

Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

January 12, 2026 Meeting

Attendees:

Select Board Members Present	Elizabeth (Liz) Lenharr (LL) Marsha Shute (MS) - Chairperson Sadie Lloyd Mudge (SLM) – Town Manager
Select Board Members Absent	Betsy Bradley (BB)
Recording Secretary	Sarah Hardy
Community members	Approximately 6 community members were in attendance for the meeting. Speaker names were captured in the notes as best as possible. No attendance list was captured.

#	Agenda	Notes
1.	Roll Call: Call to Order	Marsha Shute called meeting to order at 6:02 pm Roll call – see attendance above. Betsy Bradley had to attend a swim meet with the team she coaches.
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	
3.	Approval of minutes from December 29, 2025	No changes were suggested. However, because Liz was absent from the 12/29/25 meeting she can't confirm their accuracy and since Betsy is absent today there aren't enough people to vote at today's meeting. Marsha Shute made a motion to table the approval of the minutes from December 29, 2025. The motion was seconded by Liz Lenharr and approved unanimously.
4.	Open to the Public	None
5.	Town Manager report and updates	At a previous meeting, a resident asked about the regionalization of the EMS service. Sadie learned from Amy Drinkwater the Ambulance Director that a draft plan is due in February and the contractor managing the project will be able to come to the Select Board meeting after it's ready. The town didn't receive the trails grant – it was very competitive and applications that focused on making trails ADA compliant were given priority. Also, applications from organizations like land trusts were better received, likely because they have more staff and experience writing grants than town committees. SLM talked about this with the State and was told that the original application was strong and scored well. The State wants to be supportive of towns with fewer resources and have given the committee advice on how to make the application stronger for the next application cycle in late spring. SLM asked that people continue to support Buck's café and other local businesses that are staying open in winter because it can be a struggle to stay open with fewer people in town and fewer people getting out and about due to weather.
6.	Select Board reports	LL – the budget committee was supposed to meet on January 9 th but the chair couldn't join so it's been postponed, the next meeting may be the 23 or 30 th when budget members are available.
7.	Update on Town tax acquired properties	SLM – wanted to let folks know about what happened at the last meeting. There were three properties available. The attorney who has been advising on the process since the new federal law went into effect indicated that other towns had been putting properties on the market for a month, but the law says it can be up to a year. However, if the properties get offers at or above asking

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		price then the sale can be made prior to that year. There were several bids at or above asking for the School St. property and the Select Board accepted the highest bid. Neither of the two other properties had bids at or above asking so they were not awarded. Because real estate is usually more active in the spring, the Select Board should expect to hear about it then since other bidders have been interested.
8.	Set 2026 Town Meeting date -Staff recommendation: Saturday June 13th	This date was selected because voting day is in the week prior. Marsha made a motion to set the date for the next town meeting on June 13 th , 2026, seconded by Liz Lenharr, all voted in favor
9.	Affirm appointment of Harbor Master	The process is that the harbor committee makes the recommendation to the Town Manager then the Town Manager approves the recommendation and asks the Select Board to affirm the decision. The harbor committee made a unanimous recommendation to have Dave Estes continue as Harbor Master. Dave asked SLM to do the nomination earlier in the year than has normally been done so that he can get paid for the work he is doing over the winter. Doing it later as in years past meant he didn't get paid for work being done. Marsha Shute made a motion to affirm the appointment of Dave Estes as Harbor Master for a 1 year term in 2026. Seconded by Liz Lenharr and approved unanimously.
10.	Treasurer's warrant	The Select Board reviewed the warrant. Note was made about a charge for the light bar for the town cruiser. Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the treasurers warrant 43, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion was approved unanimously. The Select Board signed the warrant.
11.	Open to the Public	Susan Henkel – due to the fact that we have a new school superintendent, is the Select Board planning on asking her to give a progress report? Marsha Shute – will see her later this month and will ask her to join us. Linda Meadows – curious about Sarah Hardy's request for action items. SLM – Sarah sent the list about 2 months ago, a number of things on the list are not necessarily things that are priority for the Town Manager must work on given the day to day duties of the Town Manager. Linda – mostly concerned that Sadie is transitioning out of the position and wants to make sure that we don't drop something when the new person starts. SLM – when she took over there were a lot of loose ends but feels like things are more in process and under control. She has been keeping a list of transition topics Linda – does that list include the lighthouse road project where we were going to get MCOG to write a grant? SLM – is meeting this week with Meg Rasmussen from MCOG. Lighthouse road is especially challenging from a "green scape" point of view where grant funding is not easy to find. Perhaps the engineering projects can be part of the town budget so that we can at least get the plans made. Kathy Kamzelski – when is Sadie's last day and how's the search going?

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		<p>SLM – planning on the first week of February for last week of work but could maybe extend part time after that. The Select Board is getting close on identifying a candidate – two people are being considered.</p> <p>Kathy Kamzelski – noticed in the executive session that there is tax assessment being discussed. Granting tax abatements isn’t usually private.</p> <p>SLM – This situation is different than the normal abatement process where a taxpayer asks for a reassessment and lowering of their property taxes. In this case, it’s more like general assistance where someone is asking to have a year or more of the taxes they owe abated and possibly forgiven. Conversations like this are private.</p>
12.	<p>Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) – Town Manager Position and 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(F) – confidential records - property tax abatement request</p>	<p>The meeting was closed before the board went to executive session.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to enter executive session for 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(F) – confidential records - property tax abatement request at 6:25pm. Liz Lenharr seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:30pm, Liz Lenharr seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the abatement for the requested tax year for \$664.89. Liz Lenharr seconded the motion and the motion passed 2-0.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to enter executive session for 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) – Town Manager Position at 6:32. Liz Lenharr seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:08pm. Liz Lenharr seconded and the motion was approved 2-0.</p>
13.	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p>	<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to adjourn at 7:09pm and was seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.</p>