

Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

November 10, 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 7 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 6:03 pm roll call – see attendance above
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	The published agenda was missing a line for the Treasurers warrant. It will be added as item 8a. Marsha Shute made a motion to amend the agenda to include the treasurer’s warrant as item 8a. The motion was seconded by Liz Lenharr and all voted in favor.
3.	Approval of minutes from October 27, 2025	No changes suggested Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the minutes for October 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Liz Lenharr and approved unanimously.
4.	Open to the Public	Keirsten Wyman – at the last town meeting there was a decision to disallow use of the town hall basement for personal use. Her family uses the room for thanksgiving, about 50 people. She would like to understand why the decision was made and could it be reconsidered. SLM – it was probably six or so weeks ago. MS – she thinks that there should be more conversation about it and suggested that Kizzy’s family should be grandfathered. SLM – clarified that use of the room had become a big maintenance issue for the town’s staff. There have been incidents where the doors weren’t locked and that’s a major security concern because of the access to the upstairs. Also, the equipment condition is declining. To be used more broadly it would require additional resources to be assigned to do so and it’s a big ask for tax dollars to be used in this way. Also, the staff asked for the change because of the effort the room was generating. Sadie indicated that community groups can continue to use the space. Keirstan – is there a contract that folks need to sign? Is there a fee? SLM – there is a contract, no fee. Dawn Staples Knox – she’s used the space her daughters baby shower and had hoped to use the space for a first birthday party. Compared to contracts she’s seen for other spaces, she thinks the contract was weak and suggests that the town and maybe a committee gets together to strengthen the contract and fees. Dawn mentioned that the Searsport community room has a very thorough contract. Other facilities in other town have cleaning fees,

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	<p>significant security deposits, rent by the hours, or may become a money maker for their towns. She believes that some people do not take proper care, but others do an outstanding job... if we got a few samples of more robust contracts then looked at it again, perhaps we can produce a new arrangement because she does think it's a good resource for residents. She also suggested that the town could track who doesn't take care of the room and they would be banned from using it going forward.</p> <p>SLM – thinking about security she asked if any of those examples are in the actual town hall (one was, the upstairs in Searsport). And she didn't think it was a good idea to track and block users who don't take care of the room because it raises the risk of confrontation and bad reactions from users to the office staff.</p> <p>Andrea Staples – also a user of the room. If we do reconsider use of the room, we should consider it a money making endeavor because it's such a good resource because of the space, the parking, the bathrooms. Perhaps the fees could pay someone to take care of the room and handle the reservations?</p> <p>MS – could we use the current office cleaning person on an ad hoc basis for room cleaning?</p> <p>SLM – maybe that new staff could also manage the keys, and deal with the people who misuse the room. Also, we don't want expenses to be a taxpayer burden when only a fraction of people use the space, it would need to be self-funded.</p> <p>MS – the fee could be reasonable, the deposit could be substantial.</p> <p>BB – the contract wasn't detailed enough about cleaning when the boy scouts were using the room. She agrees if the fee to use were enough to replace equipment it would work.</p> <p>SLM – we should look at what other communities are doing. Regardless, if the fees are implemented for social use, the community groups could still use the room for free.</p> <p>There was some general conversation about doors being left open during events and bugs getting in, lingering damage to the room was pointed out.</p> <p>Dawn – we should also look into the liability insurance for the room.</p> <p>BB – we'd have to lock the upstairs doors, and the upstairs door should have a different key than the upstairs door.</p> <p>Skeet Wyman – We keep taking away services from town people. He also gave the example for how the office used to be open late on Thursday nights and how it affects working people who can't get to the office for business. So, he hopes we do look at this again.</p> <p>LL – use of the room should be for Stockton residents (owner/resident) only, basically any taxpayer. But they wouldn't have to be a full timer and wouldn't want to exclude renters.</p> <p>MS – also the person signing the contract has to be present for the whole event, it can't be sublet to someone who shouldn't have the room.</p> <p>Keirsten Wyman – so what's next</p> <p>SLM – the idea about putting together a group made up of town staff, select board and residents is a good idea. Because the year end is so busy, it can start after the new year to begin working on that. If folks are interested in being involved email the town manager.</p> <p>BB – asked for a copy of the existing contract. Liz also wanted to review it.</p>
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		<p>Sarah Hardy – mentioned that in July we stopped tracking and publishing action items in the meeting notes. She believes some items will be closed but would like to have the action items addressed before Sadie’s departure. SLM – send her the list electronically and she’ll put that on one of the next agendas.</p>
5.	Town Manager report and updates	<p>This is the last week for taxpayers to make interest free payments. Thursday the 13th is the deadline</p> <p>Darren and SLM – have discussed the used police car. They decided to put it to bid and only received one offer that was too low. Darren suggested that other departments may want to use it. He’s going to see how much it costs to strip out the lights (hope to find someone to do it for free). SLM – Darren thought he could get \$10,000 for it but it’s more valuable to the town to reuse it (it only has about 60,000 miles on it).</p> <p>The waldo county commissioners voted to keep thee 12 month budget. She, Liz, and Amber provided testimony on why it’s too much of a burden to towns to do go to the 18 month schedule right now. There will be an increase in county taxes but not nearly as much as it would have.</p> <p>The school budget passed. She emailed Dr. Miller and she is relieved.</p> <p>BB -what was the margin SLM – she didn’t have the numbers in front of her. It was a good turnout and we had about the same margin as Searsport.</p> <p>The pirates cove property discussed in a previous meeting – the town received the road association bill that will have to be paid because it hasn’t been sold yet. This and the other two properties will be listed soon. It will be about 5-6 weeks till the select board can see bids. She thinks some of these properties will get more than asking price. She reiterated that the attorney wants the board to take the highest bidder with the simplest financing.</p> <p>The town’s health insurance costs are going up 9% this year.</p> <p>Regarding meetings during the holiday months - proposes pushing the Thanksgiving’s week meeting forward a week, then two weeks after. These dates are December 1st and 15th, this also allows us to avoid a meeting Christmas week but keeps two meetings in the month. Also, if something comes up they could still hold a meeting on December 29th. BB – when is Sadie’s last week? She wants to make sure we have one January meeting with her at least. Sadie indicated that will definitely happen The board agreed to the meeting date changes. For the Thanksgiving holiday the office is closed Wed, Thursday, in addition to the normal Friday closure (26th-28th). Sadie will get all the December 1st meeting materials to the board on the 24th so they have time to review it.</p>

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6.	Select board reports	<p>MS and BB – there is a Christmas event for the town on November 30th.</p> <p>LL – still meeting with the Waldo County Commissioners on budget. They first worked on the issue of costs for inmate housing. The inmates were at Two Bridges (male) jail and Knox jail (female). The inmates are now going to be boarded with Somerset jail for a lower cost. However, they do not use suboxone at that jail, they use buprenorphine, which is a monthly injectable, but it is also more expensive to administer.</p> <p>BB – is it a wash?</p> <p>LL – it’s a bit of an increase, but the budget committee asked if the medical costs could be offset by using funds from the counties portion of the opioid settlement. There are about 40 inmates and about half require treatment.</p>

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		<p>LL -Next to be considered is the medical insurance for the workers. There is some expectations that costs may actually go down because they have been working very hard on that.</p>
7.	Broadband Easement	<p>SLM – in the packet is a map and other materials from Direct communications. They are asking permission to place a DLC box (see picture at end of notes), which is a central hub, on town property. There is some concern that it’s near to the water district work site so Sadie is going to ask about that. She is also concerned that other companies could also ask for easement if this is granted.</p> <p>BB – based on her memory on how this was planned, she doesn’t think other companies seeking to build something will be an issue.</p> <p>SLM – thinks the contract should include a stipulation that if the grass is damage during the install that they will fix the grass and landscaping. She asked the board to include in the authorization the stipulations about water district approval and grass seeding.</p> <p>She is also concerned because the contract is also asking for permission to access the area via stations street which is a long distance way and also could have the new pavement in the way. She is going to get an answer on that too.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to authorize Sadie Lloyd Mudge to sign the Direct Communications easement agreement, contingent upon her findings about the water district project. The motion was seconded by Liz Lenharr and all voted in favor.</p> <p>If her investigation reveals any other concerns (station street, landscaping etc.) then Sadie will bring it back to the board for reconsideration.</p>
8.	Meeting Technology Update	<p>Sarah Hardy – the equipment is purchased, the Zoom account is purchased. Now the committee will begin working on the documentation and training. Once ready they will roll it out to resilience committee to work out any kinks, then other committees. Will roll out select board meetings once the new manager is in place in 2026. Need to define policies and practices for participation on meetings before that roll out.</p>
8a	Treasurer’s warrant	<p>The select board members reviewed the warrant. There was discussion about the check for waste disposal. There was discussion about a charge for Belfast paramedic assistance.</p> <p>MS – is there any way to get this write up earlier so there’s more time to review?</p> <p>SLM – there isn’t time due to the work that goes into putting it together like researching accounts.</p> <p>BB – recycling costs seem lower than normal, could it be that there has been a cost transfer to the fall cleanup?</p> <p>SLM – she will ask</p> <p>BB – how often is the road association billing the town?</p> <p>SLM – it’s unclear what the frequency is and hopes to have the property sold within 3 months.</p>

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		<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the accounts payable warrant 29 and to hold the \$8473.50 check pertaining to waste disposal until town manager can review, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>The select board signed the warrant.</p>
9.	Manager's job posting update	<p>SLM – contacted MMA about posting the job, it's been posted. The person who would help recruit applicants is on vacation. With this posting the town is not going to use the same services as was used for the posting when Sadie was hired (defining the job description, weeding through applicants). There have been a few applicants already, some are clearly not appropriate, others should be considered and she'll get the resumes to the select board this week.</p> <p>BB – MMA was going to do a background check on any candidate and ordered the candidates by order of preference.</p> <p>SLM – she didn't think they need to do that for the town this time.</p>
10.	Open to the Public	<p>Sarah – what has to actually happen to extend the solar moratorium so it doesn't have a gap, do we need to do it before December 10th since it was approved on June 10th?</p> <p>SLM – the extension does not have to be a town meeting, it can just be done at a select board via a motion. And the Select board should do that at the first meeting in December.</p> <p>BB – if the ordinance is not ready for approval by the town meeting it would have to be extended again then.</p> <p>SLM – Yes and because of the way the town's ordinance rules are written, then the yearlong cycle will start over for the moratorium and the ordinance couldn't be approved till 2027..</p>
11.	Meeting Adjournment	<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

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DLC box for broadband:

