

Town of Burke
212 School Street
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Burke Community Building
September 8, 2025 - 6:00 PM Regular Selectboard Meeting

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

Linda Hackett-Corey: Town Clerk

Gail Weed: Clerk and Treasurer Assistant

Mike Harris: Zoning Administrator

James Sullivan: Town Administrator

Dave Kaufman: Road Commissioner

Valerie Desmarais: Minutes Clerk

Guests: Paul Hayes (Caledonian Record), Geoffrey Boone

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

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

Agenda amendments: There are none.

Joe motioned to approve regular meeting minutes of August 4, 2025. Jerry seconded, so moved.

Jerry motioned to approve the special meeting minutes of September 3rd, 2025, Joe seconded, so moved.

Dave presented the highway reports, work has commenced on Brook Road, they are starting on the top half. Valerie noted that the "road closed" signs are down, and may be a safety hazard to drivers unaware of the general conditions, Dave will follow up. Carter and Walter Roads have been ditched and stoned. Calendar Brook has been repaired and mulched, once Sutton has their portion done it will be ready to pave. Burke Hollow Road culverts are in the process of being replaced, Dave is meeting with Jake Simpson on 09/09 to assess the issues. Jim and Dave are meeting with ANR for Burke Hollow Road and Brook Road. Pike will be utilizing Darling Park in East Burke as a staging area for stone that will be utilized in the paving project. The crew is working on Kirby Road and Legacy Lane for paving and culvert and ditch issues. Paving for Newark Street was discussed, the board has asked that the price be verified, there is concern that it's high for the amount of paving that needs to be done. Dave asked if there is a possibility of some part-time fill in help as needed(laborer and not a driver) while he is down staff and out on medical (starting 09/16). There is an application process, this is a \$20.00 hourly at will / as needed role. The board and Dave will convene on 09/15 to review the current applications. Dave asked for the boards' and the town people's patience as the roads are too dry to grade, and he is down a position. Mark asked about trucking material out of Jake's pit, Dave said that he can get to this soon. Re: Washburn Road, there is a telephone pole that impacts the town ROW, the road cannot be widened. The owner Medelise Refsteck, is seeking permission to run power underground

there. Mark noted that all metal pipe is required; Mike Harris noted that LED is involved. Jerry indicated that he would like to take a look at it. He and Dave will do a site visit on 09/09.

Jim gave the Town Administrators report: Jim asked about the guardrails / reflectors on Calendar Brook Road; the consensus is that poles with reflectors will suffice along the new road there. Jim will move on that. Jim addressed the FEMA grants for July 2024. The FEMA portion (75%) and VTRANS has been received. The infrastructure upgrades and storm mitigation are extensive; there was 90% reimbursement from FEMA for Roundy Brook / Brook Road bank stabilization. Joe noted that Jim has done a great job in getting this money; Jim noted that he had a lot of help getting everything in that needed to be done to obtain the funds. Jerry noted that the information is so helpful to demonstrate the efforts and show voters that there is expense to the town. Jerry asked about applying for an extension from Agency of Natural Resources if the work is not completed by October 1. Jim said he could find out.

Mike gave the Zoning Administrator's report: building and sub-division permits are steady. Mike gave the update on the Howard Bailey property; the judge recognized Mike as zoning administrator and the town for their good work in dealing with a complicated situation. This has been a protracted (2 years) endeavor, Mike noted that many efforts and timelines were extended to allow the occupant to stay despite the overt violations. In this situation the fines and court processes show a record of efforts. Jerry asked for clarification on the award, the property is still in probate; probate court is managing that process. The town does still need to be paid for the lien, this is in limbo while the probate process unwinds. Mike noted that there is a Flood Risk session on 09/30. This is to update FEMA flood mapping; Jerry clarified that it's a webinar. Elise Lawson is finishing the Natural Resources mapping for the town. This will be particularly helpful to the Planning Commission. The West Burke playground is open, Mike has plans to upgrade the "porta potty". Joe asked about fencing next to Rt 5A? Mike feels that the fence that is there is adequate, given the landscaping features that are there. The West Burke Library is complete and open for public use; small gatherings and meeting space is available to the public; Mike is the contact person for this. Jerry noted that there was surprise visitor; Bernie Sanders stopped in for a visit. The Town Garage construction is on schedule; construction meetings are scheduled for the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am, these are via Zoom and in the Town Office. Morton Building is poised to send building parts and pieces soon. Mike is hoping that the well drilling can commence soon, but with the super dry conditions crews are stretched thin. Tri State and Gosselin are involved in this. Re: bank stabilization on Brook Road, Mike wonders what Dave is considering as winter nears. There are meetings with the engineers scheduled. East Burke only has 1 dry hydrant; Travis Courser repaired the hydrant near the fire station; the cost was \$300.00. The board agrees to pay this. Mike will work with Mark Davis to address the hydrant at Hayden's Crossing; Mike has a grant that will cover a great portion of the cost of this install. Jerry sought clarification as to the garage budget. Some changes are incurring costs greater than the estimate; Mike noted that these are mostly small items that are unforeseen. Jerry asked about the concrete delivery timeline; Mike reiterated that as job manager he is communicating and stressing that each component is related to the next. The contractors are also coordinating between themselves.

Under new business, Valerie asked about a 5:00 start time for the winter meetings. Mark said the board would take the request under advisement.

Correspondence: decisions on the Bailey residence / Adrian Burrington resignation letter, giving 2 weeks, resignation letter from Dusty Labarr from the Conservation Committee and the Burke Town Forest sub committee, effective immediately.

Visitors / Public comment: none.

Approximately at 6:55 P.M. the Internet connection was lost.

Review and Sign: US geological Agreement (East Haven Gauge Station)

Review Pike Paving for Newark Street

Review and Sign: Cemetery Lots

Review and Sign Payroll and Accounts Payable

Joe motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jerry seconded. So moved. The meeting was closed at 7:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie Desmarais-Minutes Clerk