconded.

VOTE: All in favor.

VII. Follow up on FY27 Data Collection Project contract and sign if approved.

The Board returned to discussion of the FY27 Data Collection Project contract from the June 1st meeting. Town Clerk Amber Holland reported that the selected contractor had agreed to complete the townwide data collection project on an accelerated timeline at no additional cost to the Town. The project is expected to begin as soon as practical and be completed by July 1, 2027.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the FY27 Data Collection Project

contract as presented.

SECOND: Chairman Haskins seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

VIII. MassWorks bid opening for Middle Road South.

The Board opened bids for the South Middle Road Project. Five bids were received and publicly opened. The bids received were as follows: Clayton D. Davenport Trucking of Greenfield, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$1,373,730; Palmer Paving Corporation of Palmer, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$1,193,983; Warner Brothers Paving of Sunderland, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$1,280,782.50; J.H. Maxymillian of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$1,470,056; and Rifenberg Contracting of Troy, New York, in the amount of \$1,142,420. Rifenberg Contracting was identified as the apparent low bidder. The Board authorized the Department of Public Works Superintendent Kyle Hurlbut to review the bids for compliance and to award the contract if all requirements were met.

IX. Adelson Company auditors to review budget findings.

Representatives from the Town's auditing firm then presented the Fiscal Year 2025 audit. The auditors reported that, aside from an Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) reporting requirement that resulted in an adverse opinion, the Town's financial condition remained strong. The auditors noted that the Town had approximately \$950,000 in free cash and approximately \$240,000 in unrestricted stabilization funds, reflecting healthy reserves. Tax collection rates remained high, with real estate tax collection at approximately 97 percent. The auditors also reviewed several minor recommendations, including continued collection efforts on sewer receivables and accounting adjustments related to fund classifications. The auditors commended Town staff for maintaining strong financial practices and indicated that once OPEB reporting is completed, future audits should receive a clean opinion.

X. Organization of government.

Under Organization of Government appointments, the Board considered several appointments including James Baumbach to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term expiring in 2029; Todd Andrews to the Recreation Committee for a three-year term expiring in 2029; Chuck Lewitt to the Finance Committee for a three-year term expiring in 2029; and Jeannie Landry to the Council on Aging for a three-year term expiring in 2029.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews made a motion to approve the government appointments as presented.

SECOND: Chairman Haskins seconded.

VOTE: All in favor.

XI. Town Administrator updates.

Mr. Boucher reported that the sewer hookup from North Adams was approved and that commitment documents for the \$1.3 million West Road Culvert grant had been received and were moving forward.

XII. Public Comment.

Chairman Haskins opened the floor to public comment to which a resident briefly commented that they had attended the meeting out of interest. Selectman Andrews added that it had been one of the Board's busier meetings.

XIII. Adjourn.

MOTION: Chairman Haskins motioned to adjourn the public hearing and meeting at 5:45 p.m.

SECOND: Selectman Andrews seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Markell Shea, Town Executive Assistant

Selectboard,

Dan Haskins, Chair

Colton Andrews, First Vice Chair

Seth Alexander, Second Vice Chair