

**Woodbury Select Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
at the Woodbury Town Office**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 5:30. Present were the Select Board Members and Treasurer Lilly Baron. John Holahan, local camp owner, also attended.

Adjustments to the agenda: the first Executive Session was moved up. Update on buyouts was added

Executive Session: At 5:35 The Board voted to enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E) and (F) – negotiations possibly resulting in legal action. The Session was closed at 5:40. The Board voted to approve the proposed response to Swenson Granite/Polycor based on suggestions by Attorney Mears.

Budget analysis: Lilly presented an end-of-fiscal-year summary including suggested adjustments for the tax rate discussion. After an initial review, the Board decided to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel wage issues prior to addressing the budget/tax rate.

Executive Session: at 6:00 the Board convened an Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(B). The session closed at 6:30. The following changes were discussed and approved:

Based on recommendations from Town Audit Chair John Reid, (and based on an annual wage survey by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns) and the Board's concern for retaining qualified staff, it was decided to increase the wages of paid staff and elected officials, in an attempt to bring these wages closer to an average wage for similar positions in Vermont towns. These four paid employees have proven their dedication to their positions and professional performance.

Graham Christie – Town Clerk - upon completion of four months, \$30.00. At 24 hours a week this item will total less than was budgeted for FY27.

Lillian Baron, Treasurer – Lilly has shown exemplary skill in her position. She has taken on additional duties on behalf of the Select Board. She is now approved to work 30 hours a week which qualifies as a Full-Time employee under state law.

She will now qualify for Health Insurance and other benefits. Her hourly wage is increased from \$32.45 to \$35.50.

Graham and Lilly have worked together for several months and now plan to cover the duties of Assistant Town Clerk, thus saving most of the ~~\$22,000~~ budgeted for that position. 9,540 178

Road Commissioner Peter Dailey and Road Crew member Tim Neill will each receive an hourly wage increase of \$3.00.

Review end-of-year finances in detail, compare to FY2027 approved budget. The board studied the budget and actual, and discussed ways to reduce the tax rate from what was originally approved in the Town Report Budget.

- \$20,000 must be added to the Road budget to account for the bid on the Valley Lake Road culvert project.
- \$15,000 can be deducted from the culvert budget
- The estimate for the Swenson reimbursement can be increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000, following what has been received in recent years
- Decrease the allocation into the HERF from \$125,000 to \$115,000
- Road crew budget – likely savings on health insurance and other full time benefits during staff shortages.

Further adjustments may be necessary to address the deficit created when FEMA refused to allow use of un-deobligated funds which financed new roofs on two town buildings.

These adjustments have so far reduced the pending tax rate from \$0.974 per \$100 of property value (as based on the voted budget) to .943

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.

Signed on 8/10/26

Chris Casey

Diana Peduzzi

John Gordon