

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 6, 2026

PRESENT: Paul Hazelton, John Dunklee, Rich James, and Karen Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: John Fischer, Tony Albert (Fire Chief), Tom Franz, Kathleen and Tom Tawa, Bob and Janet Wisniewski, John Hilson, Vin Broderick, Mark Coulson, Curtis Mooney, Rich Wurtz, Maynard and Suzanne Young, Coleen Tewksbury, Don Franklin, Mark Braley, Bill Luti, and others

6:00 P.M. **COMMENCED MEETING:** Chair Hazelton opened the Public Hearing on proposed expenditures from the Fire- Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new fire truck.

Chief Albert presented to the audience the reason for recommending to the Select Board purchasing the mini-pumper fire truck at this time. Chief Albert relayed to the audience the two fire events that the Fire Department responded to where access was an issue. One was a generator fire at a home with a long driveway, and the forestry vehicle was used since it is the only truck with four-wheel drive. The forestry vehicle is not equipped to fight building fires. Luckily the fire was on the exterior of the building. The second incident was a structure fire with a child alone at the residence. The home was located on a private road in the Town of Groton, and the bridge was not safe for a fire truck to cross. Chief Albert relayed to the audience that life safety is priority on any scene and if you cannot make it to the building, the chances of saving someone are reduced. Chair Hazelton noted that the proposed vehicle does not require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to drive it. This vehicle will be able to access more properties that have limited access.

Chief Albert informed the audience that the first truck out of the building for a structure fire is the 2002 HME fire truck which holds 1,000 gallons of water. The new truck is equipped with a Darley CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System). The foam is sprayed directly into the fire and the foam surrounds the object on fire and remains on the object reducing the chances of reigniting.

Tom Franz thanked the Hebron Select Board and the Fire Department for what they do for the town. Mr. Franz informed the group that he had experience with the bid process as he worked with Homeland Security and appreciated Chief Albert for taking the time to obtain other bids. Mr. Franz felt that this was a large sum of money to expend, especially with the updated property assessments. Chair Hazelton explained that typically when property values increase as much as in the recent property assessment update, the property tax rate goes down. Chief Albert explained that the Town of Hebron plans for major purchases to lessen the burden

on the taxpayers. Chief Albert informed the audience that the Fire Department will be applying for a grant to offset some of the costs.

Bruce Kuplin asked the Board for the number of people that must be available to vote on a capital expenditure purchase. Selectman Dunklee stated that the Select Board can vote on the withdrawal of funds to purchase the fire truck. Mr. Kuplin read from RSA 35:1 At Special Meetings that requires a 3/5ths vote on capital purchases. Selectman James informed Mr. Kuplin that if the taxpayers name the Select Board as agents of a fund, then the Select Board already has the authority to withdraw the funds without approval of Town Meeting. Mr. Kuplin stated that he just wants to make sure this is a legitimate purchase by the Board. Selectman James informed Mr. Kuplin that the Board would reach out to town counsel with the original warrant article for creating this capital reserve fund. Chair Hazelton reiterated the statement that the Board will check with town counsel to ensure that the proper procedures are followed.

Bob Wisniewski stated that the taxpayers and residents have had an opportunity to address this purchase and expressed to the Board and Chief Albert that they have done a great job.

Curtis Mooney remarked that, in the past, large purchases were made through town meeting.

Chair Hazelton commented that the truck will be outfitted and there would not be a need to purchase extras for the truck to go into service as presented.

6:28 P.M. **CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING:** Chair Hazelton closed the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m.

6:28 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Chair Hazelton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair Dunklee. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator