

Town of Otis
Selectboard/ Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Conference Room
1 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253
Tuesday, Feb 11, 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.

Topic: Select Board
Time: Feb 11, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89368390241?pwd=jFcvWwJO4uqb0k6IvfN9p6OspF24T8.1>
Meeting ID: 893 6839 0241
Passcode: 724572

Attendance: Gary Thomas-Chair, Larry Southard, Terry Gould, Brandi Page, Lyn O'Brien, Lisa D'Orazio, Jim Crandall, Mike Kulig, Sue Ebitz, Stacey Schultze, Sue Brofman, Diane Dyer, Kyle Shoemaker. On Zoom: Marie Brazee, Fred Sears, Carl Nett, Melissa Bye, Nick Fredsall, Frank Tolopko, Doug, Roberta's Iphone.

Call to Order: 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from 1/23/25 & 1/28/25 were approved as written.

Septic Approvals: Jim Wilusz was not able to attend this evening so he emailed the Board with his recommendations. Gary read Jim's comments aloud. Fred Sears from Hill Engineers was on Zoom for 245 D'Wolfe Drive. The design is for a Jet BAT pretreatment system. It is a small lot with 50' to the abutters well. The previous system is old and will be abandoned. The proposed system is a needed upgrade. Terry made a motion to approve the plans with the requested well testing according to Jim's recommendation. Larry seconded and it was unanimously approved. Mike Kulig from Berkshire Engineers was present on behalf of 28 Drive D. The proposed system is also a Jet BAT pretreatment system. The previous system was handmade 50 years ago. The owner's well is the closest at 60'. Larry made a motion to approve the plans with the requested well testing according to Jim's recommendation. Gary seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Proposed Regional Agreement Amendments: Gary stated that Brandi had heard back from DESE and scheduling a special town meeting was what they recommended. Jim Crandall voiced concerns about the voters that are away for the winter and won't return in time. After a brief discussion the Board agreed on Tuesday March 25th at 7:00 pm. Brandi will draft the warrant. We will check to see if the Moderator and Town Counsel are free. In response to Denise's request for the Board to take a position on the RDA amendments the Board released a statement that had been prepared. Larry read it aloud. Sue Ebitz asked the Board if they were aware of the consequences from their statement. They replied they are. Stacey outlined the choice to use the CEY as a metric resulting in the decided upon assessment method. The School Committee has an additional info session on the amendments planned.

Vocational School Choices: The Board discussed approving which area vocational schools students from Otis can choose from. Brandi stated in the time she has been here that students utilize both Westfield Tech and Smith Vocational. The Board was good with continuing with those both as the approved options. Gary made a motion to set these two schools as the official choices. Larry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Inspection Fees: The Board reviewed the proposed increases to the building and specialty inspections. Brandi stated that we are not seeing the appropriate amount of revenue from these services. The goal is to bring in money from the fees to compensate and retain knowledgeable and skilled inspectors. These increases are in line with what is current in neighboring communities and will help close the gap. Gary made a motion to approve the new fees. Terry seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Appointment of Electrical Inspector: Nick Fredsall had submitted interest in the position. He was on zoom and introduced himself. He is a certified electrician and has been an inspector in Monterey for over 20 years, Stockbridge 19 years and Richmond over a year. The Board was in favor of appointing him. Gary made a motion to appoint Nick as Electrical Inspector. Terry seconded and it passed unanimously.

Town Reports: It's that time of year again. We will be compiling the Town Report. Gary liked the idea of featuring artwork from a student at FRRSD again this year. Terry and Larry agreed. Brandi will reach out to the art teacher.

Recent and Upcoming Events: None.

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

Not Anticipated by the Board: Kris McDonough requested appointment of Jeffrey Tomaino as a part time officer. The Board reviewed his qualifications and was in agreement. Gary made a motion to appoint Jeffrey. Larry seconded and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 7:21 PM