

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
Board of Selectmen
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Selectmen's Meeting
9:00 a.m. Town Office

Friday, August 28, 2026

Work Session MINUTES

Present: Chairman Bob Murray, Selectman Jenna Dancy, Selectman Steve Brinser, Interim Town Administrator Paul Sanderson, and Clerical Secretary Ashley Esposito.

CALL TO ORDER

At approximately 9:20 a.m., Chairman Murray called the work session to order.

ACTION ITEMS

Paul Sanderson discussed staffing needs, including hiring a short-term employee during the transition. Topics included compensation, health care, short-term disability insurance, and employee contributions. Chair Murray proposed maintaining current employees' benefits while establishing benefit tiers for future hires. Selectman Brinser asked about timecard procedure. Mr. Sanderson reviewed prior discussions about accurate time-clock use, and Chair Murray clarified when employees must use timecards. The Recycling Committee supports transparency, public communication, morale, and operations. Mr. Sanderson reported a productive meeting with the scale vendor and reported the scale would pay for itself. Mr. Sanderson expressed confidence in the scale vendor and proposed location, considering drainage, excavation, landfill-cap boundaries, the solar array, and truck salt. Regular maintenance will protect the scale. The 30-day cure period will allow training, public outreach, and implementation planning. Mr. Sanderson reviewed another New Hampshire town's recent trash-removal costs and their potential long-term budget and community impacts.

Chair Murray invited Jack Widmer to update the Board on the police station. Selectmen Brinser and Dancy expressed concern about unfinished work and balances. Mr. Widmer said vendor balances should reflect required corrections and must be verified. The Board discussed the construction manager's current role and discussed a proposed deadline for completion. Mr. Widmer said completing the police station would support budgeting, space planning, community service, donated services, and recruitment for the police department. Mr. Sanderson praised Mr. Widmer's financial review, saying it would support the 2026 audit and reduce audit costs. The Board discussed how to complete landscaping at the police station. The discussion turned to the highway project. Mr. Widmer requested clearer financial tracking to ensure transparency and accountability. Mr. Sanderson confirmed the proposal amount and the need for an agreed fixed-price service contract.

At approximately 10:27 a.m., Chair Murray made a motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II (b), Selectman Dancy seconded, vote 3-0, motion passed. Roll Call vote: Murray – Yes, Dancy- Yes, Brinser- Yes

At approximately 11:05 a.m., Chair Murray made a motion to exit non-public session, Selectman Dancy seconded, vote 3-0, motion passed. Roll Call vote: Murray – Yes, Dancy- Yes, Brinser- Yes.

Mr. Sanderson led his update and various discussions including how CPI is determined and applied to pay rates. The Board discussed Budget Committee staffing, including the timeline, pay rate, job description, and how best to support the committee. Selectman Brinser requested a review of Mr. Sanderson's hours, including attendance at Budget Committee meetings. Chair Murray asked about the conversation with a possible candidate. Mr. Sanderson said it went well and their assistance should speed up the process and any necessary resolution. Board distinguished oversight of total spending from operational details. Mr. Sanderson emphasized overall budget control and the need to prepare for the town budget meeting and inform the public.

Mr. Sanderson said the box culvert project will use a signed detour route with variable message signs and advance notice of the detour. Mr. Sanderson reported that in his experience generally, full closure will occur only when it is unavoidable or otherwise cost-prohibitive to use other methods.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 11:32 a.m., Selectman Dancy motioned to adjourn the meeting, Selectman Brinser seconded the motion, vote 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley N. Esposito,
Clerical Secretary