

Present: Chairman Dan Haskins, Selectman Seth Alexander, Selectman Colton Andrews, Town Administrator Ronald Boucher, Finance Committee Members Charles Lewitt, Carla Fosser, and Bob Witherall.

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Haskins called the meeting to order at 5:03 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 March 16th.

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from March 16th, 2026.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 16th, 2026.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

IV. Discussion and approval of Andre Martell of 59 Wheeler Ave. to hook up to North Adams water/sewer connection, possible gas as well.

Chairman Haskins reviewed the request for the Martell family to hook up to North Adams sewer and water connections.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the request for the Martells to hook up to North Adams sewer and water connections.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

V. BRPC representative Brett Roberts to discuss CDBG Grant application.

A public hearing was opened to discuss the Community Development Block Grant application. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission representative Brett Roberts provided an overview of the program, explaining that Clarksburg is partnering with the Town of New Ashford on a joint \$1.1 million grant application. The program is expected to assist approximately 14 homes, with an estimated \$70,000 allocated per home for rehabilitation

projects such as roofs, septic systems, wells, windows, and other necessary upgrades to bring homes up to code. The program includes a 15-year declining lien to ensure long-term residency.

The Board was asked to sign an intermunicipal agreement outlining the distribution of funds, with Clarksburg receiving 10 housing units and New Ashford receiving 4. The Board was also asked to approve the grant application cover sheet. The program has been active in Berkshire County for approximately 15 years and aims to assist low- to moderate-income homeowners in maintaining safe and livable housing. No public comments were made. The public hearing was then closed.

VI. YMCA representative to discuss renting Town Field for summer camp.

Representative from the YMCA Brandon Malone presented a proposal to use the Town Field for a summer camp program running from June 29 through August 21, operating daily from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The program would include themed weekly activities and at least one field trip per week.

Board members discussed several logistical concerns, including traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up times, limited parking, lack of running water, sanitation needs, trash removal, and storage security. Additional concerns included scheduling conflicts with existing community use of the field, including recreational use by residents and planned events such as Friday evening music programs. The Board also raised concerns about field maintenance, safety, and overall suitability of the location.

While expressing support for the YMCA program itself, Board members indicated that the Town Field may not be an ideal location due to these constraints. Alternative locations, including state-owned properties and other local facilities, were suggested. The Board recommended conducting a site visit and further evaluation before making a final decision.

VII. FY26 Fourth Quarter Sewer and Water Commitment.

The Board reviewed the fourth quarter sewer and water commitment for Fiscal Year 2026. The sewer amount was \$103,205.62 and the water amount was \$3,020.00, for a total of \$106,225.62.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the FY 26 Fourth Quarter sewer and water commitment.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

VIII. Town Warrant for Town Election.

The Board reviewed the warrant for the upcoming town election, scheduled for May 12, 2026, to be held at the Clarksburg Community Center from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The warrant includes positions for Selectboard, School Committee, Board of Health, Library Trustee, War Memorial, and Planning Board.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews motioned to approve the Town Warrant as presented.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

IX. Continued discussion from March 16th Selectboard meeting on implementing stipend pay for building department, electrical department, animal control department, and health department.

The Board continued discussion regarding stipend adjustments for the plumbing, gas, electrical, and health departments. A proposal was presented to convert variable permit-based payments into fixed annual stipends to simplify accounting and ensure consistency. The proposed stipend for the plumbing and gas inspector was \$3,000 annually, paid biweekly at \$115, and \$2,000 annually for the electrical inspector, paid biweekly at \$77.

Chairman Haskins suggested separating the health department responsibilities from plumbing and gas duties for future flexibility. A point of inquiry was provided by Town Treasurer Kelly Haskins via Zoom call that the proposed stipends were based on a four-year average of permit-related payments and did not include existing stipends.

MOTION: Selectman Andrews made a motion to approve the new stipend pay plan for the building, health, electrical, and animal control departments.

SECOND: Selectman Alexander seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

X. Discuss new generator installation at Town Hall that will affect operations on the dates April 15th & 16th.

The Town Administrator provided the Board with an update regarding the installation of a new generator at Town Hall. Work was scheduled for April 15th and 16th, however coordination with the installation contractor will now allow the work to take place without disrupting normal operations, moving the dates to Thursday and Friday. The power shutdown is scheduled for Friday when the building is already closed.

XI. Discuss FY27 budget with Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee joined and opened the meeting at 5:29 p.m. to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Chairman Charles Lewitt opened the discussion on staffing changes, including restructuring within the assessor's office and combining certain administrative roles. Adjustments to budget line items were reviewed, including corrections to calculation errors and revisions to utility and fuel estimates.

Concerns were raised by Finance Committee member Bob Witherall regarding discrepancies between municipal and school utility increases, with plans to gather additional data for clarification. The Board also discussed increasing the stipend for the Animal Control Officer from \$1,170 to \$2,000 annually due to workload and responsiveness.

Mr. Lewitt also requested clarification on a request for an 11% salary increase to the Town Treasurer. Chairman Haskins abstained from the discussion. During the budget discussion, the Board reviewed the proposed adjustment to the Town Treasurer's salary. Town Treasurer Kelly Haskins participated via Zoom and explained that the recommendation was based on a salary survey conducted by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association. The survey included compensation data from surrounding municipalities, and a comparison was specifically made to the Town of Hinsdale, which has a similar population and a comparable 32-hour work structure. The Treasurer noted that the analysis did not account for additional responsibilities performed beyond standard duties, including managing financial operations for multiple town departments and overseeing school-related finances. Based on this comparison, it was stated that the current salary remains below that of similarly situated communities. The Board acknowledged the information as part of its ongoing budget review.

Additional discussion included fire department funding, insurance costs, capital expenses, and overall budget constraints.

It was noted by the Town Administrator that the Town budget remains relatively level-funded, while overall financial challenges persist due to rising costs and limited revenue growth. The Board emphasized the importance of continued communication with the school department and careful financial planning moving forward. The Financial Committee also showed interest in meeting with department heads to continue budgeting discussions.

MOTION: Chairman Lewitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Witherall seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor.

XII. Town Administrator updates.

The Town Administrator directed discussion to Department of Public Works Superintendent Kyle Hurlbut to provide updates on infrastructure projects, including issues related to a culvert replacement on Middle Road South. Due to new stream crossing standards and cost increases, the Board discussed filing an appeal to potentially reduce project costs. The Board agreed for Mr. Hurlbut to proceed with the appeal process to explore cost savings and project feasibility.

It was also announced that long-serving member Allan Reutlinger of the Board of Assessors had resigned after 24 years of service. The Board acknowledged and expressed appreciation for his contributions.

XIII. Public Comment.

Chairman Haskins opened the floor to public comments to which there were none.

XIV. Adjourn.

MOTION: Chairman Haskins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 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***