

Town of Otis
Selectboard/ Board of Health/ MLP Board
Meeting Minutes
Conference Room, 1 North Main Rd., Otis, MA
Tuesday, Dec 09, 2025, at 6:30 PM

This meeting will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A remote option is offered via zoom with the link provided below.

Please note that while an option for remote participation is being provided as a courtesy, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Anyone with interest in any specific item should plan in person attendance. This meeting is being recorded.

Topic: Select Board

Time: Dec 9, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85663692261?pwd=hqzjmksi95aa71uVcQV5QWdNdaQC2i.1>

Meeting ID: 856 6369 2261

Passcode: 694328

Attendance: Gary Thomas, Terry Gould, Larry Southard, Brandi Page, Stacey Schultze, Denise Hardie, Steve Schultze, Larry Gould, Frank Tolopko, Rich Phair, Sue Ebitz, Sue Brofman, Diane Dyer, Deb Lewis, Fred Richards and Jason Caulfield. Zoom: John Fletcher and Lisa D'Orazio.

Call to Order: 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from Nov 25th were approved as written.

Pole Petitions: Don Voner was present on behalf of Verizon. There was discussion as to the reason for the new poles. We understand it to be that Eversource is upgrading the service and installing midspan poles. Don is not able to confirm as he does not represent Eversource. Jason Caulfield had concerns with the additional poles planned for Reservoir Road. Gary feels the upgrades do make a difference and reduces power outages. The Board decided to wait on the Reservoir Road petitions until someone from Eversource can attend. The Board moved forward with petition 1A7A7MT for Marcy Road. This is a single pole for a house going in. The Board didn't have any concerns and unanimously approved this single petition.

Revitalization Grant with Mass Development: Stacey updated the Board on the revised scope for the grant. There will be an initial site visit in which the team selects two or three properties from the downtown to further explore and create a plan for redevelopment. The Board was good with the scope and unanimously approved moving forward.

Auto License Renewals: The auto license renewals are on the table for signing. The Board did not have any questions or concerns.

Cultural Center: Brandi read the bid results from the recent round for the Belfry work. Larochelle has been approved as the lowest most responsive and responsible bidder. The base bid is over budget so OPT has agreed to provide an additional \$33,500 so the Town can accept. Brandi asked the Board to approve Larochelle's submission and award the work contingent upon the transfer from OPT. The Board unanimously approved.

BCBOHA/ PHEP Designees: The Board reviewed the request from the Berkshire County Board of Health Association for the Town to designate a main representative and back up for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness meetings. BCBOHA, operates under BRPC and receives annual grant funding to assist towns with PHEP planning. There was brief discussion on what the expectations are and the Board decided to table this.

Recent & Upcoming Events: None.

Review & Approval of Warrants: Payroll and vendor warrants are on the table for signature.

Not Anticipated by the Board: Brandi stated the grant agreement for the Master Plan update is almost ready for signature. The Board was fine and gave Brandi the authority to sign when it comes in. The Board decided not to meet on Dec 23rd. Our next meeting will be Jan 13th.

MLP Budget for CY 2026: Larry Gould, the MLP Manager, presented the anticipated operating budget for the MLP for calendar year 2026. He went line by line explaining each item and answering questions. The MLP handles the Town's Broadband and Wind operations and infrastructure. He updated the Board on the direct benefits to the Town, the current customer scenario for the Broadband and redundancy efforts. The intent is to meet quarterly in 2026.

Adjourn: 8:05 PM.