



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 26, 2026**

Members: Don McDowell, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, Leah Hollenberger

Absent: George Cormier

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Martin Green, Joie Marshall, Kristin Fogdall, Thea Alvin, Tom Cloutier*, Alex Cyr*

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Kristin Fogdall, Thea Alvin, and Tom Cloutier spoke, requesting the Board reassert its voice by taking action on Act 250's Industrial Park proceedings. They contested the applicant's air pollution report and definition of their property. The residents asked the Selectboard to make a current statement against the proceedings before the Act 250 record closes on February 2nd. For the health of the community, they urged the Selectboard to participate.

Laura Streets reminded the public that the dog sled races will be held on the weekend.

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Mailing of annual school ballots

Sara Haskins relayed that the school department approved the joint mailings of ballots with the town. This will reduce the town's expenses. She requested that people inform her of any change of address needed to receive the ballots.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the automatic mailing of annual school ballots to all active voters. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

2. Pleasant View Cemetery Association continued discussions

Chair Don McDowell provided an overview of the long history of communication and actions between the Town and the Pleasant View Cemetery Association (PVCA). He explained that the Town has made more than twenty separate efforts—through meetings, correspondence, and discussions—to address PVCA's requests. During this process, the Town repeatedly raised concerns about financial practices that appeared fiscally unsound and identified ethical questions that required further review. Don also reported this began in late 2024, the Town's auditors noted a concern with the Association's financial

management, reinforcing the Selectboard's focus on accountability and transparency.

After consulting with the Town's attorney, Don stated that legal counsel advised against including PVCA's petition on the Town Meeting warning. The attorney determined that cemetery maintenance does not qualify as a social service under Vermont law and that cemetery oversight falls under the Selectboard's discretionary authority. Based on this guidance, the board concluded it was not required to include the article. Don emphasized that the board remains committed to open and constructive dialogue and noted that two board members have offered to meet directly with the Association to continue discussions.

Board members expressed a shared interest in reaching a collaborative resolution. Richard Craig stressed the importance of finding a solution that serves the best interests of both the Town and the cemetery. Laura Streets acknowledged the strain the situation has placed on everyone involved and expressed hope for a respectful and productive outcome.

In response, Joie Marshall, Chair of PVCA, expressed disappointment, questioned the auditors' findings, and voiced frustration with the breakdown in negotiations, describing the board's approach as antagonistic.

3. Approve and sign Town Meeting Warning

There was a discussion regarding Leah's suggestion to add a clarification to the warning that the 1% tax is a local option tax. The board emphasized the importance of keeping the language simple and consistent, aligning with the legal guidance and decided to move forward with the warning as presented.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and sign the Town Meeting Warning as presented.

Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (4/0).

6:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm
Submitted and filed this 1/27/2026.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.