

SELECTMEN'S MEETING— January 12, 2026

Present: Chris Ellms, Richard Bielefield, Rusty Talbot
Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Judy & Larry Sawyer, Kathy Jablonski, Brian Beaulieu, Jonah Hanowitz,
Chief Clark

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion to approve the public meeting minutes of January 5, 2026, seconded by MR. TALBOT. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence was read and acted upon.

The board received the latest U199 updates. They are continuing restoration and will be switching to a four-day work week and will not be active Friday-/Sunday.

The Board met with the Franconia and Easton Select Boards at 4:30 pm today to discuss Transfer Station and Recreation department 2026 budgets.

Jennifer notified the board that the Moderator would be appointing Tim Egan as a deputy moderator this week to assist with election duties. Election workers will be meeting with other towns in Bethlehem this week to review the election machines with a company representative.

The board will thank Senator Rochefort for his work on behalf of North Country towns.

The board signed off on Certificate of Compliancy RSA21-I:116. (DEI Contract Review) No contracts other than THE bridge have been issued and the State DOT took care of that.

The board approved a building permit for barn renovations for Henry Chaisson at 560 Route 117 Map 214, Lot 11.

The Crane Hill bridge project is moving along, and once backfilling is complete, they will shut down for the winter.

CHIEF CLARK met with the board regarding reimbursement for his time spent on the July 2017 storm. Chief Clark had asked previous boards to budget for his time, but it was not done. He stated that the board wanted him to wait for completion of the project. The amount he is requesting amounts to \$2600 a year for eight years. It was noted that in 2020 the board did pay a stipend of \$2500 to Chief Clark. The Chief presented an invoice from his consulting LLC, but the board can't pay the company, and an insurance certificate would have been required as well. Chief Clark said that payment can be made directly to him. FEMA sets aside allocated administrative funds for a percent of the total funds dispersed. To get the funds a copy of paid wage checks would have to be submitted. With the end of the project after a 75/25 split the cost is \$21,050. Since nothing has been paid the paperwork for repayment has not been submitted. There is no guarantee at this point that FEMA will pay. The board questioned if payment can be made legally for wages that far back. There was a question if that amount could be included in

the town warrant? Mr. Ellms asked that once this is settled would the Chief sign a release and Chief Clark said he would. Chief Clark noted that if the board doesn't include a warrant article, he would get a petition warrant article submitted. The board will contact Town legal counsel for an opinion on what the town can do legally.

With no more public business before the Board, MR. ELLMS made a motion to adjourn, seconded by MR. BIELEFIELD the meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday January 26, 2026, at 5:00 pm at the Crapo Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Gaudette
Town Administrator