

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office & via Zoom
August 11, 2025

Present: Select Board Members: Trevor Gray, Dave Jacobs, Hugh Flynn

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Diane Judd

Road Foreman: Adam Provost

Others: Jim Davis, Planning Commission Chair, Kenric Gonyaw, Mitch Wonson, Theresa Forbes, Chief Don Stevens (via Zoom), Ed Barber – Newport Daily Express

1. Called to order at 6:15

2. Executive session at 6:15 Contract Negotiations – Trevor, Dave, Hugh, and Diane entered executive session at 6:15; Exited this portion of executive session at 6:41.

Entered into Executive session at 6:41 with Theresa Forbes. Exited this portion at 6:56. An agreement was reached for the ensuing year for NEK Little Ones to lease space.

The Board, Diane, and Chief Stevens (via Zoom) went back into executive session at 6:58. Exited executive session at 7:30. No agreement was reached with Chief Stevens. It was agreed that \$700 rent for both July and August would be paid.

3. Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:33 by Trevor

4. Minutes – from 07/21/2025 were approved Dave/ Hugh AIF

5. Adoption/Amendments to Agenda – Trevor moved to place Public Comment before new business, 2nd by Dave, AIF.

6. Public Comment – Jim said the final report from Horizons Engineering was available. Test holes are all that is left to do. The hazard mitigation plan was returned from the State with requested revisions. He then shared information regarding Act 181 which tasks NVDA to map all Towns with potential growth areas shown.

Ed Barber asked if the new hydrologically connected segment work that is now required is causing the wash out of roads that has happened in recent years. It was explained that the new rules are to prevent wash outs: proper grading, ditching, stone lining ditches, check dams and even increased culvert size are all ways that are being implemented to have water gradually move into ditches so that it dissipates.

7. New Business –

A. Road Foreman Report – Truck 21 went to Allegiance for suspension warranty work and brake issues. The mower has hydraulic issues that Larry Morin is looking at. Adam got a price comparison of filters and fluids for the grader maintenance. The price is \$2,600. The board agreed that it is a good idea to have preventive maintenance done now. A Gore Road resident sent an email regarding dust near his home. Adam said that chloride has been applied. Trevor suggested chloride flakes for that area. Mitch commended the road crew for the good job they did with the detour while Valley Road was worked on. A discussion regarding a farmer's request to have access to his field now that Valley Road has been ditched near the field in question. The work was done as part of a grant project. Hugh will look into it.

Stearns Brook Road field access was discussed. Ditching was done several years ago. The property owner would like the Town to install culverts so they have access to the field in two locations. This is not the Town's responsibility. As J. Hutchins Inc is being sold to All States Construction, it was requested by J. Hutchins Inc that the Town acknowledge this and are agreeable to moving forward with the paving project. The Board is in agreement.

B. Tax Rate – The rate for both homestead and non-homestead has increased. Part of the reason for this is that the State of Vermont has changed the way electric utilities are assessed. As Holland is under reappraisal orders the value was multiplied by .56 (which is the Common Level of Appraisal) This means that the assessment was cut in half. The fact that the former school is also part of the Town budget makes a difference as well. Going forward, we will need to be careful of what the Cemetery's portion is. Currently they get 3.5% of the Grand List. It is expected that with the reappraisal, the Grand List will be much higher in 2026. After reviewing the information provided by Diane, Trevor moved to set the Homestead Rate at \$2.7074 and the Non-Homestead Rate at \$3.2329, 2nd by Hugh. AIF

C. Holland Unity Center

1. Facility Update – Ric said the cloud system for the heating system is done. The boiler update has also been done. He has done the table and chair inventory. The Pre-K floor has been stripped and waxed. He cleaned the small room that he's been storing supplies in as it may be used next week for the early childhood in-service. Hugh fixed the basketball hoop on the playground.

2. Sign – Diane has started talking with Memphremagog Press about a new sign that covers the old Holland School Sign.

3. Roof repair - Hugh asked his contact about roof repairs and has not heard back. Ric said there are bundles of shingles in the boiler room.

4. Keys and Codes – At this point, nobody knows how many people have keys to the Unity Center, nor how many have the access codes. The Board gave permission to change the access code. Those who need it will have to sign the new agreement form. The hope is to be able to give each person that needs a code a unique code.

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office & via Zoom
August 11, 2025

5. Fire Alarm & Monitoring – There is currently a fire alarm installed in the building. Apparently, Round Hill Fence Company does the monitoring at a cost of \$295 per year. It is believed that there are currently two phone lines in the building because of the fire alarm. As a Town owned building, there is no requirement to have a fire alarm. Diane will check with Consolidated Communications to find out if there are two lines. This may be a way to cut expenses. Ric said it also must be inspected annually – for an additional cost.

6. Control Technologies Contract – for preventive maintenance was signed. This was overlooked when the last one was signed.

Mitch stated that the Select Board had said they would re-evaluate the building use and expense at some point. He suggested a set date for review; perhaps September of 2026? The Board agreed.

D. Bridge #30 Closure – The State of Vermont had recently inspected the bridge and deemed it unsafe for travel. There was a form for the Board to sign acknowledging that the bridge had been closed. Thankfully, Eric Pope has already been working to get Holland an engineering grant to engineer the bridge and a structures grant to help pay for it. It will be closed until at least the Summer of 2026. Eric sent a draft RFP for engineering that will be worked on at the next meeting. Mitch suggested a road closed ahead sign at the junction of Twin Bridge and Tice Mill Road. He also said the plow truck may use his lower drive to turn around in. He suggested better barriers or the ATV's will continue to cross the bridge by moving the temporary type signs that are in place. He also asked that proper erosion control be used when the bridge is being replaced. Discussion of how best to block off the bridge.

8. Town Clerk/Treasurer Updates –

9. Select Board Updates – none

10. Review of bills and signing orders:

Highway:

Payroll	07/29/2025	\$3,815.03
Payroll	08/05/2025	\$2,403.85
Payroll	08/12/2025	\$2,403.86
Payroll Tax	06/30/2025	\$1,648.44
Payroll Tax	07/31/2025	\$1,993.78
Invoices	08/11/2025	\$91,691.09

General:

Payroll	07/29/2025	\$708.49
Payroll	08/05/2025	\$890.69
Payroll	08/12/2025	\$786.52
Payroll Tax	06/30/2025	\$635.62
Payroll Tax	07/31/2025	\$529.16
Invoices	08/11/2025	\$10,950.64

11. Adjourned at 8:55

Meeting Schedule: August 25