



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274  
Barnard, Vermont 05031  
(802) 234-9211

## SELECTBOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 4, 2026

### REGULAR MEETING

**Selectboard Members Present:** Rock Webster, Richard Lancaster, Kurt Lessard.  
**Also Present:** Kassie Hull, Steve Hamsch, Gina Lancaster.

1. **Call to Order** at 7:25PM.
2. **Review/Approve Minutes from January 21 & 29, 2026.** Approved.
3. **Review Agenda.** No changes.
4. **Public Comments & Other Business.**
  - A. **Letter from Windsor County Sheriff's Office re: Status of Office.**  
Lieutenant Anthony Leonard sent an email to share that the department is committed to continuing to serve their patrol towns. Sheriff Palmer named Claude Weyant as Chief Deputy, supported by Lieutenant Rick King.
5. **New Business.**
  - A. **Conflict of Interest Policy.** The Selectboard reviewed the conflict of interest policy to determine proper recusal procedure, which is to announce the reason for recusal and leave the table (not just push away) to sit with the public. Then, the person recused can engage in conversation as an interested person.
  - B. **Department of Health Manufactured Food Permit for TH.** Discussion about pursuing a commercial kitchen license to make the town hall more useful to community members who have small food production companies and people who would like to host official classes/events in the kitchen. Kurt and Kassie will review the regulations and request an inspection to prepare a proposal.
  - C. **Incompatible Office FYI – Auditor & Trustee of Public Funds.** Tom Morse is stepping down from his position as auditor because it is incompatible with his position as trustee of public funds. Note to all for future town meetings.
6. **Old Business.**
  - A. **Cootey Road Updates.** Richard Lancaster recused himself from this discussion as a Selectboard member due to perceived conflicts of interest. He left the table and sat with the other members of the public in attendance.
    - i. **Repair Work Update from Steve Johnson.** Steve stated that the work will be finished next Friday, February 13, 2026.
    - ii. **Public Access Update.** Rock and Kurt voted to open Cootey Farm Road to the public on May 15, 2026, assuming the road is repaired by then.
    - iii. **Statements by Steve Hamsch.** (1) Steve read a statement into the record asking for an update about his request for administrative review. Rock and Kurt confirmed that the matter is still under advisement. (2) Steve stated that the Hamsch Family Trust has a new attorney, Larry Slason. Attorney Slason is not representing Steve; Steve is acting in his



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own interests as a resident, not as a representative of the trust. (3) Steve stated that he plans to submit another access permit in the near future.

## 7. Town & Highway Orders approved through February 4, 2026.

### A. Grants & Compliance Paperwork

- i. **Certificate of Highway Mileage.** Signed.
- ii. **FY27 Structures & Roadway Grants.** The Selectboard voted to apply for Bridge 24 repair (was damaged in Irene, has been patched since) for the Structures and to apply for Broad Brook Road for the Roadway grant.
- iii. **Centerline Striping Letter from Agency of Transportation.** The centerlines of class 1 and class 2 town highways will be striped this year.
- iv. **Dept of Public Safety Estimated Project Certification.** The Department is authorizing payment of 90% of the federal share to the town for the Lakota Road Bridge project (FEMA). Rock signed the financial report form and Kassie will submit for the reimbursement.

### B. Town Property Maintenance

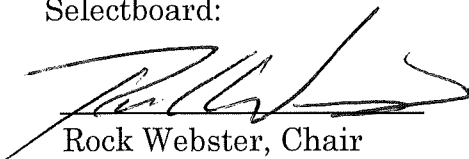
- i. **Special Order Review & Agreement for TH Doors.** The Selectboard approved the final details re: panic bar, key lock, and door design.
- ii. **Fire Station Siding Repair Quote.** The Selectboard hired Brooks Wright Building to remove the damaged clapboards and install new ones.
- iii. **Transfer Station Fencing Quote.** The Selectboard hired Brooks Wright Building to install a fence and gates in front of the open bulk dumpsters at the transfer station. Work to be done as soon as possible.
- iv. **Transfer Station Cover Quote.** Discussion. No decisions made.
- v. **Town Hall Stair Chair.** The Selectboard voted to install a stair chair to make the town offices more accessible and voted to hire Brooks Wright Building to do the work. Kassie will research grants for this project.

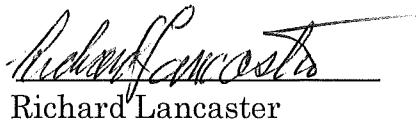
8. **Meeting Debrief.** Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(f), Rock moved to enter executive session at 8:19PM to plan the next meeting with the town's litigation attorney. Kurt seconded. Richard Lancaster recused himself from this discussion as a Selectboard member due to perceived conflicts of interest and left the building. Discussion. Rock moved to leave executive session at 8:43PM. Kurt seconded. No decisions/votes made.

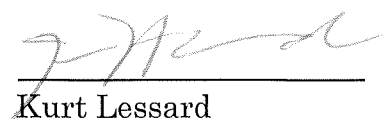
## 9. Adjourn at 8:44PM.

Minutes prepared by Kassie Hull, Clerk of the meeting. All votes unanimous unless otherwise noted. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7PM at the Town Offices.

Selectboard:

  
Rock Webster, Chair

  
Richard Lancaster

  
Kurt Lessard