Town of Norwich
Minutes for the Special Selectboard Meeting
Monday, October 22, 2026

Active Participants at Tracy Hall: Kimo Griggs (Selectboard Chair), Brendan Classon (Selectboard Vice Chair), Matt Swett (Selectboard Member), Mary Layton (Selectboard Member), and Cheryl Lindberg (Lister).

Active Participants on Zoom: Rob Gere (Selectboard Member), Beriah Smith (Town Legal Counsel), and Brennan Duffy (Town Manager).

Key: *Motions noted in italics*.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Griggs at 5:30pm.

YouTube Timestamp: 00:07:04

1. **Agenda**
   Timestamp: 00:08:08

   Layton moved (Classon 2nd) to approve the agenda as presented by the Chair.
   - *Vote: Unanimous*

2. **Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda**
   Timestamp: N/A

3. **Consideration of a Settlement Proposal for Great River Hydro's appeal to the Superior Court of their 2025 property tax assessment of acreage and easement value in Norwich.**
   Timestamp: 00:09:27
   Proposed Executive Session: 00:17:03
   Public Statement: 01:01:58

   Beriah Smith, Town Legal Counsel, provided further details about the case, along with Chair Griggs. Cheryl Lindberg, Lister, briefly added related information regarding the 2025 Town-wide reappraisal.

   Layton moved (Swett 2nd) that the Board find that premature public knowledge regarding communications between the Selectboard and the Town Attorney for the purposes of receiving professional legal services and discussing a proposed settlement of pending litigation known as Great River Hydro, LLC v. Town of Norwich, would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage by potentially waiving the attorney-client privilege, revealing the Town's negotiation strategy and negotiation priorities to the opposing party which would make negotiation of any

favorable settlement protecting the Town's interest substantially more difficult and place the Town at a substantial knowledge disadvantage in the litigation. Following the motion and second, a discussion occurred involving a minor change to the motion language, with Layton and Griggs withdrawing their motion and seconding.

The motion, as amended and seconded:

Layton moved (Swett 2nd) that the Board find that premature public knowledge regarding communications between the Selectboard and the Town Attorney for the purposes of receiving professional legal services and discussing a proposed settlement of pending litigation known as Great River Hydro, LLC v. Town of Norwich, would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by potentially waiving the attorney-client privilege, revealing the Town's negotiation strategy and negotiation priorities to the opposing party which would make negotiation of any favorable settlement protecting the Town's interest substantially more difficult and place the Town at a substantial knowledge disadvantage in the litigation.

- *Vote: Unanimous*

Layton moved (Swett 2nd) to enter into executive session for the purpose of receiving confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services and to consider a proposed settlement of pending litigation known as Great River Hydro, LLC v. Town of Norwich pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(E) and (F), and invite the Town Attorney, the Assistant Attorney General, the Town Manager, and Lister Cheryl Lindberg into the executive session.

- *Vote: Unanimous*

The Selectboard entered executive session at 5:40pm.

Layton moved (Swett 2nd) to enter public session.

- *Vote: Unanimous; Gere not present.*

The Selectboard entered public session at 6:25 pm.

No action was taken in the executive session.

Swett moved (Layton 2nd) to approve the settlement with changes proposed in the executive session and authorized the Chair of the Selectboard to sign the amended version on behalf of the Town.

- *Vote: Unanimous; Gere not present.*

4. Adjournment

Timestamp: 01:02:38

Swett moved (Layton 2nd) to adjourn the meeting.

- *Vote: Unanimous; Gere not present.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

Minutes taken by Steve Schlauch.

Minutes approved on November 12, 2026

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Kimo Griggs, Selectboard Chair