

Town of Burke
212 School Street
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Burke Community Building
October 6, 2025 - 6:00 PM Regular Selectboard Meeting

Present: Joe Allard, Jerry Booth, Mark Daigle: Selectboard

Linda Hackett-Corey: Town Clerk

Cathi Feeley : Town Treasurer

Gail Weed: Clerk and Treasurer Assistant

Mike Harris: Zoning Administrator

James Sullivan: Town Administrator

Dave Kaufman: Road Commissioner

Valerie Desmarais: Minutes Clerk

Guests: Geoff Boone, Bob Gondar, Elise Lawson, Dane Mallett, Cliff Pierce, Susan Pierce

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

Mark congratulated Joe Allard on his Burke Citizen of the Year award at the Annual Fall Festival; a very much earned and deserved recognition of Joe's commitment and service to the town for so many years.

Thank you Joe!

Announce any amendments to the agenda: Can the Selectboard regular meeting time move from 6:00 to 5:00 PM? Jerry motioned to move to 5:00 beginning with the November 3, 2025 meeting, for the winter months for now. Joe seconded, so moved.

Mark announced the meeting is being recorded and available via Zoom.

Joe motioned to approve 09/08/25 regular minutes, Jerry seconded, so moved.

Jerry motioned to approve 09/15/25 special meeting minutes, Joe seconded, so moved.

Joe motioned to approve 09/23/25 special meeting minutes, Jerry seconded, so moved.

Dave gave the Road Foreman report; Burke Hollow Road culverts are in and completed, the road will be closed for the laying down of the stone. Jerry asked about the stone being used, Dave noted that there are fines added to the stone and it is smaller material. There is a possibility that this can be paved next week. Calendar Brook, Newark St. patch and Burke Hollow are all on the list for new pavement. Dave noted the improvements on Kirby Road, with the trimming and mulching that will help keep snow off the road and mediate the effects of weather. Dave did try to grade, but it is just too dry. Dave is spot grading till further notice. Dave is aiming for one week (next week) for crack sealing, they will start with the newest roads; Burke Hollow Road, Victory Road, the new pavement on Daring Hill and East Darling Hill are on the agenda. Dave asked about the budget

for a larger compactor, Mark asked if Dave has priced these out, they run 10k. Joe wondered about renting one, Dave indicated the logistics make this clunky. Dave noted that compacting at the new culverts is critical to make them last.

Town Administrator's report: James noted that September was a very productive month. The weather has been cooperating with a low volume of water making it easier to control and implement the bridge repair efforts.

Berry Forest Products did an amazing job on the bank stabilization project on Brook Road. Working with Ruggles Engineering and ANR they came up with a scope that would comply. Derrick Berry did about 80% of the scope work to safeguard the bank for the winter and spring thaw. They will come back in the Spring of 2026 to complete the project. This is a FEMA project and all contacts have been updated.

The Brook Road Bridge (Bridge #26) is moving along very well. Matthews Excavating along with Ruggles Engineering have completed the base and columns of the bridge (In-Stream work). The deck is expected to be completed in the next month or so. The plan is to assemble the deck without going into the stream in November...weather permitting.

The 72 inch culvert for the perennial stream on Burke Hollow Road was completed. Simpson Dirtworx finished the job before the deadline. Pike is reclaiming that section of Burke Hollow Road in preparation for paving.

Caledonia County Sheriff Brandon Thrailkill made an observation that many town speed limit signs are inconsistent with the town ordinances. The sheriff has asked if we can make the signs consistent. The ordinances will need to be re-written. Jim would like some time to validate the discrepancies, and come back with a plan. Jim also noted that we have a lot of 45 MPH signs and we have no 45 MPH zones, he is going to try to trade these on the town municipal website. Jerry asked about the progress on the East Branch Passumpsic bridge; the work underneath is almost done.

Zoning Administrator's Report Mike noted that permit applications remain steady. There is a feasibility study meeting 10/15/25 at 6:00. This has to do with sidewalks, cross walks and additional parking for West Burke. The new slide is in and George Frank will remove the old one and install the new one. Mike is considering a tube slide to replace the old worn out one. FEMA mapping is done and we can review the areas to confirm that the data is consistent with what we do know. This is the next step in the FEMA mapping process. Mike has asked Dave to take a look at the maps too. Mike presented an estimate to install a new drop down hydrant at Hayden Crossing; Mike notes that 2 hydrants are optimum to take care of a fire emergency in the area. The drop down hydrant is \$6300; that makes the town portion about \$1400. Mike realizes that this is not budgeted for this year but he wanted to bring this to the boards attention. Jerry clarified if this is set up for low water; it holds the uptake about 6" from the bottom of the stream. There is just one hydrant in East Burke, Mike asked Jim Hinman to identify a spot for another hydrant in the village.

Re: Bridge 26 – Brook Road: The deck planks are in production, the railings are delayed, and may be another month out. Bank stabilization on Brook Road is completed; Mike asked about having the engineering work done for the Kirby Road, it would be helpful to get to this as these take about a year to schedule. Mark asked about boring there; Dave noted that they used filter fabric rather than road fabric and it was / is not adequate

to the task. This was probably 25 years ago....Mike mentioned the cost of East Darling Hill Road as an example of the work that may need to be completed and why engineering study would be useful. The West Burke Wastewater Project and Sand and Salt Shed are on schedule for completion in 2026. Wastewater permit is going through the approval process now. Final pour for the Town Garage was completed last Friday and it is coming out great. The crew there has done an amazing job. General site work is in progress; the pads for the propane tanks, generator and door entrances will be complete in the next few weeks. There will be a first lift of asphalt, but the finish work will be done after the crane has been on site for the Morton building construction. Mike would like to have a meeting to go over the systems that are being planned for the building. Once complete Mike would like Geoff Boone to go in on a regular schedule for the next year and audit the systems. As a safety reminder, all visitors to the site need to be in "high vis" gear, and a hard hat. Morton is scheduled for early December. Amerigas should have the tanks on site soon; Gosselin Water Well drillers are still very busy, Mike is working on access for the drill truck. Winterset will cover the pit area to keep that protected for the winter months. Updated schedule: everything is on track; Morton needs 8-12 weeks to do the entire building, there is a buffer on this timeline to accommodate weather variances. Mid-March 2026 is still the (tentative) completion date.

Mark has been working with the Sherriff to discuss speeding; he has spoken with Tina Deth about her concerns for speeding traffic on Burke Green Road.

Robert Gondar requested to be appointed to the Forest Sub committee. Joe motioned to approve, Jerry seconded, all in favor, so moved.

Forest Sub Committee: Elise Lawson presented the updated version of the Willey Woods Management Plan. The new parcel will add 2 stands of logged land; the management plan will repair skidder damage and add a bridge over Roundy Brook that will connect the parcels. This will be an extended project with engineering, permitting and construction. There are other questions to be addressed over the course of this potential development. VT F&W came out and identified some rare plant communities there. There have been some groups visiting and enjoying the forest. Geoff noted that the access is very dangerous from Newark Road. Joe asked about the state of Vermont pitching in, Ms. Lawson noted that there has been a lot of "in-kind" efforts from the state; Matt Langlais has good connections and the Forest Committee is getting a lot of support. Jerry made a motion to approver and sign the plan, Joe seconded, so moved.

Dane Mallet: asked for an executive session; since he is not a town employee that is not an option. Mr. Mallet declined further comment.

Public comment: there is none.

Review and Sign:

*Overweight Permit

*Cemetery Lots

* Payroll and Accounts Payables

Mark asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry motioned, Joe second so moved. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Desmarais

Minutes Clerk

DRAFT