

Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen
Friday, February 13th, 2026, 10:00 am

Members in attendance: N. Gorski, J. D'Angelo, E. Couture

Visitors: R. Regolo, J. Sampieri, M. Nunziato, C. Larson, J. O'Sullivan, B. Sodergren, A. Behnke, K. Emerson, B. Shipman, R. Darin, E. Drain, T. Hajek, D. Offner, M. Reimers

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.
2. The board began discussion with the Library. The budget request of approx. 3% increase is primarily due to increased maintenance needs, particularly with regard to the boiler, wage increases, insurance, and increased use of digital services by the public. The question was raised as to whether services are reduced, B. Sodergren answered that they were not.

Discussion of capital needs centered on annualizing capital planning and questions around Library expansion and other municipal capital projects. The pavilion construction is being moved out 3 years to get better pricing and understanding of locations of other capital items. It was also noted that some items in capital planning would better be located in maintenance (vegetation management in particular)

3. HKYFS discussed their budget request of approx. 6% increase with the Board next. Discussion primarily centered around the use of fundraising and reserve fund to make up for increased grant uncertainty. The current plan is to use reserve funds in the current year to maintain operations and plan out other funding options.

HKYFS reported that they were one of the agencies impacted by the current federal administration's budgetary chaos.

HKYFS is looking at other grant opportunities and will also be looking and their future needs and the ability of the agency to adapt without grants from the federal government.

4. KVFC opened budget discussions noting that they had received 500 calls in the previous year. Two operational items led to a 3% increase in the request: increased

training and education costs and increased costs for water hole maintenance. All other lines were flat.

Under Capital, discussion centered around the request for a new command vehicle as well as an equipment washer. A newer request was for building maintenance, \$40,000.

Discussion also turned to the idea of a stipend for the department chief as an incentive to maintain service in the department. In the context of lower volunteer numbers and need to maintain service response times, this was noted to be a part of discussions across the region.

5. The board discussed a letter to the town's state legislators regarding the High School Renovation. The draft that was circulated prior to the meeting was not quite what the board wanted. The consensus was for the First Selectman to revise the language of the letter.
6. The board adjourned at 7:15 pm.