

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office
July 6, 2026

Present: Select board Members: Trevor Gray, Dave Jacobs, Hugh Flynn (via Zoom)

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Diane Judd

Road Foreman: absent

Others: Jim Davis, Karla Braunesreither, Ed Brady, Kenric Gonyaw, Liz Hager, Derby Line Fire Chief Craig Ellam, (Barb Wing, Michael Miller via Zoom)

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:31 by Trevor,

2. Minutes – from 06/22/2026 were approved. Dave/Trevor (Hugh was not on yet)

3. Adoption/Amendments to Agenda – none

4. New Business –

A. Derby Line Fire Chief – Chief Ellam explained about the recent changes that the State of Vermont has done regarding town appointed fire wardens. The State has taken the ability to appoint local fire wardens and put the burden on local fire chiefs. He did say that he can appoint deputy wardens, but they have to adhere to rules such as folks having a paper fire permit in hand prior to any permitted fires. Dave (as a volunteer fire fighter) has invited our area representative – Devin Healey - to come speak with the fire department people. Before Craig left, he appointed both Dave Jacobs and Sean Guyette to be his Deputy Fire Wardens. Chief did say that he is looking to replace a truck, but prices and wait times are unacceptable.

B. Road Foreman Report – None as he was absent. Trevor said that the elm tree near the Gray Farm on Valley Road has been marked by Vermont Electric to be removed.

C. Better Roads Grant – The \$40,000 grant to replace the structure on Bates Hill Road has been approved and Trevor signed the paperwork.

D. Holland Unity Center – Kenric said the end wall has been painted. Per the report that Theresa Forbes received, the wood chips are sufficient but need to be “fluffed” up under and around the swings. There are also weeds that need to be removed. Dave has a rototiller that should work. He and Kenric will arrange for the work to be done. Hugh flew his drone over the roof and no damage was detected.

E. Planning Commission – Jim shared that the PC received only one proposal from the sixteen companies that were solicited. He suggested that the board approve the Banwell Architect proposal of \$19,950 which is under the grant amount that was approved. He said that Banwell also works with Verdantas (formerly Horizon). Jim further explained that there will be a group of ten who will be meeting to work on the project. Trevor moved to authorize the Planning Commission to go forward with Phase 2 and hire Banwell Architects to do the work, 2nd by Dave. AIF.

F. Setting Tax Rates – Diane presented the board with a tax breakdown showing revenues and budget figures. As the tax increase would have been more than most would be comfortable with, she suggested using the FEMA flood funds from 2024 that were received in 2026 to help offset the increase. That amount is \$44,959.63. The board agreed. After discussion so everyone understands how the tax rate is achieved, Trevor moved to set the Homestead rate at \$1.3107 and the Non-Homestead rate at \$1.6512, 2nd by Dave. AIF Last year’s rates were Homestead \$2.7074 and Non-Homestead \$3.2329. Tax bills will be going out this week.

5. Public Comment – Karla said Holland Day is coming up on July 25. She asked for permission to set up a 20x40 tent early and to leave it up for a few days after. The board said yes.

Liz said that the Holland Historical Society is open on Friday evenings from 5-7 and this Friday, July 10 it will be Stories & Society, a chance to trade books, and to share community stories by writing down today’s history on postcards. She did ask for Stearns Brook Road to be repaired where it is washed out; stating that the road is very narrow and she has had several near misses.

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office
July 6, 2026

6. Unfinished Business – none

7. Town Clerk/Treasurer updates – After last week’s town meeting, Diane looked into whether the Stearns Brook “bridge” near Norm Fortin’s qualifies to have State Bridge inspections. According to Eric Pope (VTRANS) it does not. He did say that he and Jason Sevigny would check the structure out, but we may need to hire an engineer to make sure that it is safe. She also shared the bridge inspection reports from 2025 for the Line Farm Road bridge.

8. Select Board Update - none

9. Review of bills and signing orders

10. Executive Session - Diane reminded the board that it is time to review Kenric’s rate of pay. Trevor moved to go into executive session at 7:38. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) Diane and Kenric joined the board. Executive session with Kenric ended at 7:55, and he exited the meeting. A decision was made in regards to his hourly wage. The executive session continued in regards to other personnel matters. Exited at 8:15

11. Adjourned at 8:15

Meeting Schedule: July 20