

Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

December 1, 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 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
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	none
3.	Approval of minutes from November 10, 2025	No changes suggested Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the minutes for November 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Liz Lenharr and approved unanimously.
4.	Open to the Public	Susan Henkel – question for Sadie and the selectboard folks. When will they be reminding the town about the three select board open positions? SLM – when folks come in to ask about it, the staff gives them the information about how to take out papers. Sadie asked how it was done in the past. BB – our normal public notice procedure should be used: in the local papers (Midcoast Villager) and on the town website. Susan Henkel – in the past notification was also sent out in the monthly newsletter which is no longer published. BB and MS – this would be done in March, when the papers are available. SLM – will check in with Diane as she is the person responsible for publishing public notices Susan – asked about follow-up and Sadie confirmed she will confirmed at the next meeting that these arrangements have been made. ~~~ Sarah Hardy – thinking about the police car that came up at the last meeting and I have several questions. Why didn't we trade it in to get money off the cost of the car in the first place? Or why didn't we used that car for the paramedicine program? If it's retained as a municipal vehicle and adding to the fleet, how will we account for additional fuel usage and insurance costs? (also did the grant for the paramedicine vehicle include the cost of insurance, fuel etc.?) SLM - Both the police vehicle and the ambulance vehicle were purchased via grants. The police vehicle had been used hard so having a new vehicle makes sense, because it was funded by grant money didn't need to save on purchase price as long as we found an appropriate car for the grant amount. As for gas and insurance, we would need to check with Amy on the gas and insurance costs but usually grants don't cover recurring costs like that, so they would need to be supported by the town. The current public works vehicle is also nearing end of life – George Russell wants to run the current vehicle through the winter when it's slushy/salty. Then when it dies, no more money will be put into it. The new vehicle will

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		replace George’s vehicle so it will not ultimately increase the municipal fleet numbers.
5.	Town Manager report and updates	<p>Met with Sarah Hardy and Linda Meadows from the resilience committee about discussions she’d had with George Russel about not using the oil burner at all this winter in the town hall building. They realized that there were still areas within the town building that are not covered by the heat pumps so they could not completely rely on the free electricity generated by the town’s solar panels. Requested the resilience committee to apply for funds to make the necessary updates to allow us to entirely electrify the town hall building.</p> <p>She also met with the solar installer/designer and ran it by George. The plan is good and they will be proceeding.</p> <p>Not long ago a citizen reached out with concerns about the state of the Bucksport animal shelter. Coincidentally in the most recent MMA journal (in the select board mailboxes) there was a note about a new fundraising effort that has begun, this is good news.</p> <p>Reminder that the Waldo County Budget Committee public meeting is December 12 at 6pm. The budget is increasing 36% over previous budget. If folks want to comment and ask questions, they should attend.</p> <p>The three tax acquired properties have been listed. Some bids have come in on 14 School St and expect other bids soon on the other properties.</p> <p>The upstairs Christmas tree is loaded with gifts and Sadie encourages folks in need to come in and select gifts for their kids.</p> <p>Sadie and George – will confer on whether to close the town office for Tuesday due to snow. May just close early.</p>
6.	Select board reports	<p>MS and BB – the Community Builders Christmas party was the previous weekend and a lot of fun was had by all in attendance.</p> <p>MS – a committee has formed about the use of the downstairs room. Besides herself, three other people, maybe four, will be meeting midmonth. They will be writing a proposal including a policy for room use and guidance on payments. The committee will present to Sadie for editing, as necessary. Will also run it by Angie and George to get their feedback. She will report back at another meeting to inform the public and to get approval from the board.</p>
7.	Vote to extend the Solar Moratorium	<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to extend the solar moratorium for 6 more months until the annual Town Meeting in June. Seconded by Liz Lenharr and passed unanimously.</p>
8.	Vote to move capital reserve money for dock work	<p>SLM – the contract was approved in March, the work was done in the summer. The amount in the motion reflects the residual after the majority was paid via a SHIP grant. The +/- \$40,000 that will be paid on the invoice but will be reimbursed from the Harbor Dock Reserve Account. About \$40,000 is already in the budget from the SHIP grant.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to move \$20,149.25 from the Harbor Dock Reserve Account e109-06-99-08 to the harbor budget to pay for dock work</p>

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		done in the spring and summer of 2025. Liz Lenharr seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
9.	CMP application for pole location	<p>BB - assumes this is similar to the approval done for Meadow Rd? SLM – yes, this is on Muskrat Farm Rd. The pole proposal indicates they are in line with existing poles. If this is approved then she will request signatures from the board.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the application for pole location on Muskrat Farm Road. Seconded by Liz Lenharr and approved unanimously.</p>
10.	Fall and Spring Clean-up numbers	<p>SLM – at the last meeting, the cost of the cleanup was discussed – it was higher than expected. What she found is that the real cost of both fall and spring cleanups is close to \$20,000. So, it is higher than they even knew. It covered 56 tons just in October alone. The reason the total wasn’t obvious is that some of the charges were applied to different accounts so it didn’t really reflect properly in the budget. Amber has fixed that in the budget now so that it’s obvious what the true cost is. The public should be aware of that true cost and should decide if the town will continue to pay this amount in subsequent budgets.</p> <p>SLM shared that her town (Waldo) does the collection differently, residents must bring their heavy items to a centrally located truck. Doing this may discourage some of the disposal. When she brought doing it differently or eliminating this service with staff, they were nervous because they fear folks would just begin dumping their trash on roadsides.</p> <p>BB – had been under the impression that if people are violating the rules governing what’s appropriate to leave for pickup, then the load would not be picked up, but apparently the haulers are taking it anyway and that may account for why there is such a big volume. Agrees that it’s good to know the true cost, so that we can consider the alternatives.</p> <p>SLM – maybe can consider a once a year pickup. This will be part of the discussion during the budget season. She has been working with Amber to make sure the budget is more detailed and clearer about what true costs of services are.</p>
11.	<p>Set time for warrant signing on December 29th</p> <p>Discuss tax acquired property listing bid openings</p>	<p>Sadie – would like to set an accounts payable warrant signing meeting on 12/29 because the meetings in December are 12/1 and 12/14 and without a warrant signing meeting, the duration before the January meeting is too long and bills must be paid.</p> <p>Suggesting 4:30pm meeting time. May push till 5pm</p> <p>She also suggests at that meeting, the select boards open the bids for the three tax acquired properties.</p> <p>The attorney indicated that a property should be listed for at least a month but if no bid comes in, if they are not at or over asking price then the listing can be longer. Because legally we have to take the highest bidder, bidders coming in below asking will likely not be selected.</p> <p>The realtor indicated at some town’s he’s seen that people think they will be coming to the meeting to make their bid but in fact a formal bid must be submitted in advance so folks should make note of that process.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to review the tax acquired property bids and take any necessary action on December 29th, 2025 at 4:30. Seconded by Liz Lenharr, approved unanimously.</p>
12.	Treasurer’s warrant	The select board reviewed the warrant

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		<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the accounts payable warrant 32 and 34, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>The select board signed the warrant.</p>
13.	Open to the Public	<p>Beth Smith – here to talk about trash and recycling. They have been hearing a lot of comments about recycling not actually being recycled so they have been investigating. The committee is teaming up with folks from Northport (who do not have curbside pick-up, their town requires drop off of recyclables at a town transfer station) to tour Eagle Point.</p> <p>What happens is that Pinkerton transports recycling to Winterport DM&J who takes it to EcoMaine. If the recyclables are not “clean”, the whole load will be rejected and will be sent to a landfill instead.</p> <p>Non-clean = cannot be Styrofoam, food soiled containers, wet cardboard</p> <p>The committee is concerned that the town is paying for recycling when we’re not actually getting that service. Also concerned if our recycling is rejected on every rainy day, because the cardboard and paper gets wet while it’s left out for pickup.</p> <p>DM&J – says that going forward they will inform the town when loads are rejected and will share that info with the recycling committee.</p> <p>~~~</p> <p>Kathy Kamzelski – has two concerns. First: what’s the status of the comprehensive plan and what are the ramifications of not having an updated comprehensive plan.</p> <p>SLM – the status is the same. In the budget for next year there has to be a line item to hire a contractor to manage the project. Then in collaboration with resident committee a plan will be drafted. The draft will be presented for public reviews and comment and ultimately approved by the town at town meeting. As for ramifications, lots of towns are in a similar position. There aren’t consequences per se.</p> <p>Kathy – she has heard that even if there is a town ordinance for something, the state may come in and overrule the ordinance to do something the state wants to do, in the absence of a recent comprehensive plan.</p> <p>SLM – doesn’t see a situation where the state would try to do that. She also thinks that the state would look favorably at the town’s efforts to get this going, even before the plan is made (we are trying).</p> <p>Kathy Kamzelski – her second issue: with all the legislation coming out of Augusta – what are we doing as a town to make sure our town’s preferences are followed vs something coming out of the state?</p> <p>SLM – this municipality is not large enough to have a person assigned to monitor this. If someone feels strongly about a new law and wishes the town to act then at person should bring it to the select board. She also wanted to make clear, there are also some state laws that cannot be overridden by a municipality.</p> <p>Kathy – mentions an example: 2 years ago, when the state was attempting to build high power lines, she raised it but the town has not created an ordinance to deal with it. More recently, the building of AI data centers is another concern of hers, even if they are planned to be built elsewhere (like up north), there may be plans for high power powerlines that would need to come through our town.</p> <p>SLM – suggests that a citizen committee could be formed to track legislation and propose ordinances. Issues important to a single citizen usually won’t be</p>

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		<p>addressed, it would need to be something that a large portion of residents think is important to pursue – like the solar farm issue.</p> <p>Kathy – making moratoriums is not a good strategy, because that takes a year then a year to make an ordinance to deal with the problem. She would like to see the town be more proactive.</p> <p>SLM – In other towns, there may not be such a long runway and ordinances can be passed more quickly because they don’t have the policy that ordinances can only be voted at town meetings. Also, in our town without a planning staff it makes it even more difficult.</p> <p>Kathy – if our planning board is responsible for making ordinances, then they need to be prompted to do that by the select board and the town manager. As far as she is concerned, the select board is who should be tracking the legislation. She asked for the job description of the select board.</p> <p>SLM – speaking for herself, her plate is very full and if she were to focus on legislative stuff then she couldn’t do her core job responsibilities. She suggests that invested volunteers could be taking this on and communicating back to the select board – similar to the recycling committee who is very active in investigating and reporting back to the select board.</p> <p>Kathy – doesn’t MMA do this legislative analysis?</p> <p>SLM – they do in a broad way, not town specific, not directive on how towns should respond. It’s only communicated via newsletter. It’s not anybody’s job in Stockton Springs to do that in the way that Kathy describes.</p> <p>Margaret Laing – what is the job description of the select board.</p> <p>SLM – their primary role is to legislate the town business – taking votes.</p> <p>Margaret Laing – then what is the job description for the planning board?</p> <p>When do they ever meet?</p> <p>SLM – the planning board meets to consider proposals. If there aren’t proposals then they don’t meet. In some towns and based on their interest they can be more active (like meeting routinely to review and modify codes). If the town doesn’t like how the planning board is managing their work then they need to elect people who will take a different approach. The select or planning boards cannot react to a single person asking for a change, but if there is a collective request they should take that issue to the planning board for example.</p>
14.	Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(f) – confidential records – town manager applications	<p>At approximately 7:22pm the business portion of the meeting concluded and the select board moved upstairs for the executive session.</p> <p>Marsha Shute moved to enter Executive Session at 7:28pm, Liz Lenharr seconded and the motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Marsha Shute moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:31pm with Liz Lenharr seconding the motion and all voting to approve the motion.</p>
15.	Meeting Adjournment	<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 pm and was seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.</p>