

Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026
7:00 PM
Zoom

Select Board Members: Daniel Brosgol; Shawn Hanegan; Bopha Malone; Paul Mortenson; Terrence Parker

Attendees: Matt Hanson, Town Manager; Autumn Ledgister-Cummins, Executive Assistant; Christine Wedge, Finance Department Treasurer/Collector; Tony Fields, Planning Director; Lizzie Gouveia, Human Resources Director; David Powell, Town Moderator; Piper Pavelich, The Bedford Citizen; Pamela Brown, Brown & Brown, P.C.; Brian Jamros, Bartholomew & Company Representative; Patricia Fabian, Energy and Sustainability Committee Chair; Lynne Sweet, LDS Consulting Group LLC; David GoldBaum, LDS Consulting Group LLC; Carolyn Frost; Sue Swanson; Karen Willson; Stuart Trout; Marge Heckman; John McClain; David Williams; Rebecca Pomerantz; Nancy Asbedian; Ken Larson; Corinne Doud; Renu Bostwick; Padma Choudry; Amy Hamilton; Melinda Ballou; David Williams; Molly Haskell; Dillion; Christine; Schwarz

Mr. Mortenson called the Select Board meeting into order at 7:00 PM.

The Select Board Members were asked to announce they were present: Mr. Hanegan, present; Mr. Brosgol, present; Mr. Mortenson, present; Ms. Malone, present; Mr. Parker, present.

1. Public Comment

2. DPW Contracts
- a. 5 Lane Avenue Traffic Signal Easement

David Manugian, DPW Director, presented the 5 Lane Avenue Traffic Signal Easement Amendment to the Board.

The Department of Public Works was awarded a \$500,000 MassDOT Local Bottleneck Reduction Grant to replace aging traffic signal equipment at the Loomis Street/Great Road and Bedford Marketplace/Great Road intersections, and to synchronize signal timings along Great Road from Loomis Street through Mudge Way using a new master controller and overhead camera detection system. Construction began this fall, at which time previously undocumented underground utilities were discovered at the southeast corner of the Loomis Street/Great Road intersection. These utilities conflicted with the proposed location of the replacement traffic signal mast arm and required a minor design adjustment.

To accommodate the revised mast arm placement, an expansion of the existing traffic signal easement was necessary. The abutting property owner at 5 Lane Avenue has agreed to amend the existing easement to increase the easement area by approximately 55 square feet. With this amendment in place, DPW anticipates that construction on the project will be completed later this spring.

Mr. Hanegan moved that the Select Board of the Town of Bedford, amend the permanent signal easement for the purposes of establishing, constructing, operating, and maintaining traffic signal equipment at 5 Lane Avenue as shown on the plan entitled “Easement Plan of Land” and dated “December 05, 2025”, and further to authorize and direct the Town Manager to take all actions required to implement the vote on this motion. Mr. Parker seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

b. FY2026 Police Vehicle Replacement

David Manugian, DPW Director, presented the FY2026 Police Vehicle Replacement contract to the Board. The Bedford Police Department along with the Department of Public Works has elected to participate in the Metropolitan Area Planning Council/Greater Boston Police Council Contract #GBPC 2025 dated October 28, 2025, and valid through April 30, 2026, for the FY26 Vehicle Replacement approved at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

i. One (1) Ford PIU Interceptor AWD Hybrid SUV

Mr. Manugian presented the Ford PIU Interceptor AWD Hybrid SUV.

The vehicle is an unmarked police vehicle. The contract is with Colonial Municipal Group with a net bid price of \$46,187.40. Colonial Municipal Group will coordinate with the Police Department on delivery.

Mr. Mortenson inquired about electric vehicles. Mr. Manugian answered that EVs are not currently equipped to meet the demand, and hybrids have been a great compromise. Ms. Malone inquired about why the existing vehicles cannot be traded in. Mr. Manugian answered that the most cost-effective method was to hold the trades opposed to purchasing two new vehicles. Mr. Hanson added that the vehicles would be assigned to the school resource officers.

Ms. Malone moved the Board vote to approve the purchase of one (1) Ford Police Interceptor AWD Hybrid with equipment to Colonial Municipal Group, 61 Camelot Drive, Plymouth, MA 02360 at the net bid price of \$46,187.40 and authorize the Town Manager to sign on their behalf. Mr. Hanegan seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

ii. One (1) Ford PIU Interceptor AWD Hybrid Police Responder

Mr. Manugian presented the Ford PIU Interceptor AWD Hybrid Police Responder.

The vehicle is a marked police vehicle. The contract is with Colonial Municipal Group with a net bid price of \$45,413.80. Colonial Municipal Group will coordinate with the Police Department on delivery.

Ms. Malone moved the Board vote to approve the purchase of one (1) Ford PIU Interceptor Police Responder with equipment to Colonial Municipal Group, 61 Camelot Drive, Plymouth, MA 02360 at the net bid price of \$45,413.80 and authorize the Town Manager to sign on their behalf. Mr. Hanegan seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

c. Shawsheen Road Culvert Design Contract

Mr. Manugian Presented the Shawsheen Road Culvert Design Contract to the Board. The Woodard & Curran contract provides design services for the replacement of the Shawsheen Road culverts at 131 Shawsheen Road. The culvert has backed up causing flooding during several heavy rainfall events in the past few years. This system is undersized and is causing erosion of the embankment on the wellfield site. This design is anticipated to be complete this winter and spring with permitting and bidding for construction to follow in future fiscal years. This proposal is for work to be completed by June 2026 with a cost of \$92,000.

Mr. Hanegan inquired about the new design's capacity against a heavy storm. Mr. Manugian answered that it utilizes the 2070 standard.

Mr. Parker moved that the Town approve the contract with Woodard & Curran in the amount of \$92,000 as described in the public works memo dated January 21, 2026, and that the Select Board authorize the Town Manager to sign on their behalf. Ms. Malone seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

d. Request for Delay of Sewer Fee Payments- 18 Loomis Street

Mr. Manugian presented the request for delay of sewer fee payments at 18 Loomis Street to the Board. Beacon Point Development is redeveloping the property at 18 Loomis Street into a multifamily housing project. They are requesting the deferral of sewer-related connection fees until prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy.

Mr. Brosgol moved that the Town approve deferral of sewer connection and sewer I/I fees for 18 Loomis Street in accordance with the memo from Public Works dated January 21,

2026, with all fees to be paid prior to any issuance of certificates of occupancy. Mr. Hanegan seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: 5 Lane Ave Signal Easement_TM Cover Memo_1-15-26.pdf; 5 Lane Avenue Easement – Owner Signed.pdf; Motion to Approve Police Vehicles FY26.pdf; 18 Loomis St Fee Deferral Memo and Request; Shawsheen Road Culvert Replacement Memo and Proposal

3. Discuss “Prudent Investor” ATM warrant article, Christine Wedge, Treasurer/Collector

Christine Wedge, Finance Department’s Treasurer/ Collector, and Brian Jamros, Bartholomew & Company Representative, presented the Prudent Investor warrant article to the Board.

Voting yes for this article will allow the city/town/district to invest trust funds, including cemetery perpetual care funds, unless otherwise provided or directed by the donor of the funds under the Prudent Investment Rule. Prudent investing allows for much greater investment diversification opportunities than what is currently allowed under the MA Legal List of Investments. Where appropriate, Prudent investing allows investment managers to use diversified mutual funds, ETFs, individual stocks, bonds, alternative investments, etc. Previously, these municipal funds had to adhere to a very short and restrictive list of stock and bond investments by law. Prudent investing does not inherently mean more risk in the investment portfolio, it simply means that there are greater investment options, which allows for reduced concentration risk and an overall more balanced portfolio allocation.

Mr. Mortenson inquired about risk. Mr. Jamros answered that the article does not increase risk. Equity exposure increases risk. Mr. Mortenson further inquired about who makes the decisions. Ms. Wedge answered Brian’s team and herself. Ms. Malone inquired about guidelines and policies. Mr. Jamros answered that the investment policy is updated according to the composition of the assets, evaluation of the funds and objectives for each type of fund that’s going to go into that new account, and evaluation of the goals in the commingled account. This helps set minimum and maximum targets for each particular security position. In addition, the treasurer would receive recommendations based on the non-expendable versus the expendable and draft an IPS based on the treasurer’s goals. Ms. Malone further inquired about the frequency of meetings between Mr. Jamros’ team and the treasurer. Mr. Jamros answered a minimum of twice a year. However, the team is available for multiple meetings. Mr. Parker wanted clarification on the adoption of the article. Mr. Jamros clarified that it would broaden the Town’s horizon of investments. The amount of risk decreases due to diversification.

The Board thanked Ms. Wedge and Mr. Jamros for the presentation.

Materials: 3 Buckets of Money.pdf; KP_eUpdate_FY24_State_Budget_Municipal_Investments(1).pdf; Mail re investing.pdf; Recommended Language. docx

4. Discuss 40Y district at 49 Elm St. Request for inclusion on ATM warrant- Attorney Pam Brown

Attorney Pamela Brown, Brown & Brown P.C., and Lynne Sweet, LDS Consulting Group LLC presented the 40Y district at 49 Elm St. warrant article to the Board.

The purpose of the 40Y Starter Home Overlay District (“SHOD”) is to provide compact, attainable, and flexible housing opportunities that accommodate a range of residents at different life stages, including first-time homebuyers, families, and older adults wishing to age in place. This district promotes housing diversity and sustainable development principles in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40Y and the regulations promulgated by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (“EOHLC”) as they may be amended from time to time (together, the “Governing Laws and Regulations”). All definitions set forth in the Governing Laws and Regulations are hereby incorporated for purposes of this Section. The Planning Board shall act as Plan Approval Authority for purposes of this Section. This would allow 8 new units plus an existing farmhouse on a nearly acre-sized property, with units ranging from 1-3 bedrooms and limited to 1,850 square feet.

The Board, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Sweet had a lengthy discussion regarding concerns about affordability, questioning how the proposed homes would meet affordability requirements given the price range. The Board would like to hear feedback from the Planning Department before moving forward with the article. Tony Fields, Planning Department Director, stated that the proposal would be a major topic of discussion and reviewed at their next meeting.

Materials: Draft 40Y Bylaw – 1.14.25 with Petitioner Signatures

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5. **Public Hearing:** Changes to Article 58, Salary Administration Plan Bylaw
 - a. Review draft job descriptions: Community Planning Administrator, Community Planning & Sustainability Manager

Ms. Malone moved the Board to open the Public Hearing for Changes to Article 58, Salary Administration Plan Bylaw. Mr. Hanegan seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Hanson presented the changes to Article 58 to the Board. The DRAFT FY27 Classification and Wage Schedule keeps the same salary range in real, total dollars, but due to changes in the average hourly work week, the “hourly rate” has increased to reflect an average 37.5-hour work week. Additional Changes include:

Grade 3

- Add “Maintenance Supervisor,” a new position in the library to oversee the Grade 2 Custodians. The maintenance/custodial duties are being separated from the Grade 6 Library Building & Systems Superintendent position.

Grade 4

- Add “Community Planning Administrator”, explanation in a separate attachment

Grade 5

- Add “Community Planning and Sustainability Manager”, explanation in a separate attachment.
- Add “Social Worker (unlicensed)”, one grade below the existing Grade 6 Social Worker rate, which was intended for Licensed Social Workers.

Grade 6

- Add “Licensed” after the existing Social Worker position to accurately reflect expectations for the Grade 6 pay range.
- Fixed title of GIS Administrator (incorrectly listed as GIS analyst)

Furthermore, after moving the Housing and Economic Development Director into the Planning Department last year, the scope of the department’s work has continued to broaden beyond traditional planning and zoning. In response, there are two proposed staff position updates to better reflect the growing responsibilities of the department. The Assistant Planner position would be retitled Community Planning & Sustainability Manager to reflect an expanded role in sustainability, climate initiatives, and community engagement, and the Administrative Assistant I position would be retitled Community Planning Administrator to recognize its increased coordination and support role across planning, housing, and economic development functions. These changes are intended to better align titles and responsibilities with the work being done and the department’s evolving focus.

Mr. Hanegan inquired about who would be responsible for the Energy and Sustainability responsibilities. Mr. Hanson answered that multiple departments would be involved spearhead by the Housing and Economic Development Director. However, the Town Manager would bear primary responsibility for ensuring the work is completed. Ms. Malone asked for further clarification of responsibilities regarding grants. Mr. Hanson answered that majority of the grants are municipal. In the case of a public-private partnership, this has been historically handled by the Economic Development Director. The lead on a grant would be determined as they are received. Patricia Fabian, Energy and Sustainability Chair, thanked Mr. Hanson for the work on the role. Ms. Fabian added that she would like to see an Energy and Sustainability Committee member be present at planning meetings when sustainability is a topic.

The Board thanked Mr. Hanson for the presentation.

Mr. Hanegan moved the Board to close the Public Hearing for changes to Article 58, Salary Administration Plan Bylaw. Ms. Malone seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: FY27 Salary Bylaw and Comp Plan; Memo re job description changes planning and sustainability. docx; Planning- Community Planning Administrator Draft 1.21.2026.docx; Planning-Community Planning and

Sustainability Manager Draft 1.21.2026.docx; Planning Department Expanded Role and Job Description. Pptx; Proposed Changes to FY27 Classification and Wage Schedule.docx; Salary Bylaw Hearing Notice for Jan 26th 2026, meeting. pdf

6. 2nd Review of Proposed FY27 Operating Budget

Mr. Hanson and the Board conducted a second review of the proposed FY27 Operating Budget reflected in the *Budget Bider, Select Board Budget Presentation, and FinCom Scorecard.*

Materials: Budget Binder 1 Draft 1.22.2026.pdf; FY27 Select Board Budget Presentation 1.12.26-copy.pptx; FY27 FinCom Scorecard.pdf

7. Review Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Hanson and the Board reviewed and discussed in depth the Annual Town Meeting Draft Warrant presented below.

Article Warrants
Article 1 - Reports of Town Officers and Committees
Article 2 - Debate Rules
Article 3 - Consent Article
Article 4 - Revolving Funds Expenditure Limits
Article 5 - Community Preservation Budget—Fiscal Year 2027
Article 6 - Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Projects Plan
Article 7 - PEG Access and Cable Expense Related Budget—Fiscal Year 2027
Article 8 - Appropriation to the Special Education Reserve Fund
Article 9 - Appropriations from Special Education Reserve Funds for Fiscal Year 2027
Article 10 - Salary Administration Plan Bylaw Amendment—Classification & Wage Schedule
Article 11 - Operating Budgets—Fiscal Year 2027
Article 12 - Citizen Petition - Select Board Budget
Article 13- Ambulance Enterprise Budget—Fiscal Year 2027
Article 14 - Supplemental Accrued Leave Fund
Article 15 - Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Appropriation
Article 16 - Shawsheen Technical High School Feasibility Studying Funding
Article 17 - Accept M.G.L. Chapter 59 section 5, Clause 22I (Hero Act)
Article 18 - Accept M.G.L. c.44, &54(b) – Prudent Investor Rule
Article 19 - General Bylaw Amendment—Article 56 Tax Deferral for Renovated Historic Properties
Article 20 - Charter Amendments – (Town Meeting)
Article 21 - Bylaw Amendments – (Town Meeting)
Article 22 - Charter Amendments – (Election)
Article 23 - Bylaw Amendments – (Election)
Article 24 - Charter Amendments – Substantive
Article 25 - Charter Amendments – Clarifying and Formatting
Article 26 - General Bylaw Amendments – Substantive
Article 27 - General Bylaw Amendments – Clarifying and Formatting
Article 28 - Appropriate to 300th Anniversary Fund
Article 29 - Bills of Prior Year

8. Approve Finance Director Appointment, Al Rego

Mr. Hanson announced Al Rego as the Finance Director/Town Accountant to the Board.

Al Rego, current Finance Director for the Town of Tewksbury, MA, brings extensive experience in state, municipal, and private-sector finance. He has served the Town of Tewksbury for five years, during which time he has held the positions of Town Accountant and Finance Director. Prior to his service in Tewksbury, Mr. Rego served as a Fiscal Officer at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Budget Director for the Town of Stoneham, and Principal Budget Analyst for the City of Cambridge. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Suffolk University and possesses extensive experience with Munis financial software. Mr. Rego has an anticipated start date of Monday, February 23rd, subject to the Board's ratification.

Ms. Malone moved that the Board ratifies the Town Manager's appointment of Al Rego as the Town of Bedford's Finance Director, with an effective start date of February 23rd, 2026. Mr. Brosgol seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: Finance Director Memo.docx

9. Consent

- a. Meeting Minutes: 1.5.26 & 1.12.26
- b. Sign Permit - Dollar for Scholars; Bedford Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball
- c. Approve March 14th Town Election Warrant

Ms. Malone moved to approve the consent agenda subject to Town Counsel's feedback for the Town Election Warrant. Mr. Parker seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: 1.5.26 Meeting Minutes; 1.12.26 Meeting Minutes; 1.26-2.6.26 Bedford Babe Ruth Baseball-Softball_Redacted; 3.1-3.15.26 Dollar For Scholars_Redacted; 3.29-4.11.26 Dollar for Scholars_Redacted; Annual Town Election 2026.03.14 Warrant.docx

10. Town Manager's Report

Matt Hanson, Town Manager, presented the Town' Manager's Report.

11. Liaison Report

Bopha Malone- Ms. Malone attended an Arbor Resources Committee meeting.

Paul Mortenson- Mr. Mortenson would like to rally the Select Board to participate in the Dollar for Scholars Trivia Night.

Dan Brosgol- Mr. Brosgol attended an Energy and Sustainability meeting.

Shawn Hanegan- Mr. Hanegan attended a Community Preservation Committee meeting. The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee will meet on January 29th.

Terrence Parker- Mr. Parker announced that the Cultural Council completed its FY25 grants.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Brosgol moved to adjourn. Ms. Malone seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually. Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.