

2026-03-02 Board of Selectmen Minutes

Town of Canterbury, NH
Board of Selectmen
Date: 2026 March 2
Location: Meeting House

Selectmen: Scott Doherty (Chair), Beth Blair, Calvin Todd

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

Others Present: Kal McKay (Admin Assistant), Edgar Rivera (Libertad Press NE, Canterbury Rep for CPCNH), Mike Tursi (Superintendent Shaker Regional School District), Jessica Treadway (Moderator)

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 4:57 p.m.
2. School District Grant
 - a. Superintendent of Shaker Regional School District Mike Tursi attended.
 - b. The School District would like to apply for \$1M in congressional funding for the major HVAC projects they are working on. To apply, they are seeking approval from the Canterbury and Belmont Selectboards since the School District will need to come up with matching funds.
 - c. They are beginning the project this year using \$900K that was approved to come from the School's Unreserved Fund Balance. The remainder of the project to be funded with this grant would need to be approved in another warrant article next year.
 - d. This summer, Canterbury Elementary School will be mostly off limits while the HVAC system is replaced. There will be a few summer programs, but the What-Not Sale for the Canterbury Fair will be held elsewhere this year.
 - e. Scott moved to sign the letter in support of the School District seeking this funding. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 - f. There was some discussion and it was clarified that this is not the same grant as the one Greg Paninski suggested the Selectboard pursue. (See 1/5/26 section 5.a.) Signing this letter doesn't preclude the Town from also applying for congressional funding.
3. Jessica Treadway re Elections
 - a. Moderator Jessica Treadway attended.
 - b. This will be Jessica's first Town Meeting as Moderator. She and the Selectboard reviewed how the election and meeting usually go.
4. Administration
 - a. The Selectboard signed:
 - i. Beth made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$476.20. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 - ii. Beth made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$568,604.91. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 1. This manifest includes a payment to Shaker Regional School District.
 - iii. Beth made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$57,147.62. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 - iv. Interfund transfer from TDBank Operating A/C to the Conservation Commission Fund in the amount of \$14,768. This is a land use change tax payment.
 - v. Land Use Change Tax Warrant for Map 233 Lot 37-1 in the amount of \$16,066.
 - vi. Land Use Change Tax Warrant for Map 233 Lot 37 in the amount of \$2,187.
 - vii. Veterans Tax Credit for Map 9 Lot 38-1.
 - b. Previous Minutes Approval

- i. Scott made a motion to approve the public minutes for the Selectboard meeting on February 17, 2026. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Road Posting for Mud Season
 - i. The Road Agent will be posting the weight limit on all dirt roads for mud season on Monday March 9th.
 - b. Community Power
 - i. Scott explained that he read an article about how several communities in NH have left Community Power because the rates have been higher than the utility companies. He found out from the article that CPCNH had to use \$8M to purchase extra power because they didn't correctly set their rates, and rebuilding their reserves is part of why the rates went up for the February 2026 – July 2026 period.
 - ii. Scott explained that he wasn't suggesting that Canterbury leave, but he felt this topic should be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.
 - iii. CCPC will be discussing this topic when they meet on 3/11.
 - iv. The Selectboard will invite CCPC to attend the 3/16 Selectboard meeting to discuss this topic.
 - v. They also requested that the CCPC write up a communication that can be published on the website, town email, etc. about how residents can withdraw and opt down/up.
- 6. Old Business
 - a. Police Department Report
 - i. See Selectboard 2/2/26 section 6 for previous discussion.
 - ii. The Selectboard discussed when they should meet with Chief Crotty to discuss what information they would like included in the new Police Department report.
 - iii. Ken will contact everyone to schedule a day-time meeting at the end of March or beginning of April.
 - iv. Ken will put out a request to the Town Administrator's listserv to see if anyone else has done similar reports recently.
 - b. Penacook Rescue Squad Funding
 - i. See Selectboard 1/14/26 section 2.a.v. for previous discussion.
 - ii. Ken got a note from Boscawen's Town Administrator that Merrimack County has agreed to contribute \$50K to PRS in 2026. This money will be used to reduce Boscawen's share of the operating expenses.
 - iii. Further funding will be discussed in future meetings with the County. This agreement is for a one-time payment, but presumably the County will continue making up a significant portion of Boscawen's call volume.
 - iv. Canterbury's share of the PRS operating expenses only went up 1% in 2026 because they changed the cost-share formula from just using population to using both population and call volume.
 - v. There was discussion about the future of PRS, how they may need a 2nd ambulance one day, how mutual aid would be needed if they shut down, and how the County is considering giving PRS some land/a building for a new location.
 - c. Tree Planting
 - i. See Selectboard minutes 2/17/26 section 6.a. for previous discussion.
 - ii. Kevin Bragg sent a letter to the Selectboard with his recommendations about replacing the tree next to the Sam Lake House garage. He explained many reasons why the Liberty Tree is not a good investment and suggested alternative options.
 - iii. The Selectboard agreed with Kevin's assessment and will not be purchasing this tree. Later in spring, the Selectboard can discuss alternatives.

- iv. The Selectboard agreed to remove the dead/dying tree that is currently next to the garage. Ken will contact Brian Magoon to get it removed and stumped. There is enough funds left in the garage renovation budget to pay for this.
- d. Financial Housekeeping
 - i. See Selectboard minutes 2/17/26 section 4.e. for previous discussion.
 - ii. The Conservation Commission approved investing some of the money in the Land Use Change Tax Fund in laddered CDs. There is over \$400K in the LUCT Fund. Ken spoke with TDBank and arranged 3 laddered CDs of \$100K each.
 - iii. Ken also arranged for the money for the new fire engine to be put into a CD until the expected delivery in May. This will earn 1% more in interest than leaving it in the operating account.
 - iv. Scott brought up that on the questionnaire for the annual audit, it was asked if we have a conflict of interest policy. We do not currently have one, but Scott thinks it would be a good idea to develop one. Ken will find examples from other towns and put this on the agenda for a future meeting.
 - v. Calvin brought up changing how the LUCT is collected. A good portion of the town is already conserved and well maintained, so it might be a good idea to start keeping some of the tax for general municipal purposes rather than putting all of it aside in the LUCT Fund. Earlier in this meeting the Selectboard signed paperwork for \$30K of LUCT, and the LUCT Fund already has over \$400K saved up. Diverting some of that income could pay for equipment.
 - vi. Ken recalled that this was tried 7-8 years ago and didn't get any legs. But with good reasoning, it could be attempted again. This would need to be voted on at Town Meeting.
 - vii. Beth felt this idea would get a lot of pushback. \$60K could be a new cruiser or 100 acres.
 - viii. Calvin suggested the Planning Board and Conservation Commission discuss the long-term goals about how much and where to conserve more land in town. This would inform how much more LUCT money is needed to meet those goals.
- e. Hildreth Farm/Meridian/Exit 18 Development
 - i. Scott and Ken met with representatives from Meridian to review the HOA documents that they submitted. The Town's counsel has approved them (which was one of the conditions of approval for the subdivision approved by the Planning Board on 11/4/2025), but there is still a concern that it is not clear enough that Sunset Mountain is an active shooting range. The PB wanted this spelled out as a way to prevent future complaints from residents who move in without realizing that they would be regularly hearing gunfire.
 - ii. Meridian Representative Nicolo Anastasy said it wouldn't be a problem to put it in the disclosure and attach it to the purchase and sales agreements.
 - iii. This will solve the problem for the first round of sales, but the existence of the shooting range could be hidden in future reselling of the homes. There was some discussion about how this could be solved. Everyone acknowledged that hiding information has the potential to happen with all home sales and even if you spell something out, there will always be people who don't read or don't understand or complain anyway.
 - iv. Meridian is hoping to break ground later this month.
 - v. The Exit 18 gas station across the street from Hildreth Farm is still in process. Work has appeared to pause, presumably due to the weather.
- f. Mistake in Town Report
 - i. The 2025 Town Report and the ballot for the 3/10/2026 election both have a typo in Article 6. It cites the wrong article number in the Zoning Ordinance.

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- ii. Town Counsel was consulted and they feel it isn't a problem because the article is still clear about what is changing and this is obviously a typo. They advised not trying to change it on the ballot, just put out notices of the typo at the polling place.
 - g. Selectboard meetings from April through June 2026 will begin at 6 p.m. instead of 5 p.m.
7. Adjournment
- a. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Next Meeting: Regular Selectboard Meeting: 2026 March 16, 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

Town Meeting 1st Session: 2026 March 10, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Old Town Hall

Town Meeting 2nd Session: 2026 March 13, 7 p.m. at Canterbury Elementary School

Minutes submitted by Kal McKay, Administrative Assistant