

Town of Burke
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Regular Selectboard Meeting
Burke Community Building
August 3, 2026 - 5:00 PM

Present: Joe Allard, Jerry Booth, Mark Daigle: Selectboard
Linda Hackett-Corey: Town Clerk
Gail Weed: Assistant Town Clerk
Cathi Feeley: Town Treasurer
Mike Harris: Zoning Administrator
Dave Kaufman: Road Foreman
Valerie Desmarais: Minutes Clerk
Guests: Geoff Boone, Brad Deth, Tina Deth, Denton Newland, Cliff Pierce, Susan Pierce, Diane Wells
Zoom: Mike Miller

Mark opened the meeting at 4:59.

Mark asked for any additions or amendments to the agenda; there are none.

Mark noted that the meeting is available via Zoom and is being recorded.

Mark asked for motion to approve the July 6, 2026 regular selectboard minutes as written; Joe made a motion, Jerry seconded, so moved.

Brad and Tina Deth came before the board to report that the neighbors' pond is spilling over and onto their property. Mr. Deth has tried to contact the landowners but has not gotten any response from the owner. A registered letter has been sent to the abutter; it has been sent twice and refused twice. Mike states that there is nothing that the town can do, he recommends that VT ANR go up and take a look; Mike will meet with Brad this week to begin the process. Butch Williams put the pond in, when it overflowed, he put an overflow pipe in, and all was well for over a decade. The abutter is Bruce Comiskey 856 Burke Green Road.

Diane Wells came before the board to give an update on the town forest parking areas. Regarding The North Pasture (off Town Highway 23) Weyhauser has a plan to log the property this winter 2026 & 2027); they may be able to upgrade the access, but their start time has not been finalized., everyone recognizes that the town crew is understaffed right now and not able to upgrade the road at this time. Re: Willey Woods / Newark St. parking area; conversations were in progress but there are a lot of wetlands and a lot of buffer around them, so the goal of having a connecting trail from that side is going to be delayed. There may be a possibility of a "winter only" trail that could be explored. There is a lot involved in the wetland permitting process. Geoff asked about a permit during the former logging activity, it is unclear whether there was a permit or not. At some point Elise Lawson will go over the maps and the property to get clearer about wetlands delineation

Dave gave the highway report: the well at the old shop failed; then the pump needed repairs. There is now a new storage tank and submersible pump. The crew had to affect the repair themselves. The crew drew a map for the updates and repairs to show where the well and pump are now.

White School Road grant is 90% complete.

Mountain Rd. cleanup was very involved; there is a good mix of wood that can be used this winter. Neil will be taking care of the rotten trees. Mountain Rd. will need to be closed for a day for the culvert replacement. Dave reports that safety is paramount and that is why the roads must be closed. Drivers are routinely ignoring the signage and imperiling the crew as they are trying to work. The intersection at Burke Hollow remains an issue; the site line is compromised at the Bugbee Crossing Road and around the curve on Burke Hollow Roads. The trees are clearly in the town ROW; Dave would like the residents in the homes there to be notified that the trees will be cut back. The road crew is moving to upper Brook Road; there will be more tree cutting and ditching. Dave is going to try to fit in a week of crack sealing; late August to September. Safety Data Sheet book has been totally redone to current standards. Bolt Bin list \$3900; ¼ to ¾" washers, nuts, lock nuts etc. \$2069 if delivery is taken this month. Jerry noted that there is a possibility of overstocking, but Dave will keep an eye on it. That money can come out of the small equipment budget; the board agrees that this is a good price and approves the purchase. Kimball Midwest is the purveyor.

Jerry asked about the spring on the hill in Burke Hollow. Mike noted that perf pipe and crushed stone was used long ago to divert the water there. Dave is working on it. The board reviewed the costs and build-out for the new town truck and body. The 2020 Western Star is in Westminster for 2-4 weeks for repairs. Jerry asked if there were any employee applications; there were none. Jerry brought up the idea of covering the cost of the CDL training, there would be a signed agreement that is pro-rated over 18 months. There seems to be a huge problem locally keeping these town road crew jobs staffed.

Mike gave the Zoning Administrator's report; zoning activities have been very busy. Bailey property has a lien that includes the taxes, the date for the auction is set (tentatively) for 09/15.

Tom Williamson properties are in violation; he is not responding to Mike's calls.

Rental registration reminders will be sent with tax bills; starting in 2027 Mike will be pursuing these registrations more aggressively. Town Plan update renewal is 08/28 with a public hearing, it will then be forwarded to the SB for another public hearing. Atty. Atwell is working on a record of town ROW's that are necessary for the wastewater project. Neither East or West Burke Dry Hydrants are functional; Mike will meet with Jaron Borg (ANR) as a stream alteration permit is necessary. There will likely be a need for bank stabilization at the East Burke hydrant site. The village hydrants have access to public water there, but there is insufficient volume. There is a grant, but the town may need to supplement that money due to the scope of the project. Mile will also have Jaron Borg look at Brook Rd too. Jerry asked Mike to make sure Jim and Dave are looped into that visit. Mike would like the selectboard to set up a meeting with East and West Burke Fire Chiefs to discuss long-term strategies concerning the firehouses, major equipment (trucks) and insurance. Re: Brook Rd. Nate Sicard has generated a plan for restabilizing the stretch of bank along Brook Road that was washed out. East Darling Hill storm water permit needs renewal; it is a 5-year permit. Town Garage update: first paving lift is scheduled for 08/15. The fuel tank has been delivered and has locks on it. Re: Waste Water treatment plant; there are still wetland permits to be completed; as well as easements; the leach field for the town garage is going to move forward to avoid further delays. Gates Electric is at the final stages; testing of all those systems will be forthcoming. Mike is asking the board to review the purchase policy for any edits. VMI (VT Mechanical Inc.) and Morton Building have "punch list" items to complete. Mike would like the board to schedule a site visit soon.

Jim submitted the Town Administrator's report, Jim is on vacation.

Jim has contacted Grime Nursery about re-planting a tree at the Meeting House.

The water level at Pete's Pond has risen. FEMA is auditing the Burke Green Road project from 07/10/24.

Town Mowing bids were opened; there is one applicant. Travis Courser submitted a bid for \$13,650. Dave asked if this is strictly grass mowing or will he include brushing? Mr. Coursers' bid specifies 2 passes and does not mention trimming other than roadside. Cathi noted that we have 10k in the budget for this. Jerry asked about contacting the bidder to see

if he could negotiate the bid price closer to what is in the budget. Joe motioned that the issue be tabled; Jerry seconded; this will be revisited.

Correspondence: NEK online contract for updating the town website; this will include an upgrade for ADA compliance. \$1109 is for the upgrade, the website is \$59 / month. Linda notes that they are very helpful and responsive as necessary. Jerry motioned to accept the contract as written. Joe seconded, so moved.

Change of meeting due to Labor Day; Jerry motioned to move the meeting to 09/14. Joe seconded, so moved.

Mark asked for visitors and public comments; there were none.

Jerry noted an article about a town purchasing a school; he spoke with the Vermont School Board; is there something in the Burke School deed that protects the building as town property? Does Kingdom East have something in writing? Cathi noted the painted curtain belongs to the town of Burke; the buildings at the school are the property of Kingdom East.

Mike wonders if the curtain can come back to the community building. Cathi notes that it is protected at the school, the community building does not have a place to hang it and display it.

Jerry will follow up on this.

Budget matters: there are none.

Joe motion to adjourn, Jerry seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Desmarais

Minutes Clerk