



# Town of Amherst, NH

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Landry Meeting Room  
2 Main Street  
Monday, February 5, 2024, 4:00PM

Attendees: Chairman Peter Lyon, Selectman Bill Stoughton, Selectman John D'Angelo,  
Selectman Danielle Pray, and Selectman Tom Grella

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lyon called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chairman Lyon.

### 3. Citizens Forum

None at this time.

### 4. Administration

#### 4.1 Vote, Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 41:14-a, Acquisition or Sale of Land, Buildings, or Both; Demolition or Disposal of Buildings

*A MOTION was made by Selectman Stoughton and SECONDED by Selectman D'Angelo to approve the purchase of land designated as Map 25-29 on the terms and as more particularly set forth in the Agreement and Release for said lot, to confirm that the Town has successfully completed the process described by RSA 41:14-A, and to confirm that the Town of Amherst is authorized to undertake all its obligations set forth in the Agreement and Release with respect to Map 25 Lot 29.*

*Vote: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*

*A MOTION was made by Selectman Stoughton and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to approve the acceptance of three easements: for a trail, trail access, and drainage confirmation, on Lots 3-60-2 and 3-60-3, as set forth in the easement documents, and to confirm that the Town has successfully completed the process described by RSA 41:14-A, and to confirm that the Town of Amherst is authorized to undertake all its obligations set forth in the easement documents.*

*Vote: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*

#### 4.2. Discussion of Stormwater Article

The Board reviewed the revised language, and all agreed to move forward with it.

#### 4.3. Possible Discussion of Deliberative Session

39 The Board discussed that there may be additional funding available in the budget due to a  
40 correction on the timing of certain bond payments. Debbie Bender noted that there may be  
41 approximately \$100,000 of additional funding in the budget, but that she also need to factor in  
42 closing costs and attorney fees for a recent land acquisition.

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44 Selectman D'Angelo stated that his preference would be to add the additional funds into the  
45 employee COLA amount for this year.

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47 Selectman Pray stated that she believes the additional funds should be given back to the  
48 taxpayers and that this could be done at Deliberative Session.

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50 Town Administrator Shankle noted that he has heard no complaints from the employees  
51 regarding the currently proposed COLA amount.

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53 Selectman Stoughton noted that the Board should also consider that some funds will need to  
54 be held over for refinancing. He stated that he believes the Board has done right by the  
55 Town's employees this year in terms of the COLA amount and the retirement plan and does  
56 not believe more needs to be added to this at this time.

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58 Selectman Pray stated that she believes the Board should at least alert the taxpayers to this  
59 additional funding during Deliberative Session.

60  
61 Selectman D'Angelo stated that he may restate his position regarding these funds at the  
62 Deliberative Session. Chairman Lyon explained that it would be unfair to misrepresent all of  
63 the favorable decisions that the Board has made for the Town employees this year. Selectman  
64 D'Angelo agreed that the Board has done a lot, but the Town is still just catching up to fellow  
65 communities but not getting ahead of them.

66  
67 Town Administrator Shankle suggested moving the additional funding to the legal fees budget  
68 line item.

69  
70 Selectman Stoughton noted that the Board has a good record of giving back any extra funding  
71 in the budget to taxpayers at the end of the year.

## 72 73 **5. Action Items**

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75 The Board agreed to review its action items at the next meeting.

## 76 77 **6. Old/New Business**

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79 Selectman D'Angelo stated that the Amherst School District is holding its Deliberative  
80 Session this evening at 6pm. The Souhegan School District is holding its Deliberative Session  
81 tomorrow at 6pm, and the Town is holding its Deliberative Session on Wednesday at 7pm.

## 82 83 **7. Adjournment**

85 A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Stoughton to  
86 adjourn the meeting at 4:32pm.  
87 Vote: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

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89 **NEXT MEETING: February 7, 2024, Town Deliberative Meeting**

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Selectman Bill Stoughton

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Date