

## Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

September 22, 2025 Meeting

Attendees:

Select Board Members Present	Betsy Bradley (BB) Elizabeth (Liz) Lenharr (LL) Marsha Shute (MS) - Chairperson Sadie Lloyd Mudge (SLM) – Town Manager
Select Board Members Absent	
Recording Secretary	Sarah Hardy
Community members	Approximately 8 community members were in attendance for some or all of 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
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	none
3.	Approval of minutes from September 8, 2025	Marsha Shute made note that the term is quit claim deed not quick claim deed in the section on tax acquired properties – there are two instances.  Marsha Shute made a motion to accept the minutes with the amendment for quit claim for September 8 <sup>th</sup> . The motion was seconded by Liz Lenharr and approved unanimously.
4.	Open to the public	Q: Susan Henkel – wondering if each of the selectmen could tell us if attend any of the municipal committee meetings?  A: Liz Lenharr attends Resiliency Committee, Harbor Committee, Solar Committee, the Route 1A broadband regional committee, and County Commissioners’ Budget Committee. Marsha Shute– attends HOBBA – Head Of the Bay Business Alliance (an organization that encourages people to stop at the towns between Belfast and Bucksport), goes to planning board but can’t attend all of them. Sadie Lloyd Mudge– receives meetings/agendas for most committees, checks in with most of the committees on a regular basis.  Q: Susan Henkel – do any of the select board attend the school board meetings? A: Marsha Shute goes when she can, Betsy Bradley watches the videos. They are all planning on going to the meeting this week for the review/vote on the updated budget articles.  Q: Susan Henkel - When are the new additional select board members going into effect? A: The voting will be before the town hall in June 2026  Q: Jerry Altoon – asked about the next school board meeting– when is it? The 22 or 24 <sup>th</sup> ? There is different information on various websites. A: SLM– the 22 <sup>nd</sup> seems to be the regular school board meeting.

**Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes**

September 22, 2025 Meeting

		<p>A: Amber Poulin– the warrant indicates that it’s on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for the purpose of determining the budget articles.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Town Manager Report and Update</p>	<p>SLM – lost our temporary code enforcement officer as he had to attend to his regular job. She has someone set up to fill in, he already serves several towns. She’s also reached out to the code officer from Castine who works part time and they are meeting this week to discuss coverage by that person. She also has someone who can do LPI work on a temporary basis. The person from Searsport may not be available till November but she will continue to look for a long term placement, one that will be responsive and dependable.</p> <p>The trails grant – SLM would like the board to allow the parks application to be sent to the state. SLM will do a last review and update (if necessary) this week then would like to send it out. She shared the plan with selectboard. She’s talking with the funding agency this week to make sure the proper permits are understood (talking to the CEO from Belfast). She’s asking for the board to authorize her to make the final review and finalize the document for submittal of Friday. There is an “in kind” match for her and George’s time. If it gets denied for any reason she thinks we could resubmit.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to allow Sadie Lloyd Mudge to send the parks application to the state, Liz Lenharr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>SLM – got a copy of the county and jail tax assessment bill. Sharing with the select board so they are aware how much it is. It is \$574,000 for the current budget season.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Select Board reports or updates</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Tentative Searsport water district update on Main St waterline replacement</p>	<p>Herb Kronholm – Superintendent of Searsport Water District. The work they are doing today is a result of the catastrophic events last February on Main Street. For context, the water main was put in 1906 and the box culvert was placed in the 1930s. The culvert is scheduled to be replaced by the state at some point in the future. During the 1930s, the concrete was set around the water main which caused the failures. Today gate valves were installed on each side with hydrants on each side of the stream. They plan to do a brand new water main downstream and will connect to it, bypassing the box culvert. Because of the work they did today, when they reroute the water fully, it won’t cause an outage for the customers. The funding grant and the permits don’t fully align – after October 2, the instream crossings are pushed off till next season. They are going to seek permission to do it after 10/2 as an exception since they just got the funding. Just a point of clarification of the hydrants, it’s for flushing the systems and helping to remove air from the lines (putting them at the high points helps).</p> <p>Q: MS – does the hydrant by the railroad tracks get used?  A: Herb – that one is there with another on the other side of the tracks in case there is a problem under the tracks (the main there is also over one hundred years old). The gate valves allow the water company to isolate any potential</p>

**Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes**

September 22, 2025 Meeting

		<p>issue without disrupting service. The grant they got will also repair this area around the railway.</p> <p>Water is flowing now through Main St. to Cape Jellison once again.</p>
8.	Ambulance Paramedic Vehicle bid	<p>The select board opened three bids</p> <p>Autotronics – 2020 ford for \$40,000, has a rebuilt title          Quirk - \$51860 – 2025 police interceptor, hybrid system          O’Connor Auto Park has three options</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2026 GMC terrain brand new \$32,735</li> <li>2. 2026 Chevrolet Equinox \$33,635</li> <li>3. 2026 Chevy Equinox, \$34910</li> </ol> <p>SLM If Amy Drinkwater needs more time to compare, she can take 2 more weeks till the next meeting.</p> <p>Amy Drinkwater mentioned she has a grant for \$50,000 so can’t select any option over that amount.</p> <p>After reviewing the bids, Amy returned to the meeting and recommends the least expensive one, it has enhanced safety features and has less expensive tires vs the one with 19” tires. The engine should be better on mileage. The specific one is \$32735, the 2026 GMC terrain from O’Connor Auto Park. By coming in below budget, this will leave additional money for badging on the side and any other outfitting.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to award the bid to O’Connor Auto Park for a 2026 GMC terrain for a price of \$32,735. Seconded by Liz Lenharr, the motion passed unanimously</p> <p>This vehicle will be used for the new community programming.</p>
9.	Tax Commitment	<p>SLM – we are recommending tonight to commit taxes on Thursday after the Wednesday school board vote – regardless of whether the municipal votes pass. The taxes will still be due on Oct 15 and April 15<sup>th</sup> but then there will be an interest free grace period for 30 days (till Nov 13). Next year, she suggests the town will change the wording on the warrant to make this process simpler.</p> <p>Q: BB – when we last discussed, the lawyer said they would have to use the last failed budget.</p> <p>A: Amber – they looked at the law again and found they can use the last approved budget which is the one that we hope will be approved on Wednesday.</p> <p>SLM – if we had to go with last voted budget our town’s taxes would increase because it’s higher.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve a grace period for no interest on the first payment through November 13<sup>th</sup>, taxes will still be due October 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15, and to commit to the taxes based on the school budget from</p>

**Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes**

September 22, 2025 Meeting

		Wednesday September 24th. Seconded by Liz Lenharr, the motion passed unanimously.
10.	Treasurers Report	<p>SLM – gave the select board a document of the balances on all the accounts to review.</p> <p>Sadie indicated that John had only reported on balances but one of the previous town managers seems to have reported on the expenses as well.</p> <p>Betsy noted that some town managers have also reported on the percentage used.</p> <p>SLM – this is tricky because many departments use their money in big chunks so it’s not a whole picture because one random event can make it seem off. She would like to hold on doing that till later in the budget year.</p> <p>Also, because we are just about to send out tax bills and payments will come in then the numbers will be changing again.</p>
11.	October meeting dates	<p>SLM – recommends the board have a short meeting on Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup> after Indigenous People’s day at 5:00pm just to sign the warrant. Will meet upstairs.</p> <p>Sadie has already been putting together agenda items for the meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>.</p>
12.	Treasurers warrant	<p>The select board members reviewed the warrant.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the accounts payable warrant 19, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>The select board signed the warrant.</p>
13	Open to the public	<p>George Russell – had six floats that came out of the harbor. Rather than dumping them for a cost, he posted them on Facebook marketplace for free and has gotten rid of them all except one so far.</p> <p>Q: – Can they explain what the vehicle that they authorized to purchase is for?  A: BB – it’s for community paramedic program.  A: SLM – if someone had dialysis, or needs their blood pressure checked, or has other conditions it can be taken care of this way. It provides services that nurses would provide. EMS would respond to any emergency call first but will do this in between calls.</p> <p>Q: Sarah – is this free service?  A: SLM – that’s a question for Amy, she didn’t know.</p>
14.	Executive Session	<p>Discussion of Confidential Records Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(F)</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to move into executive session at 6:51pm, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion approved unanimously.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:59pm. Liz Lenharr seconded, the motion passed 3-0.</p>

**Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes**

September 22, 2025 Meeting

15.	Motions resulting from executive session and Meeting Adjournment	Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the abatement of the amount of \$497.41, Liz Lenharr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.  Marsha Shute made a motion to adjourn at 7:01pm. Seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.
-----	--	--