

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2025

SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Members Present: Doug Bailey, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Ralph Ethier, Brian Coolidge, Jeff Haylon

Others Present: Bill Moore, June Kelly, Chris Powers, Brent Buehler, Gerad Lowell. By Zoom: Vicki Disorda, Bruce Jensen, Tricia Welch.

- 1 Chair Doug Bailey called the meeting to order at 7PM. All selectboard members were seated. Posted agenda voted 5-0.
  - 2 Selectboard Members' Remarks: Chair encouraged civility in discussions.
  - 3 Motion by Reniche-Smith/Coolidge to approve the following as a consent agenda:
    - a Minutes of September 22, 2025 regular meeting
    - b Minutes of October 6, 2025 budget workshop
    - c FY26 Check Warrant / Orders on the Treasurer in the amount of \$318,132.31Consent agenda voted 5-0.
  - 4 The selectboard reviewed the written report from town manager Seth Hopkins and heard an oral report from deputy town manager and community development director Bill Moore. For details of written meeting materials, please see the meeting packet published on the town website; for details of oral reports and discussions, please see the Notes for the meeting created by Minutes AI made part of these minutes. No action taken in this agenda item; discussion only
  - 5 Public comment was heard; please see the Notes for the meeting created by Minutes AI made part of these minutes. No action taken in this agenda item; discussion only.
- The selectboard recessed at 7:23PM.
- 6 On motion of Haylon/Coolidge, the selectboard entered executive session under 1 VSA § 313 (a) (3) regarding the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public office or employee [police applicant interviews report]. Voted 5-0. The board entered executive session at 7:26PM.
- On motion of Haylon/Reniche-Smith, the selectboard exited executive session at 7:37PM. No action required.
- 7 Motion by Coolidge/Reniche-Smith to adjourn. Not debatable. Voted 5-0. 7:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Note: The recording is online at the Town's YouTube channel for those who require detail at the level of every word spoken. Below are notes taken by the Minutes AI app.

Notes on Selectboard Meeting  
Created on October 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM by Minutes AI

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Meeting Commencement  
- Meeting is called to order.  
- Agenda is adopted as warned.

Select Board Remarks  
- Remarks are to be civil in discussions.

Minutes and Warrant

- Motion to adopt a consent agenda for items 3A, B, and C.
- Purpose is to approve the warrant for bill payments, especially important due to the holiday.
- Question about line items for rat poison: Pest control is in place at all town locations.
- Question about Carver Street invoice: It covers the cost of removing waste from the dumpster used for Carver Street cleanup. The dumpster is located at the transfer station.
- Motion and second are in place.

#### Reports to the Select Board

- Town Manager's Report:
  - Police Department is currently \$123,000 under budget due to not having all budgeted officers.
- Community Development Report (Mr. Moore):
  - October 18th: Silent movie showing ("The Magician") to fund the 2026 event.
  - October 19th: LC Jazz Fantastic Big band swing orchestra performance.
  - Free will donation event funded by Warren Kimble in celebration of his 90th and 1/3rd birthday.

#### Brandon Independence Day and Women's Choral Group

- Donations will benefit the Brandon Independence Day celebration committee.
- October 25, a women's choral group, Maiden Vermont, will be performing upstairs.

#### Spooksville Trunk or Treat and Moonlight Madness

- October 24, Colleen Wright will put on the Spooksville Trunk or Treat event at Estabrook.
  - It is "a lot of fun and chaos for an hour and 45 minutes down at Estabrook."
  - It may lead to a safer Halloween.
- Moonlight Madness is a Chamber / Downtown Brandon Alliance collaboration on December 3rd and 11th.
  - The Friends of the Town hall used to rent out space to vendors for a nominal fee upstairs and downstairs. This year that'll be facilitated by the Town of Brandon Recreation Department.
  - Registration can be found at brandonrec.com.

#### Budget Meeting Announcement

- Next budget meeting will be on the 20th at 7pm.
- It will be meeting number three.

#### Public Comment: Garbage Ordinance

- Brett Bueller asked if there is an ordinance against garbage in people's front yards.
  - Garbage includes toilets, sofas, appliances, trash dumpsters, broken down cars, and trash bins left on the street.
  - There is also dumping at the warehouses at the corner of Church Street and Rossiter.
- The zoning administrator oversees health and safety ordinances.
- There are concerns about abandoned vehicles.
- There is illegal dumping at the bottom of Van Cortlandt Road.
- Identifying the person that did the actual dumping is tricky.

#### Illegal Dumping

- Some people are too lazy to go to the transfer station.
- There are cameras across the street from where people are illegally dumping.
- Hannaford picks up their carts that get left there.
- Concerns about health or safety should be directed to Larry.

#### Four Way Stop at Park Street and Marble

- A four way stop at Park Street and Marble was discussed.
- Residents along High Street were not in favor of big trucks stopping and starting again due to the noise.
- Ralph and Doug were assigned to work with the PD and Seth on road signage.
- The traffic ordinance is going to be reviewed, and the ordinance working group may give it back to Doug and Ralph.

#### Speeding on Pearl Street and Rossiter

- There are speeding issues on Pearl Street, Church Street, Union Street, and Carver Street.
- "Rossiter's not as bad as Church Street, Union street and carver street. It's 30, 40 miles an hour over the speed limit all day, every day."
- There are no crosswalks or pedestrian signage in the neighborhood, except for a crosswalk at Rossiter and Carver.
- Speed bumps could be a solution, and more signage could help.

#### Traffic Calming Devices

- When Park Street was redone, traffic calming devices were included.
- Redoing streets could be an opportunity to include traffic calming devices.
- There are streets in town where speeding is a persistent problem.
  - Some drivers speed up when they see the 25 mph blinking lights on Garver Street.

#### Speed Cart and Speed Bumps

- A formal complaint was made about Union Street, and Seth met with the police chief to discuss it, including the use of a speed cart.
- The road crew is concerned that speed bumps will damage snowplows.
- There are different types of speed control devices, such as speed tables.

#### Police Presence and Enforcement

- It would be good if Brandon had a reputation for strict speed enforcement.
- The sheriff's department could potentially provide speed control, but it would require payment.
  - The police department has been under budget due to a lack of officers, and the sheriff's department is also short-handed.
- As the police department is rebuilt, directed patrols could be reintroduced.

#### Carver Street Parking and Sidewalks

- A resident moved from Franklin Street to Carver Street and feels it is less safe for his family.
  - Franklin Street has a median.
- There are parking and sidewalk issues on Carver Street.
  - Some residents have caregivers who need to park.
  - Some sections of Carver Street have medians that disappear and sidewalks that are very narrow.
  - Many properties have extended families with multiple cars and shared driveways.
  - The topography drops off dramatically.
- The only time people don't speed is when delivery trucks block the road.

#### Carver Street Parking and Traffic Concerns

- Speaker suggests painting the sidewalk to delineate it from the road, hoping it will encourage drivers to stay off the sidewalk.
- Speaker notes that Carver Street is narrow, and parking on both sides makes it difficult for two cars to pass, potentially leading to accidents.
- Striping the edge of the new sidewalk on Seminary and Carver is being considered to make the sidewalk more visible.
- Pedestrians and people with mobility devices are sometimes forced to walk in the street due to cars parked on the sidewalk.

#### West Seminary Parking

- West Seminary has a distinctive curve in parts.
- Speaker mentions a resident on the street who doesn't want anyone to park in front of his house.

#### Meeting Logistics

- The audio wasn't working on Zoom at the beginning of the meeting.
- The meeting is going into a short executive session.