

**SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, SELECT BOARD'S MEETING ROOM
240 SPRINGFIELD STREET, WILBRAHAM, MA
MINUTES**

**This meeting is conducted in accordance with Mass. General Law Chapter 30(A), section 20,
and in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023.**

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Chair Michael A. Squindo, Vice Chair Marc Ducey, Clerk Susan C. Bunnell, Town Administrator Nick Breault and Administrative Assistant to the Select Board and the Town Administrator Heather Kmelius. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Chair Squindo stated the following: "As Chair of the Select Board I hereby announce the Select Board will hold an executive session for the following: Per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) to discuss strategy with respect to non-union negotiations—All non-union employees; Per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining—HWEA Unit A and Unit C Updates from Chair (HWRSD Negotiations), UPSEU Local 420, IAFF Local 1847, NEPBA Local 120; Per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property—38 King Drive, 230V Manchonis Road Extension; and I as Chair of the Select Board, declare that discussion in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or negotiating position of the Select Board; and that the Select Board will reconvene in open session.

Ducey so moved the following motion to hold an executive session for the following purposes: Per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) to discuss strategy with respect to non-union negotiations—All non-union employees; Per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining—HWEA Unit A and Unit C Updates from Chair (HWRSD Negotiations), UPSEU Local 420, IAFF Local 1847, NEPBA Local 120; Per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property—38 King Drive, 230V Manchonis Road Extension; and as Chair of the Select Board, he declares that discussion in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or negotiating position of the Select Board; and that the Select Board will reconvene in open session. Bunnell seconded the motion. Roll call vote: (Mr. Squindo - yes, Mr. Ducey, Ms. Bunnell – yes).

Following the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:13 PM.

OPEN SESSION 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT PER MGL C. 30(A), S. 20 AND CHAPTER 2 OF THE ACTS OF 2023

Chair Squindo asked all to join the Select Board in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. He then stated the following "In accordance with Mass. General Law Chapter 30(A), section 20, and in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, I announce that this meeting of the Select Board is being recorded by Wilbraham Public Access and the Select Board's Office and the "Go To Meeting" system; and ask if there is anyone present who is also recording this meeting".

Kristin Rivers of the Wilbraham Hampden Times announced recording of the meeting.

Consent Agenda Items for February 2, 2026, "W" indicates request of Waiver of Fees for Non-Profit:

LICENSING AND OTHER APPROVALS

Request for use of Public Property for Special Events: Rick's Place of Wilbraham, MA to host its annual 5k run & 1 mile walk to benefit Rick's Place

Application for License for the annual Retail Sale of Milk & Cream – The Guilty Grape, LLC, managed by Robert Ward Jr, located at 461-465 Main Street

Application for Permit to Operate an annual Food Establishment – The Guilty Grape, LLC, managed by Robert Ward Jr, located at 461-465 Main Street

Open Session Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2025

MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to approve the February 2, 2026 consent agenda as presented, contingent upon receipt and completion of all application documents, inspections and fees. Approved (3-0).

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD

7:05 pm – John Monty, Firefighter/EMT Interview

John Monty was present in person. Monty is a Granby, MA resident and serves as an AMR paramedic in the South Hadley Fire District. He is leaning into fire service for his future public safety career development. He described his most rewarding service on a call in South Hadley managing the 28 week delivery of twins. He wanted to be a police officer in his early years, and no longer wants to pursue criminal justice. If he could change, add or delete a regulation as an EMT worker, he'd like to see more improved access to medical for improved service as it seems the State/ Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is moving towards. He believes strong level communication, closed loop communication for team building, and integrity, and honesty are best characteristics for success. Monty had no questions for the Board and said thank you for the interview.

Fire Chief Andrews was present in person and recommended this candidate for hire. Monty will need Fire Academy training in June.

MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to approve the hire of John Monty as Firefighter/EMT contingent on a satisfactory background check, including CORI check, Physical Agility Test, and pre-employment physical, on a date to be determined by the Fire Chief. Approved (3-0).

REPORTS AND CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Town Administrator's Report

The Building Utilization Committee has a meeting on Wednesday at the Hampden Town Hall and plans to tour the Thornton Burgess building.

Select Board Updates

There is a Finance Committee meeting on February 4th at 6:30p.

The HWRSD Planning Committee meeting is canceled for this week. Information is needed about annual town meeting deadlines.

The HWRSD Budget Roundtable meeting is scheduled on February 26 and the legislators are invited.

Bunnell attended MMA Connect 351 meeting and shared information about her positive experience. She spoke about the event Keynote speaker, The Dignity Index, which encouraged development of communication skills.

Sen. Oliviera was awarded an MMA award.

Chair Squindo stated that the Planning Board is talking about a comprehensive plan and has a PVPC Representative engaged in conversation.

Citizens Open Forum

Mike Gallerani, resident of 451 Springfield Street inquired about the future of the Memorial School property.

OLD BUSINESS

Rooster's Chicken & Waffles – Application for Tobacco license, 2341 Boston Road

The applicant, Mr. Sayeed Khan of Khan Restaurant Group LLC dba Rooster's Chicken & Waffles filed this application that was submitted to the Advisory Board of Health for vetting.

MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell seconded for discussion purposes): Move to approve the application for a tobacco license to Khan Restaurant Group LLC dba Rooster's Chicken & Waffles located at 2341 Boston Road. Approved (2-1, Squindo opposed; Motion carries).

Finance Committee Requests of the Select Board:

- Request for the Select Board to Review Amending or Eliminating the Community Preservation Act
- Discussion of Revenue Generation by Town Departments
- PILOT Discussion

The Board reviewed CPA project lists. A proposed PILOT program discussion meeting is to be set this week. Breault is presenting the FY27 budget to the Finance Committee on February 4, 2026.

FY 2027 Budget Proposal

Breault presented the "Alt Budget 2" in the Board's e-folder. It includes the 4 new hire Firefighter/EMT positions proposed by the Chief. It also includes a 5% increase for HWRS budget. The Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust faces a 17% increase for healthcare costs, but the town will have a final answer tomorrow as to the increased healthcare cost numbers. Breault proposed the mothballing of Memorial School building. Chair Squindo spoke in opposition of this. He wants Building Utilization Committee's feedback about this property. He also spoke about the stresses of relocating all of the Parks & Recreation Department programming there. Discussion about Memorial School's future took place. The Board agreed to move forward with level funding of the Memorial School property for the purpose of Breault's budget presentation to the Finance Committee. There were some modifications to police budget line items. The Board discussed the proposed 4 Firefighter new hires. Other line items changes were reviewed.

Plastic Bag Ban Decision

A draft plastic bag use policy was shared in the Board's e-folder.

MOTION (Bunnell, Squindo): Move to, as the Board of Health, develop plastic bag residential and commercial use regulations. Approved (2-1, Ducey opposed; Motion carries).

2026 Annual Town Meeting: Review of Draft Warrant Articles

Breault stated that there is one petitioned article for public share tree article.

2025 Select Board Town Report

Bunnell asked that some information be more detailed related to her committee service including her time on the Minnechaug Regional High School Building Committee and the Capital Planning Committee.

MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to approve the 2025 Select Board Annual Report as amended. Approved (3-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer Abatements

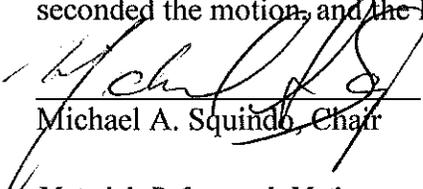
MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to approve sewer abatements for \$969.56 as presented in a memo from DPW Director Capparello dated February 2, 2026. Approved (3-0).

Police Officer Assignments for Wilbraham Town Elections in 2026

MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Per the Votes Act, Section 72, move to assign two police officers to the Town's polling place for all elections and primaries in 2026 and to designate the Police Chief as the authority to assign specific police officers according to scheduling and availability. Approved (3-0).

Board signed treasury warrants.

Having no further business, Select Board Member Ducey made a motion at 8:42 pm to adjourn, Bunnell seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn open session. **Approved (3-0).**


Michael A. Squindo, Chair

3/2/2026
Date Approved

Materials Referenced: Motions agenda 2-2-2026; "Budget FY27 020226" e-folder files; Consent agenda documents, applications and related information for Guilty Grape food permit, Guilty Grape Milk & Cream sales permit, and Run for Rick's Place application, and Open Session Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2025; Document titled "Wilbraham Spectrum-Charter Renewal License - draft 3.30.25 7.31.25"; SAPHE training information; FF Interview questions Select Board and J. Monty job application and related documents; Document titled "DRAFT Wilbraham PB Ban 013126"; Tobacco sales application and related documents for Rooster's Chicken & Waffles; Email "1.28.26 -Vote for police assigned at elections and primaries"; Sewer abatements 2.2.2026; CPA Summary Income&Projects 1.2026 excel document; draft Select Board 2025 ATR 013126; FY27 Proposed Warrant Articles; e-folder "FinComm 012826".