TOWN of SABATTUS

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Roll Call of the Selectboard:

→ Laura Clifford, Chair	ABSENT
→ Noel Hinkley	PRESENT
→ George Merrill	PRESENT
→ Nancy Provost	PRESENT
→ Rick Lacombe	PRESENT

Others in attendance: Eugene Hamm; Mark Duquette; Angela Mitchell; JP Mitchell; Kevin Brewer; Linda Brewer; Kathy Snape; Jon Mennealy; Don Landry; Jerry Sabins, Transfer Station Manager; Dustin Barry, Fire Chief; Thomas Williams, Town Clerk; Raquel Welch, Town Manager.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, George Merrill presided over the meeting.

I. **Agenda Adjustments** – There were no agenda adjustments.

II. **Ceremonial Presentations and Staff Recognitions** – There were no presentations or recognitions.

III. **Public Hearings and/or Informational Meetings** – There were no public hearings or informational meetings.

IV. **Staff**

a. **New hires:** There were no new hires to report.

b. **Resignations:** There were no resignations to report.

V. **Department Reports-**

a. **Treasurers Report** – As of August 10, 2026: the total tax due (FY2020-FY2026) is $345,025.76 (principal, interest, and costs). Between July 15, 2026, and August 10, 2026, the total delinquent taxes collected is $34,632.52. (see full report attached)

Rick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Nancy.

3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

VI. **Unfinished Business**

a. Fire Department Needs

Forestry Truck – The Chief gave an overview of three options to repair the truck.

Replace the engine: $25,827.90.

Replace the head gasket and ERG cooler: $6,831.37.

Replace the head gasket, ERG cooler, and "bulletproof" the engine: $8,400.36. (mechanic's recommendation as it fixes the known issue with the engine from that model year)

Nancy asked if there was money in the budget to complete the work. The Chief explained that maintenance has been an ongoing issue and went on to explain the things that have been needed on various apparatus at the Department. Nancy followed up asking about if maintenance has been kept up with the apparatus. The Chief said there are few records from the last two years. However, he has started records since he started in the role. Noel stated she thought record keeping of maintenance was an issue that was previously addressed.

Nancy made a motion to approve the expenditure of $8,400.36 from the Equipment Maintenance budget line to repair the Forestry Truck, seconded by Rick.

Angela Mitchell stated it would be helpful to have maintenance logs to correctly address issues in the future. Mark Duquette asked about the difference between options 2 and 3. The Chief explained addressing design flaws of that model year engine and comes with a two-year warranty. Mark also stated, historically, the Fire Department has had a person in charge of maintenance. Jerry Sabins – The town mechanic can be asked about any work done on town equipment and can produce logs.

4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

George, Chair (pro tem), ordered the record to show that Noel is now present for quorum purposes.

Engine 2 replacement – There are two vendors: Pierce and Sutphen. There are two truck options from Sutphen – one would be available to the town tomorrow, and the other in January. From Sutphen, one option was $892,650 and the other was $955,128. The trucks were nearly identical but one had compartments on top of the truck. Pierce wasn't able to give exact numbers, but a range: $900,000 and $1million. Timing is dependent on where the company is on the building process (1-13 months).
Noel asked about the amount of time it took to engage the pump on the engine when it did not engage earlier in the day. The Chief responded, stating it took about five minutes. She followed up asking if there was another water truck, to which an affirmative answer was received. However, the Chief cautioned that should one of those apparatuses go out of service, the Department would be relying on Engine 2. Noel then pointed to the history of utilizing the apparatus for trips into the community for purposes other than calls.

Nancy asked if it could be added to the ballot in November. *It could, but it would be better suited to be get all of the numbers prepared through the budget season and present it at the Town Meeting.*

Mark Duquette – has an estimate been explored to have the truck rehabilitated? The Chief expressed concern about the history of poor maintenance and amount of time before replacement even after rehabilitation, possibly lining up with the replacement of the other engine.

Nancy asked if the engines priced would fit in the current station? The Chief ensured the Board the specifications would fit the station.

Eugene Hamm – suggested appropriating the money received from the recent sale of the former school property to the purchase of new capital equipment and move forward to build capital accounts.

The Board had a consensus to wait until the annual town meeting to move toward engine replacement, giving time to gather information to present to the voters.

b. Correct motion on 36 No Name Pond Road

Rick made a motion to amend the motion adopted at the August 4, 2026, meeting regarding the accepted bid from RCM Mobile Home Sales and Service by striking the covenant that there be no housing at the property, Nancy seconded.

This is recommended by the Town's attorney because you cannot add the covenant to the deed.

Noel asked if the buyer turned around and sold the property, if the new purchaser could put housing in. *Yes. We cannot add that type of covenant to the deed.*

3 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

c. Roll Off Truck-Minimum bid

Nancy made a motion to repair the 2003 roll off truck, seconded by Rick.

Noel asked about the cost of repairs. *About $7,000.*

How much has been spent on trucking so far? *In June, $7,380. In July, $6,488. So far in August, almost $5,000.*

Jerry Sabins discussed issues with the "new" truck to be received by the town: engine starting problems, power steering issues because a hose was kinked when replacing the engine, and the ABS system.

4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

Nancy discussed her feelings about the new truck and the multitude of problems it had before it had even been delivered to the town. The Town Manager has sent all of the documents to the Town Attorney to review because there is similar feeling to not accepting the truck.

The Board gave direction to the Town Manager to not accept the truck if legally able to do so.

d. Fire Department Grant – have submitted the grant package to HUD.
The Town is still waiting for HUD to finish on their end.

e. Field Use Policy 2nd reading
The Board is at a consensus to remove this from the agenda and continuing with use of the current policy.

f. Remote policy 2nd reading
This will be tabled.

g. Moratorium on Data Centers
Nancy made a motion to add the Moratorium on Data Centers to the November warrant, seconded by Noel.
4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

VII. New Business

a. Growth Ordinance discussion
The Town Manager explained there is not much the Town can do with a growth ordinance due to recent law changes.

b. Supplemental bill for Glen Allen in the amount of $8,936.27 for removal of property from farmland
Noel made a motion to accept the supplemental bill for Glen Allen in the amount of $8,936.27 for removal of property of farmland, seconded by Nancy.
4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

c. Abatement for Jeffrey Ward in the amount of $21.89 for an error in acreage
Noel made a motion to accept the abatement for Jeffrey Ward in the amount of $21.89 for an error in acreage, seconded by Nancy.
4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

VIII. Approval of the Selectboard Minutes

Rick made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectboard meeting from August 4, 2026, seconded by Nancy.
4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

IX. Comments from the Town Manager – see attached report

X. Comments from the Board

a. George - Nominations papers for the November election are available from the Town Office. Where are we at with tax acquired property sales? *We're in the process, but it's not time yet.* I'd like to have a workshop on the town's personnel policy. Is there any update on the driveway sealing? *The contractor is waiting for the fix on the park and ride pothole/puddle.* Now that there are new Town of Sabattus signs, it may be nice to repurpose the old signs – perhaps one in the Community Room.

b. Noel – I have comments, but I'll reserve them for now.

c. Nancy – I'd like to have a workshop day to review policies. I've written a contract negotiation policy for the town. I'd like to get into the habit of reviewing policies annually. I'd also like to have a strategic planning session for the Town. I'd like to be more deliberate with checking for Transfer Station stickers – especially with the change in a neighboring community that may drive up visits to our Transfer Station.

d. Rick - Let's add the remote policy and code of ethics to the workshop. I'd like to thank Public Works for getting up the new signs.

XI. Comments from the Chair – The Chair was absent from the meeting.

XII. Comments from the Floor

a. Kevin Brewer – reviewed the data from the speed study from the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center and the data may be skewed. He suggested that the data should be looked at differently.

b. Jon Mennealy – hoping to start up the Seniors group in September. For Martin's Point, one flower bed has been put in by the entrance that looks really nice. Part of the boat ramp has collapsed – the Commissioners will work with making contact about repairs. The first deposit was made from the donation box in the amount of $96.00.

c. Mark Duquette – Reinforced the information regarding speed on Greene/High Street and expressed incident in the last week with speeding traffic while the Sanitary District was working.

d. Noel asked if the Police Chief is working the roads. *No.* She then asked about the number of police officers within the town. *2 full-time, 3 part-time*. What is the Chief's primary focus? *Hiring new officers, fill shifts. Right now, we're not being covered by any other department.*

XIII. Important Dates

a. **Selectboard Meetings**: September 1, September 15, October 6, October 20

b. **Planning Board Meetings**: August 25, September 22, October 27

c. **Holidays**: Labor Day September 7, Indigenous Peoples Day October 12

d. **Policy Workshop:** September 8, 2026

XIV. Executive Session(s) – There were no executive sessions

XV. Adjournment

Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39PM, seconded by Nancy.

4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Motion carried.

Laura Clifford

George Merrill

Rick Lacombe

Noel Hinkley

Nancy Provost

Minutes approved on: 09/15/2026