BROWNINGTON SELECTBOARD
MARCH 25, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Marilyn Martinez, Chairman
Byron Burdick, Selectman
Mike Glodgett, Selectman
Cheryl Galipeau, Clerk/ Treasurer
Jacob Hastings, Resident & Emergency Contact
Jane Greenwood, Planning Board
Beth Barnes, Resident
Donna Hatcher, Resident

1) **CALL TO ORDER**
Marilyn Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2) **REORGANIZE BOARD (tabled from 3/11/26)**
   a. Choose Chairman- Mike Glodgett made a motion to nominate Marilyn Martinez to be Chairman to the Selectboard. Byron Burdick seconded the motion and the motion carried.
   b. Set Regular Board Meeting Schedule- A motion was made, seconded and carried to keep the meeting schedule the same, which is every 2nd & 4th Wednesday's at 5:00 PM each month
   c. Choose Town Attorney- it was decided to table this until next regular Selectboard when they have more information to make this decision.

3) **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
Under New Business add: Bids for lawn mowing, roadside mowing & mowing of the cemeteries.
Under Old Business, add: Cemeteries under Selectboard Control

4) **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- Wednesday, February 25, 2026 Select Board Meeting- Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Marilyn and the motion passed.
- Wednesday, March 11, 2026 Selectboard Meeting- Byron made a motion to approve the minutes. Marilyn seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- **Thursday, March 19, 2026 Special Selectboard Meeting –** Byron made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 19th meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

5) **REMAINING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**
   a. **Cemetery Point of Contact-** A motion was made to appoint Byron. The motion was seconded and carried. Marilyn stated that the rules stay the same as if we had a Cemetery Commissioner, except they will have the Selectboard, Town Clerk & Town Treasurer Assisting in the management of it.
   b. **1- Backup Pound Keepers-** tabled until next meeting
   c. **1- NEK Broadband Representatives-** tabled until next meeting. Marilyn will ask Bill Davis for suggestions.

DRAFT

6) **SPECIAL BUSINESS/ REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS-** Donna Hatcher- emails roadside tree trimming

Donna Hatcher stated she saw all the cutting of the trees on the West Road and have never seen trees cut that looked that bad, so she emailed Marilyn about it. Donna stated that she understands the town's responsibility to maintain the road right of way up to approximately 25 feet from the center of the road. She continued that she was so appalled at what she saw she ended up measuring it and it measured at least 30 feet in a few places. She stated that she looked at the laws and couldn't find any documentation where shade over the roads is bad and that you would have to cut quite a ways back from that road to remove the shade. Donna sent the board quite a bit of information from researching the topic and included pictures of the trees that were cut on West Road. Copies are attached. Marilyn stated that animals coming out into the roads and branches that stick into the road that would make a driver swerve into the other lane also creates problems.

Beth Barnes also expressed concern in how the trees were just "massacred" and asked if there was a way to trim the roadsides back without ripping the trees to shreds.

Jacob Hastings, landowner along West Rd, wished that he could've had the opportunity to trim the trees back himself. He was surprised at how high up they went cutting the trees. Jacob also stated he has never seen a crash caused from an animal coming out of the woods along West Road. Byron stated landowners will have the option to flag sections where they don't want the road crew to touch. It was stated the view was not obstructed as it is a straight road and was one of the most picturesque roads in town. Marilyn stated the guys will be going back to clean up branches and to cut off the sharp points. Marilyn also stated they are meeting with the District Highway and will bring this topic up for discussion. It was stated they will ask them not to be so aggressive and to measure as they are going down through.

LEMP (Local Emergency Management Plan)- Jacob Hastings stated that he will have the draft LEMP out to the board soon.

7) **REPORTS/ REQUESTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS/ BOARDS**

a) **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes** The board received and reviewed the Planning Board Minutes of March 18, 2026 Some highlights:

- Putting in a cold climate heat system in the garage
- Will do small energy upgrades that need to be done
-Solar project complete and approved
- Not moving forward with EV charger at the town office
- planning an energy fair at the school with mini-merp money- more info to come
-investigating the potential of a small trail on gravel pit site
- their next meeting April 15th at 6:30 pm

b) 2024 – 2025 Delinquent Tax Report The board received and reviewed the Delinquent Tax Report for 2024- 2025 taxes owed. Cheryl stated that $31,778.41 has come in since the start of the year. This includes interest and penalties. Cheryl stated she hopes having the ability for folks to pay by credit/ debit card will help.

8) **ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT**: Geoff Falconer not present- Mike stated:

- Better Back Roads Grant, will be beginning of July to sign the grant for Gaye Hill Rd project.
- Road complaints on Sunday, it was supposed to rain and ended up snowing instead.
- FEMA 4810DR- VT Project Completion & Certification Report
  Marilyn stated she needs a little more information and has an email out, no response yet. Hoping to get a little more money from the state.
- Pike Industries – A quote was received from Pike to pave Hunt Hill & Kittredge Rd

9) TREASURER'S REPORT

a) Checking/ sweep balance- budget status report Cheryl reported the checking/ sweep balance is at $221,770.87 after bills and payroll. The MERP checking account is at $8,698.84. The Certificate of Deposit is at $43,690.97. The board received and reviewed the budget report as presented. Cheryl stated that heating fuel and diesel might go over budget this year. Mike made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried.

b) Request to get set up to accept credit/debit cards for tax payments Cheryl stated she reached out to Passumpsic Bank about getting set up to accept electronic payments and she and Marilyn spoke to Jaqueline Porthouse. They offer 2 options: Dual Pricing & Surcharging. The latter is the most preferred for towns, which is a 3% fee for credit which is passed on to the customer and no fee for debit. There is a monthly service fee to the town of $25.00 per month. Mike made a motion to authorize Cheryl to get set up with Passumpsic Bank Merchant. The motion was seconded and carried.

10) OLD BUSINESS OR UPDATES

a. **Cemeteries –** Marilyn will forward documents to Byron that she downloaded. Byron will stop at the office sometime soon to go over things with Wayne. Marilyn stated that the Cemetery stuff will remain a separate entity.

11) NEW BUSINESS

a) Excess Weight Permits Byron made a motion to approve the excess weight permits. The motion was seconded and carried.

DRAFT

b) **Bids for mowing lawns, mowing the cemeteries, and roadside mowing** Cheryl was asked to draft notices of each for the next regular Selectman's meeting.

12) MAIL- The board received and reviewed the mail

a. **Sheriff's Report- February 2026**
b. **Planning For America@ 250 Letter**
c. **2026 Roads Roundtable- Watershed Management Orleans April 29th**

13) SELECTBOARD ORDERS/ Warrant for bills & payroll

Byron made a motion to approve the payroll dated 03/18/2026 in the amount of $3,480.37 with check #13288 through #13293. Marilyn seconded the motion and the motion carried. Byron made a motion to approve payroll dated 03/25/2026 in the amount of $2,901.85 with check #13294 through #13300. The motion was seconded and carried. Copies are attached.
Cheryl submitted the bills for payment. The Selectboard reviewed and approved to pay them. Marilyn made a motion to approve paying the bills in the amount of $6,842.02 with checks #13301 through checks #13305 and 4 direct pays. The motion was seconded and carried. A copy is attached.

14) NEXT MEETING DATES

Next Selectboard Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.
Reminder: Annual Highway Meeting: Thursday April 16, 2026 at 9:00 am with Eric Pope

15) ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Submitted by

_____

_____

Cheryl Galipeau, Board Clerk

Approved by

_____

Marilyn Martinez, Chairman

_____

Mike Glodgett

_____

Byron Burdick

DRAFT