

**LITTLETON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 14, 2026  
5:00 PM at Littleton Community Center

**Attendees Present:**

Paul Lehmann, Vice Chair; Dave Harkless, Member; Ed Cherian, Member; Taylor Caswell, Member (arrived late); Chief Paul Smith; Troy Brown, Town Manager; Eric Oliver, Public Works Director; Chief Chad Miller (arrived late); Vicki Potter, Administrative Secretary; Zack Dickenson, Zack D. Video; Dan Edgar, Resident; BG Frasier, Resident; Mike Knocky, Resident; December Rust, Resident

**1. Call to Order and Opening**

Lehmann opened the Select Board meeting at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The Board addressed approval of prior meeting minutes. For Select Board meeting held on 8/24/2026, Cherian made a motion to approve them as presented. Harkless seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed 3-0. For Joint Quarterly Budget Meeting held on 8/26/2026, **they deferred approval of minutes until their next regular meeting pending full board. (Cherian was not present at this meeting and Harrington and Caswell were not present for this motion)**

**3. Municipal Infrastructure and Asset Commission Proposal**

Rust presented a proposal to explore establishing a Municipal Infrastructure and Asset Commission. The presenter stated the purpose would be to promote long-term inspection, maintenance, safety, documentation, and sustainability of the town's municipal infrastructure and physical assets, including the town office building, the current suspension bridge, the volunteer bridge, and the community pool. He noted the pool is facing an approximately \$2 million repair bill and that its water depth is currently too shallow for safe use of the diving board, which the presenter described as a liability. Rust further stated that the suspension bridge's original steel structure is approximately 87 years old, that visible rust exists on the suspension cables (though not described as deep pitted rust), and that the railing height appears low for the bicycle traffic it receives, despite being designated a foot bridge. He stated that no readily identifiable inspection records for the suspension bridge could be located, which they characterized as a liability for the town. Rust clarified, the proposed commission would not replace the Select Board or existing departments and would not perform inspections or assume operational authority. He asked the Board only to support further exploration and to direct the Town Manager, in consultation with a designated Select Board member and municipal officers, to identify potential gaps. **Harkless indicated the matter should be discussed at a future work session rather than decided without a full board present.**

#### 4. Building Code Enforcement Officer Proposal

Rust proposed exploring the establishment of a building code enforcement officer. He stated the town currently has a planning board and zoning ordinances but no enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance with the existing New Hampshire state building code or local ordinances. He also stated that, according to information from an official who oversees portions of the building process, some local contractors were not building to code because no oversight existed. Rust referenced anticipated town growth, including affordable housing efforts, a casino, and a possible high-end grocer, and cited properties such as the rail trail village and Great River Hydro as examples lacking oversight. Rust suggested exploring full-time, part-time, contracted, or regional hybrid models and noted possible office space at the fire station.

Chief Miller spoke in support of addressing occupancy permits, stating the town does not issue occupancy permits and encounters issues when buildings change use without being designed for the new use. The Chief stated that a recently built large healthcare occupancy was found not to be built to code, prompting the state to serve as building inspector for two days per week to correct the issues. The Chief further cited a large box store where gas piping to the RTUs was not done to code, and another building where gas piping done by an official in another town was not to code and had to be replaced. Chief Miller also described a waterfront property septic system disagreement over the number of bedrooms (long recorded as three but determined to be four), which affects assessing and septic sizing. The Board indicated the matter would be taken up at a future work session.

#### 5. Proclamation

Caswell read and adopted a proclamation declaring September 13 through 19, 2026, as Direct Support Professionals Appreciation Week. **Lehmann made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Harkless seconded the motion. The Board voted in favor, and the motion passed 4-0.**

#### 6. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Brown reported correspondence received from Mike Dickerman, President of the Littleton Historical Society reiterating support for storing the 1931 American LaFrance Fire Truck referred to as "Bertha" at the Opera House. The Town Manager also reported that a binder containing C-PACER program material and petitions was hand-delivered anonymously, with no identified lead or contact person and no listed primary petitioner. Brown stated that current state law requires the petitioner to be identified, that the petition appears invalid as submitted, and that a legal opinion would be sought. The Board discussed the C-PACER program (a debt product to offset costs of energy efficiency or clean power projects repaid through property tax bills) and agreed to have state representatives present on the program before considering adoption. He also reported upcoming budget meetings with remaining departments (police, highway, recreation, fire) and noted the cable franchise agreement item, which was discussed regarding potential renewal.

#### 7. Board Comments

Harkless reported plans for the "Gathering of the Jack-O'-Lanterns" event scheduled for

Halloween, coordinated with Parks, & Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission and Friends of Remich Park, expecting approximately 2,500 to 3,000 people per day and roughly 750 lit Jack-O'-Lanterns, funded through sponsorship dollars and subject to the event permit process. Town Manager Brown and Chief Miller also reported that Littleton will be entering talks to disc

#### **8. Public Comment — Roads**

A resident identifying himself as Dan Edgar, who stated he has lived on Broomstick Hill Road since 1981, inquired about the paving schedule for the paved portion of Broomstick Hill (from the corner to a residence). The Public Works Director, Oliver, responded that the road is on the department's radar, likely for next year, citing price escalations in diesel fuel and liquid asphalt (bid at \$642 per gallon in April, currently \$717 per gallon), and that the base needs repair before repaving. The discussion also addressed Manns Hill Road, the Palmer Brook crossing/Manns Hill Bridge project (grant-funded, with permitting and design pending, and construction anticipated approximately 2027–2028), and a road assessment being conducted with North Country Council.

#### **9. Public Comment — Riverwalk Public Safety Concerns**

Rust raised three public-safety concerns observed over the past couple of years along the River Walk and volunteer bridge:

- **Dogs off leash:** Rust stated dogs are frequently off-leash and in violation of a town ordinance (referenced as Chapter 3 or 5), that the animals charge toward the water access area where children play and wildlife (a fox and weasels) reside, and that he has been repeatedly approached by loose dogs.
- **Public drinking:** He stated that public drinking on the volunteer bridge has increased from one individual last year to at least four individua

#### **Adjournment:**

**Cherian made a motion to close this meeting. Harkless seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting ended at 6:17 PM.**

**Minutes recorded by Vicki Potter**