

Received 2/26/26
12:40 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Monday January 29, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
3rd Floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

1. Call to Order

First Selectman Rea called the regular meeting of Monday, January 29, 2026, to order at 7:00 p.m.
Also in attendance: Selectman Chadd and Selectman Hennick

2. Pledge of Allegiance

First Selectman Rea led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITION: 3(A) DISCUSS THE SALT SHORTAGE IN THE STATE. VOTE: ALL AYE.

3a. Discuss Salt Shortage in the State:

First Selectman Rea shared there are public concerns regarding the salt shortage and he asked John Jenkins, Road Foreman to attend the meeting. John stated there is no salt to be had in the state. We are under contract and the state is violating every aspect of that and there is not much the town can do. Public Works will be doing some conservation efforts in the next few storms. If you noticed this last storm, by design, Public Works didn't put anything out until the end because it would be a waste. We could be dealing with hard pack after these storms, and it could be staying a while. If that's the case, the Road Foreman may come back to the Board of Selectmen as Traffic Authority to change the speed limits; put 15 mile an hour speed limit signs up. In order to conserve the salt the town has (about 300 tons), Public Works has mixed in sand and grit. This is a statewide issue.

The Road Foreman explained that each application is around 30 tons, so if Public Works goes out three times during a storm, that's almost 100 tons. With ice storms they go out more than they would with a blizzard. Mixing salt with sand and grit is not optimal so it would be better to reduce the salt output rather than mixing the salt. There is another substance, Park Pack, which is used when there is no salt.

As of now, 500 tons are on order. Generally, 1600 tons is ordered per year, and the town is required to take 8. Durham only got 6 of the 8 that is required. Morton, the company providing the salt, cannot give a delivery date. This happened when the Mid-Atlantic states were hit last year. The companies make more money sending the salt to the south. It's unfortunate but that's the reality.

The board thanked Public Works for all their hard work.

4. Public Comment.

Unidentified Speaker: commented that the old Main Street (shared driveway on the west side of Main Street up from the old cemetery to the Episcopal Church) is not plowed and the mail trucks are getting stuck. He felt the driveway is within the state easement. First Selectman Rea explained this is not a town road and does not get plowed by Public Works. He suggested the gentleman contact him for further discussion.

5. Accept Resignation from Chad Spooner, Board of Assessment Appeals member.

MOTION MADE BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO ACCEPT CHAD SPOONER'S RESIGNATION WITH GRATITUDE FOR HIS 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN. VOTE: ALL AYE

6. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (per Charter 2.6):
 - a. Building Code of Appeals Alternate, 2028.
No nominations.
 - b. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028.
No nominations.
 - c. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028.
No nominations.
 - d. Sustainable Durham, Regular, 2028.
MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED SELECTMAN CHADD, TO NOMINATE TONYA BUDDIE AS A REGULAR MEMBER, TERM ENDING 2028. VOTE: ALL AYE
 - e. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027.
No nomination.
7. End of Year Appointments:
 - a. Historic District Commission Alternate
No nomination.
8. Grant Durham Volunteer Fire Company Inc. permission to park cars on Durham Volunteer Fire House grounds and adjacent town of Durham properties during Durham Fair weekend September 24, 25, 26 and 27, 2026.
MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN CHADD, TO GRANT THE DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY PERMISSION TO PARK CARS ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY, ADJACENT TO THE DURHAM PROPERTIES, DURING THE DURHAM FAIR WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 25TH, 26TH AND 27TH. VOTE: ALL AYE
9. Discussion proposed ordinance on Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) and set a Public Hearing Date.
First Selectman Rea stated there was a public informational meeting a few months ago on this topic. A potential vendor, who also conducted a speed study for the town, was present to discuss the automatic traffic safety devices, as well as the City of Middletown Police Department. Feedback was given, and the town's attorney drafted an ordinance with the help of Complete Streets. The proposed ordinance is in line with other surrounding towns who have approved these cameras. First Selectman Rea explained that a public hearing needs to be scheduled to present the proposed ordinance.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD AT 7:30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR A PROPOSED ORDINANCE ON AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES (ATESD). VOTE: ALL AYE
10. Approval of Tax Refunds
MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE TAX COLLECTOR REQUEST OF (8) TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$1,350.13. VOTE: ALL AYE
11. Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 5, 2026
MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 5, 2026, MINUTES WITH CORRECTION OF ONE MINOR TYPO DURING CALL TO ORDER, SELECTMEN SHOULD BE SELECTMAN. VOTE: ALL AYE
12. Old/New Business
First Selectman Rea spoke about the following Old/New Business:
 - There was a request from the Agriculture Commission to put together a map of all the farms in Durham to generate business for some of the local farms that sell eggs and milk, etc. They are applying for a grant to pay for the project and are looking for letters of support. First

Selectman Rea stated he would put together a letter from the Board of Selectmen. Both Selectmen agreed.

- The Ethics Commission dropped off an 8-page packet for the Board of Selectmen to review. This will be on a future agenda and possible action by the Board of Selectmen may be taken.
- Sidewalks: there are several sidewalks that have not been shoveled. First Selectman Rea reviewed the sidewalk ordinance and spoke with Town Counsel who advised perhaps have a ticketing process for not complying with the town ordinance. He spoke with the Public Works Road Foreman. A ticket of \$100 would not cover the cost of equipment and staff, depending on the storm. Reminders are being sent out every storm and posted on the town's website reminding owners of properties on sidewalks to make sure the snow is cleared with 24 hours after the end of storms.
- Thank you to Public Works Department for the tremendous amount of hours put in by the crew for the storms. Staff have been working almost every weekend since Thanksgiving.
- Suggestion for a coffee hour/informal meeting with the public at the Community Center to come and express their concerns. First Saturday in March. Tentatively 9:30 – 11:00 with coffee and donuts. More to come.

13. Selectmen Comments

None.

14. Public Comments (Open to non-agenda items)

Becky Anderson: spoke about the lack of sidewalk snow clearing, specifically on the bridge near Cemetery Road and asked about the process for the AETSD ordinance. First Selectman confirmed it seems Department of Transportation attempted to clear the bridge. Board of Selectmen will discuss comments from the Public Hearing and then if favorable, hold a Special Town Meeting for adoption. If the ordinance was approved, the town would then pick locations for the cameras for approval from DOT. The town will also need to enter into a contract with a vendor.

Mike Kaczynski: spoke about how dangerous the crosswalk at Strong School is, cars speeding, and do not stop for pedestrians. First Selectman Rea responded to the northern sidewalk project which includes the area of this crosswalk was put on hold by DOT. Due to this additional down time, the town worked on updating the crosswalks and including them in the sidewalk project. There are certain crosswalks that will have rapid flashing beacons. Leslie Bulion, chair of Complete Streets, confirmed the committee would like to see rapid flashing beacons and additional safety signage to help pedestrians cross Main Street. She hopes the AETSD ordinance will pass and that the installation of speed cameras will slow drivers down. Discussion on requesting the School Resource Officer stationed in this area in the morning.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaclyn Lehet