

Received 10/27/26  
10:56 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham  
Board of Selectmen  
Monday April 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom

### Meeting Recording

**Passcode: Jgt7y.qi**

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order  
First Selectman Rea called the Monday April 6, 2026, Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Selectman Chadd and Selectman Hennick also present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
First Selectman Rea led with Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE: ALL AYE**
4. Public Comment (*Open to agenda items only*)  
Roger Kleeman: spoke that the minutes for agenda item 12 were not posted; therefore, they should be taken off the agenda.

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO RESCIND THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE: ALL AYE**

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN CHADD, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE TABLING OF AGENDA ITEM #12 UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. VOTE: ALL AYE**

5. Expiration of Terms (*per Charter Sec. 2.7*):
  - a. Ethics Commission, terms ending April 30, 2026 (2 regular, 1 alternate)  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPOINT BETSY WHITE-BOOS (D) AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION FOR THE TERM THAT EXPIRES APRIL 30, 2026. VOTE: ALL AYE**
6. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (*per Charter 2.6*):
  - a. Building Code of Appeals, 2028  
None.
  - b. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028  
None.
  - c. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028  
None.
  - d. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027  
None.
  - e. Recreation Committee, Regular, D, 2026  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPOINT KIM BRACKETT (D) AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE. VOTE: ALL AYE**

7. Discuss and take action to set a date, time, location for a Special Town Meeting  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN CHADD, TO SET A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF DURHAM WERE HEREBY WARNED THE SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CAFETERIA OF THE**

**COMMUNITY CENTER AT 144 PICKETT LANE DURHAM ON MONDAY APRIL 27, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M., TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- a. The vacancy for the term expiring 2028 on the Compensation Review Personal Policy Board
- b. To elect one member to a five-year term on the Compensation Review and Personal Policy Board, expiring 2028
- c. To adopt an ordinance establishing the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices
- d. To transfer \$6,507 from the Old Indian Trail generator to CIP miscellaneous Old Indian Trail for Durham's portion of the expense related to the purchase and installation of a generator at the Old Indian Trail Pump House, as recommended by the Board of Finance at their December 20, 2022, meeting
- e. To transfer \$124,961 from Highway Streets Vehicles Reserve to Highway and Streets Vehicles for the purchase of a 2026 Ford F550 regular cab 4x4, as recommended by the Board of Finance at their March 12, 2026, meeting
- f. To transfer \$310,007 from Highway Streets Vehicles Reserve to Highway and Streets for the purchase of a 2027 Freightliner 114SD Plus single axle plow truck with an ES body and plow package, as recommended by the Board of Finance at their March 12, 2026, meeting
- g. To transfer \$150,000 from the Fire Trustee Firehouse Expansion Reserve to CIP Buildings Fire Department for the installation of a new roof as recommended by the Board of Finance at their April 2, 2026, meeting
- h. To transfer \$75,000 from major culvert repair to capital improvement major culvert repair for the engineering costs required for the Parmelee Hill Road Culvert repair, as recommended by the Board of Finance at their April 2, 2026, meeting

**VOTE: ALL AYE**

8. Discuss and take action to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Participation of Employees of the Transfer Station into the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System  
First Selectman Rea opened the discussion saying this action involves one employee. Middlefield would also have to approve, and First Selectman Rea spoke with Middlefield and heard they plan on passing it at their next meeting.

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE TRANSFER STATION INTO THE CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. VOTE: ALL AYE**

9. Discuss and take action to approve a request from Middlesex Health to allow the Free Bed Funds to be distributed in accordance with the hospital's existing Financial Assistance Policy  
First Selectman Rea opened the discussion by reading a paragraph from Middlesex Health giving a brief history of the funds as well as explaining that the Board of Selectmen are required to approve funds to help those impoverished to receive a bed at Middlesex Hospital. The new language, if approved, would allow Middlesex Hospital to bypass the Board of Selectmen to ensure timely support to patients in need using their financial eligibility requirements they have put in place. The hospital would commit to providing an annual report to show transparency and accountability. First Selectman Rea felt that HIPAA regulations and privacy could best be handled by the Hospital and would best protect the patient.

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE A REQUEST FROM MIDDLESEX HEALTH TO ALLOW THE FREE BED FUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOSPITAL'S EXISTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY. VOTE: ALL AYE**

10. Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m., on the proposed revisions to § 14-1 Removal of snow from sidewalks ordinance

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 P.M. FOR THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO § 14-1 REMOVAL OF SNOW FROM SIDEWALKS ORDINANCE. VOTE: ALL AYE**

First Selectman Rea opened the hearing by discussing it is the first winter where the snow is piling up

and certain properties were not moving the snow as described in the ordinance. The way it is written, a violation of the ordinance would require Board of Selectmen action, which does not always line up in a practical way, especially during back-to-back snowstorms. First Selectman Rea thought to make it more enforceable, increase the fine from \$5 to \$100 if the Town needs to remove the snow. First Selectman Rea then read the proposed ordinance revisions. Then noted that Main Street sidewalks are not perfect, sections need to be done and noted that the most used section of sidewalk is between Strong School and Town Hall. When areas are not shoveled, there are phone calls and complaints. The Town wants to move toward having nicer sidewalks.

Simone Howe spoke in favor of the ordinance noting it is an effort to maintain and improve. She questioned the rise in fines compared to other town fines. She noted that many on Main Street are older and may live alone. She also noted other examples as to why the snow may not be removed including being out of town, a broken snowblower or becoming ill. She asked if there would be an appeal process for unusual circumstances. She finished with more support noting that it is many of the same people who do not clear the sidewalks.

Bruce Chaplin spoke that the reason for a Board of Selectmen is to make joint decisions, so he is in favor of the Board collectively deciding over a First Selectman only decision. He did not feel immediate action was needed and a short delay to having the Board decide would make more sense.

Selectman Chadd responded that the intent of the language change to First Selectman would allow action within 24 hours.

Marilyn Keurajian spoke in opposition of § 14-1. The sidewalks are used by students and residents, leaving the burden of snow removal to the few residents residing on Main St. She lived here before the sidewalks and now the plows spray snow onto the sidewalks and driveways. She noted that Rt 17 is plowed by the state and not the Town. Living in the historic district, she is held to higher improvement standards set by the district, resulting in higher cost. Marilyn stated they are now in their 70s and have always cleared their sidewalks even when their equipment broke and they had to shovel by hand. She then asked who would police this ordinance. Lastly, she asked if there will be a warning before fines are enforced.

Paul Keurajian continued with Marilyn's concerns, noting that when their snowblower broke, they called a commercial snow removal company, but they could not get the sidewalk cleared within 24 hours, reiterating that the 24-hour window can be difficult to follow.

Karen Giaimo spoke on behalf of her elderly parents. She noted that everyone has good intention to clear their section on the sidewalk. The last few snowstorms, the plows pushed the snow back onto sidewalk; making Talcott Drive and Main Street a dumping ground for excess snow. Karen spoke of her parents' knowledge of ordinance led them to try to keep up with snowfall, but it became too difficult. She stated that if Town has ability to fine as well as have commercial company to clear the sidewalk, then can the Town assist in setting up commercial snow removable billable to homeowners.

Roger Kleeman spoke of concerns for those living on the North side of Main Street as it pertains to the revised ordinance.

Bruce spoke of concerns that the new sidewalk would be close to the road and the plows would fill the sidewalks with additional snow as they clear the roads; making it challenging to maintain.

Kevin spoke that he is yet to hear or see anyone enforcing the ordinance; noting the condominium adjacent to his property that houses elderly, has had snow left for days. Kevin mentioned his legal blindness as it pertains to his need to access the ramps and sidewalks; noting the Town does a great job maintaining the sidewalks, but has had issues with the ramps not being cleared

Marilyn spoke of her efforts to convince the town to clear the sidewalks around Allyn Brook stating that it needs to be passable. Selectman Chadd thinks the State plowed that area this year.

Rick Parmelee spoke about what he believes to be the worst spot in town for walking; the east side of the library to Mill Pond. He also noticed a pile of snow dumped at Pickett Lane and Rout 17 while the

other side was cleared. He asked if that area would be included in the ordinance. First Selectman Rea agreed. Rick finished by mentioning the sidewalks north of Maiden Lane where there is brick rather than concrete. The contours of the bricks make it impossible to clear without leaving a slippery surface and should be prepared.

*Unknown speaker* spoke about undyed concrete by the fire department as sections were replaced. The colors should match when replacing these sections.

Simone spoke of big piles of snow made it impossible to access the crosswalk and light intersecting Fowler and Maple Avenue. The residents tried to displace the large pile but were not successful.

First Selectman Rea responded to comments stating this past winter was hopefully a worse-case-scenario. On the topic of sidewalks, he spoke on the Northwestern sidewalk project that was held up last year by DOT pointing out the crosswalks were not ADA compliant. The town went back to engineering, and the final design was submitted and will hopefully go out to bid this summer. First Selectman Rea's biggest takeaway from the sidewalk comments is that he is not opposed to figuring out an alternative plan for bigger snowstorms. One concern is labor; as during big storms the town crew is maxed out. He mentioned the possibility of buying equipment to assist.

Selectman Hennick spoke that the key word in the ordinance is "may." It is not the intention of the town to watch the 24-hour clock, but to ensure the sidewalks are cleared in reasonable time. The First Selectman will not be out watching properties to fine during storms.

First Selectman Rea sent the Building Official to kindly knock on doors which has seen success, with a couple exceptions from those who do not answer.

Bruce spoke that "may" protects the First Selectman and not the owners. Selectman Hennick reiterates his belief that the idea provides leeway.

Selectman Chadd asked if there should be additional notes to the ordinance; citing examples such as adding a warning or a snow accumulation stipulation.

First Selectman Rea will discuss feedback and revisions and assistance to Main Street during storms like were experienced the prior winter. He does not know how that might look but gave a scenario of having the job contracted during an over eight-inch storm. He noted the strong feedback and noted that to his knowledge, no fine has been given in the past two years.

Rick Parmelee added that he has seen improvement in snow removal on Main Street allowing more people to use it.

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO RESUME BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:58 P.M. VOTE: ALL AYE**

11. Approval of Tax Refunds

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN CHADD, TO APPROVE TWELVE TAX REFUNDS AS PRESENTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,793.87. VOTE: ALL AYE**

12. Approval of meeting minutes: *tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting*

- a. March 16, 2026
- b. March 16, 2026, joint

13. Old/New Business

First Selectman Rea gave an overview of the presentation of the budget with the Board of Finance: With the rising cost of healthcare and contractual obligations, educational requirements, coupled with the fact that our state education cost share has remained stagnant for the past 13 years, while inflation has risen 40% during that time. The town's budget has been developed under higher-than-normal financial pressure, with increased demands on both capital and reserve funds. These rising costs have caused us to defer our infrastructure needs, necessary equipment purchases, and facility

investments. These factors require greater reliance not only on these accounts, but on our non-designated fund balance as well. While the use of capital and reserves has been necessary to maintain services and protect town assets, continued reliance limits financial flexibility and underscores the importance of careful planning to preserve long-term fiscal stability. Rea then discussed the potential use of bonding to offset the capital needs and reserve balances. This is not a definitive plan, but a consideration. Over the last three years, \$2.5 million has been withdrawn from the undesignated fund balance. Any change on this would have to go to referendum and Rea anticipates that it would not be for this fiscal year, but the next. Rea gave an example of the Public Works building needing renovations including the bathrooms.

Selectman Hennick said he is in support of bonding as the Grand List cannot support some of the projects needed. The current plan is to save for years in reserve for a project, but with inflation, the funds in the reserve do not cover the expense. The mil rate went down to 28.80, but there will still be an increase.

Selectman Chadd wants to hold off until next year on bonding so they can get a good list of projects together and plan for good construction.

First Selectman Rea mentioned that Middlefield did a study on their roads costing close to 200K, and Durham has double the number of roads. The Road Foreman can do the bulk of the work, but winter set him behind for their budget cycle. First Selectman Rea said at this point, they do not know if they will hire a contractor or work on this project internally. He also mentioned they know which roads need work. There are budgeted funds for this project in the budget and will be allocated to the roads most in need.

Selectman Hennick asked if some of the projects were moved out of the budget with the intention of bonding. First Selectman Rea answered saying the playground replacement plan and tree planting were removed. Hennick then asked if the Board of Finance proposed bonding, what would be the Selectmen's role. First Selectman Rea said the plan would be to send to referendum.

First Selectman Rea discussed the Farmer's Market noting the Agriculture Commission considered the facilitation of the market, but the members do not have time or experience to run a successful market and would not take on the responsibility at this time. Lastly, he mentioned they received the Annual Compensation Review Personal Policy Board Report.

#### 14. Selectmen Comments

Selectman Hennick spoke that someone should be in power to enforce the sidewalk ordinance. Selectman Chadd felt that more complaints came for the same section of sidewalk.

#### 15. Public Comments

Henry Ley looked for answers to a nine-year-old question about his paved driveway; where he was told the paver could not come down to the road resulting in an unfinished driveway apron. First Selectman Rea believes the issue will be rectified through the new project going out to bid and will look into it.

Martin French gave his opinion that the philosophical choice to bond cannot happen without having the list of projects and expenses, a working document to give Department of Public Works the resources to do their job. The Board of Selectmen needs to make a commitment to whether we should bond, or else the concept dies. If interim tangible steps are not taken, years can go by, culverts could collapse and the town will be forced to budget by emergency.

Janet Morganti echoed Martin's comments stating it is not practical to not bond. She mentioned the poor conditions of the Public Works building, specifically that there is not a working toilet. Janet also asked if the administration of the Farmer's Market could be run by someone in the public. Some people do not know that the town may not have one in the future, with the potential of missing a certification deadline in April. Lastly, she mentioned a manhole on Commerce Circle that has not been replaced and asked whose responsibility it is to fix. First Selectman Rea indicated it is the town's responsibility.

Roger Kleeman spoke of budget talks of \$75,000 for engineering and would rather see a design-built contract. Roger also said that the catch basins were cleaned prior to brush pickup and sweeping, and suggested cleaning the basins last as there is more debris on the roads. He then mentioned the dyed sidewalks, suggesting jacking the pieces and using foam rather than putting in new sidewalks. Roger asked for clarification if Middlefield is also on the state pension plan as it pertains to item 8. First Selectman Rea felt Middlefield was also on the plan. First Selectman Rea also mentioned that the jacking of the sidewalk was discussed at a prior meeting.

Marie Wilde, the chair of Compensation Review, noting that the Registrar of Voters is requesting a raise and the Board was not consulted. She also noted similar towns in population and their pay, with the higher populated cities earning more. First Selectman Rea noted the inconsistencies in pay throughout towns giving the examples that some are non-hourly and others are stipend.

16. Adjournment

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO ADJOURN,  
VOTE: ALL AYE**

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason Beaudoin, Recording Secretary