

Present: Chairman Dan Haskins, Selectman Seth Alexander, Selectman Colton Andrews, Town Administrator Ronald Boucher, Resident Sarah Hurlbut.

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Haskins called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 February 17th.

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from February 17, 2026.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 17, 2026.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

IV. Discuss draft of budget review.

Town Administrator Ronald Boucher presented the Board with a draft of the FY27 Town budget. Mr. Boucher explained that several figures remain preliminary and are highlighted pending confirmation. The Town is currently tracking close to last year's operating budget for Town Hall. He noted that several numbers are still outstanding, including confirmation regarding the remaining debt on the DPW truck, the McCann Technical School assessment, and the Elementary School assessment. Updated retirement figures and final numbers from the Town accountant regarding Free Cash are also still pending.

Mr. Boucher indicated that the school department plans to present their draft budget at an upcoming School Committee meeting and that once additional information is received, the Town's draft budget will be provided to the Finance Committee for review.

Board members were encouraged to review the draft budget prior to the next Selectboard meeting. A revised version of the budget is expected to be presented at the March 16th, 2026 meeting. The Board thanked Mr. Boucher for preparing the draft budget.

V. Discuss Northern Berkshire School Union percentage change update.

Chairman Haskins provided an update on discussions regarding the Northern Berkshire School Union cost allocation percentages. After working with the subcommittee and

participating in discussions with the other member towns, an agreement was reached in which the other towns will each take on an additional two percent share of the costs. This adjustment provides Clarksburg with an eight percent reduction, lowering the Town's share from 54% to 46%. Chairman Haskins noted that this change is expected to provide approximately \$50,000 in budget relief for FY27. He further explained that the subcommittee will continue reviewing the cost-sharing agreement over the next six to eight months to determine whether additional adjustments may be possible in the future.

Resident Sarah Hurlbut, of 170 Cross Road, addressed the Board regarding the allocation of certain shared costs within the School Union, including rent and utilities. Ms. Hurlbut expressed concern that Clarksburg currently pays a higher percentage of those costs and suggested that they should be split more evenly among the member towns unless it can be demonstrated that Clarksburg's usage warrants the higher share. Chairman Haskins stated that the concern would be brought forward during future discussions with the subcommittee. The Board thanked Chairman Haskins for his work on the matter.

VI. Discuss Northern Berkshire Regionalization Study update.

Chairman Haskins provided an update on the Northern Berkshire regionalization study. He explained that he serves on the steering committee for the study and that the first round of submitted bids has recently been reviewed. Two bids were rejected due to noncompliance with the Request for Proposals, and the remaining bid exceeded the \$125,000 project budget. The steering committee plans to revise the Request for Proposals and reissue it later this month. Chairman Haskins clarified that the study focuses on regionalization for grades 6 through 12 and does not involve the elementary school.

VII. Discuss Route 8 bridge update.

Chairman Haskins provided an update regarding the Route 8 bridge project. The Town had hoped to receive an update from the state regarding the project timeline; however, no additional information had been received as of the meeting date.

Town officials will continue to follow up with the state and will notify residents once further information becomes available. The Board also discussed holding an informational meeting at the Community Center once a timeline for the bridge closure is confirmed.

VIII. Review and approve contract for Town Hall Zoom/Google Meet virtual meeting account.

The Board discussed the option of purchasing a Zoom subscription to allow residents to attend meetings remotely. Town Administrator Boucher reported that the cost of the Zoom subscription would be approximately \$14 per month and would allow unlimited meeting duration and participant capacity.

Board members discussed the advantages of offering hybrid meeting participation and the potential for increased public accessibility.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the contract to purchase a Zoom subscription for Town Hall remote meeting capabilities.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

IX. Review and Approve Purchase of Generator for Town Hall.

Mr. Boucher provided an update regarding the purchase of a generator for Town Hall, noting that the project will be funded using ARPA funds that have been designated for this purpose. The total cost for the generator and installation is \$21,851.81, though the final cost will be reduced slightly due to the Town's tax-exempt status.

The installation will include integration with the building's electrical panel and the addition of propane tanks to supply fuel to the generator. The Board discussed the need for protective barriers and a concrete pad to secure the tanks. The generator will also allow Town Hall to serve as an emergency shelter if needed.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the purchase of the generator for Town Hall.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

X. Town Administrator updates.

Town Administrator Boucher provided several updates to the Board. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has requested a letter of support from the Selectboard for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant application. The Board indicated its willingness to sign the letter.

Mr. Boucher also reported progress on the ADA bathroom improvements at the school, noting that grant funds will be used to purchase materials while additional work may be funded through the School Stabilization account pending Town Meeting approval.

He further noted that a roof leak at the library is currently being evaluated. A contractor has inspected the area and is preparing a repair estimate.

Mr. Boucher has also submitted a claim to the Town’s insurance company regarding the damage to the library ceiling.

Additionally, the Town is still awaiting a decision regarding its Green Communities grant application, which would fund energy efficiency improvements at the school.

XI. Public Comment.

Chairman Haskins opened the floor to public comment. There were no comments.

XII. Adjourn.

MOTION: Chairman Haskins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 PM.

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