

Town of Norwich, Vermont
Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, July 8th, 2026

Selectboard Members Present: Kimo Griggs (Chair), Brendan Classon (Vice Chair), Mary Layton, Rob Gere

Other Active Participants: Brennan Duffy (Town Manager), Jaan Laaspere, Cheryl Lindberg, John Carroll, Lily Trajman, Priscilla Vincent, Kris Clement

The meeting was called to order by Kimo Griggs @ 6:31 p.m.

1. Motion to **Approve Amended Agenda** moved by Gere, and Layton 2nd the motion regarding Item #13 (Katucki Case) being limited to discussion only as it stands. Gere (yes), Classon (no), Layton (yes), Griggs (no). Amendment of Agenda not approved.

Classon moved, and Layton 2nd the motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Gere (no), Classon (yes), Layton (yes), Griggs (yes). Approval of Agenda accepted.

Timestamp: 24:29 minutes.

2. **Chair's Report**

Griggs reported that many things had happened since the last meeting such as examining the work at Moore Lane Bridge, overseeing special meetings of the Tracy Hall Working Group, assisting with the maintenance at Girard Field and exploring the possible donation of a large equipment shed there.

Timestamp: @ 2:48 minutes

3. **Public Comments (PC) for Items not on the Agenda**

PC: Kris Clement expressed concern regarding the health and safety of workers at the Transfer Station. SB members said they were going to address the concern.

PC: Lily Trajman reminded the SB that they have until July 17 to submit any local articles to added to the November ballot.

PC: Cheryl Lindberg-Lister (Treasurer and Town member) gave an update to the SB regarding the Solar Project and the grievances schedule, as well as additional details about the progress of the project.

She also addressed the education tax rates and let the SB know that the new homestead rate was \$1.3901 cents and the non-homestead rate was \$1.529. As a comparison, the rates last year were about .10 cents higher.

Timestamp: @ 33:01 minutes.

4. Approved Minutes – June 24, 2026

Classon moved, and Gere 2nd the motion to approve the minutes for June 24, 2026, as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 41:34 minutes.

5. Committee Appointments

Recreation Council (3 seats, exp. 3-31-2027, 3-31-2028 & 3-31-2029)

Layton moved, and Gere 2nd the motion to appoint Elena Kennedy to a seat on the Recreation Council for a term expiring March 31, 2029. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 44:00 minutes.

6. Town Clerk Spending Request

Timestamp: 47:00 minutes.

Layton moved, and Gere 2nd the motion to authorize the expenditure of \$350.00 for the purchase and shipping of a new Marriage Binder, to be paid from the Restoration Fund 45. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Review of Forest Fire and Fire Prevention Statute Changes

The Town of Norwich has stated that the fire chief, Alex Northern, will also be the Fire Warden. The chief will soon appoint a deputy Warden in the case of his absence at times due to vacation, etc.

Timestamp: 47:00 minutes.

8. Tracy Hall Outdoor Faucet

Layton moved, and Classon 2nd the motion to purchase a hose reel for the Norwich Garden Women's Club. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Griggs moved, and Classon 2nd the motion to commission a plumber to explore the potential of getting an outdoor faucet or new hose bib at Tracy Hall. Gere wondered if there should be a spending limit in exploring this option. **Griggs (yes), Classon (yes), Gere (no), Layton (no). The motion did not pass.**

Timestamp: 1:01:00 hours/minutes.

9. Town Expense and Reimbursement Policy

There were some public comments regarding concern about the policies and procedures. The SB will review, get feedback, and circle back to this issue and is aiming for the first meeting in August to revisit this.

Timestamp: 1:05:45 hours/minutes.

10. Opioid Fund Uses

Layton moved, and Griggs 2nd the motion to authorize the Town Manager to distribute two payments of \$16,000.00 to Second Wind Foundation/Upper Valley Turning Point and Good Neighbors Health Clinic from the Opioid Settlement Fund 56. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 1:30:51 hours/minutes.

11. TRORC Energy Efficiency Initiative

Harry Falconer, of the TRORC, spoke at the meeting to update the SB members on the current progress of the initiative. He said he hoped to have an inventory short list within the next few months.

Timestamp: 1:40:56 hours/minutes.

12. Communications –

Proposal A should include access to all items as soon as an item is received, in pdf format and placed in a folder for the next selectboard meeting (unless a request has been made to put it in a future packet). Proposal B should include the same access but allow selectboard members and our citizens to request a notification when items are placed in the folder. Proposal C could include the same access, the potential for automatic notification and the ability to attach notes related to an item.

Classon moved, and Gere 2nd the motion to request that the Town Manager produce proposals allowing real-time access to the SB and the public simultaneously to documents that will be included in SB packets. **Motion passed unanimously.**

After some discussion about signage in Tracy Hall, Griggs moved, and Classon 2nd the motion to request the Town Manager produce a proposal for what information might be provided on signage in Tracy Hall and on our website that we can then design a solution around. The proposal will be presented back to the Selectboard by August. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 1:42:00 hours/minutes.

13. Update on Katucki Case

After a lengthy and varied discussion including the SB and the public, Classon moved, and Griggs 2nd the motion to instruct the SB chair Briggs to instruct Town Council to cease all legal action regarding all aspects of the Katucki notification of OML violation and the PRA lawsuit filed with Windsor Superior Court on the 4th of May 2026. **The Chair declared “no quorum”; Motion Failed.**

Timestamp: 2:45:35 hours/minutes.

Griggs moved, and Classon 2nd the motion to instruct the Town Council to file with the court a motion for summary judgment wherein the court disallows elements of Mr. Katucki’s May 2026 complaint of Katucki vs Town of Norwich. **The Chair declared “no quorum”; Motion Failed.**

Timestamp: 2:53:57 hours/minutes.

Griggs moved, and Classon 2nd the motion to authorize Town Council to engage with the plaintiff to seek a negotiated settlement of OML violation filed by Mr. Katucki on the 9th of April 2026. **The Chair declared “no quorum”; Motion Failed.**

Timestamp: 2:58:07

14. AP Warrants

Gere moved, and Layton 2nd the motion to approve AP warrant #1497 in the amount of \$235,961.52 to be paid from the general fund, and the AP warrant #1498 in the amount of \$4423.36 to be paid from the fire equipment fund #26, and the AP warrant #1499 in the amount of \$150,000 to be paid from the DPW Bridge fund #41, and the AP warrant #1500 in the amount of \$2552.82 to be paid from the general fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 3:14:21 hours/minutes.

15. Receipt of Correspondence

Griggs shared that he received an invitation from Ari Lattanzi from Two Rivers Regional Commission. He said he planned to attend and invited other members to also attend.

He also shared that Ari Lattanzia sent a letter thanking the SB for all that they do and making them aware of a number of resources related to grants.

John Carroll also sent a letter with his thoughts about the lawsuit against the town and how the SB might act.

Layton moved, and Gere 2nd the motion to receive the correspondence. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 3:15:00 hours/minutes.

16. Discussion of July 22, 2026, Selectboard Agenda

There will be a Public Hearing at that time. Steven True is going to provide Griggs with some verbiage to use to introduce the hearing.

Timestamp: 3:16:02 hours/minutes.

17. Adjournment

Gere moved, and Layton 2nd the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Timestamp: 9:48 p.m.

Minutes taken by *Zelda Brooks*

Next Meeting—July 22nd, 2026—Meeting at 6:30