

**SELECT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 6:30 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 6:30 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".

No one announced recording of the meeting.

**Consent Agenda Items for February 9, 2026, "W" indicates request of Waiver of Fees for Non-Profit:**

The Chair announced the removal of meeting minutes from consent agenda tonight.

**LICENSING AND OTHER APPROVALS**

Application for a Mobile Food Truck one day permit application: D's Smokehouse BBQ LLC, managed by Dale Hardy, of Springfield, MA for temporary food service located at 2378 Boston Road on 3/28/26 from 10a-4p

Application for a one day entertainment License: St Cecilia's Knights of Columbus Council 10195 to have a fundraising dinner event located at 42 Main Street on 3/14/26 from 5p-10p "W"

Application for a Section 14 Special Alcohol Service License: St Cecilia's Knights of Columbus Council 10195 to have beer and wine at the fundraising dinner event located at 42 Main Street on 3/14/26 from 5p-10p "W"

~~Open Session Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2025~~

**MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to approve the February 9, 2026 consent agenda as presented, contingent upon receipt and completion of all application documents, inspections and fees. Approved (3-0).**

**APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD**

6:35 PM –Cable Advisory Committee and Anthony Aube, Director, WPA:

Discussion of and Request to Approve Submission of Draft Franchise Agreement

(A quorum of the Cable Advisory Committee is anticipated to be present at this meeting)

Cable Advisory Committee members Bob Tourville and Sandy Belcastro were present in person, along with Wilbraham Public Access Director Anthony Aube. Aube reviewed the past meeting on this topic. The Cable Advisory Committee has worked on a draft contract for the last four to five months with some minor edits including: page 9, section 7.5 with improvements for the Commission on Disability, page 12, section 9.4 with exhibit locations to be refined with Select Board advisory direction; page 13 changes to increase percentage for

cable service to the 5% maximum; discussion about number of years for lease with a maximum of up to ten, and page. 15; reviewed all state contracts available for reference.

Aube elaborated on the three channels and content managed by WPA. Aube, on behalf of the Cable Advisory Committee, officially asked the Board's permission to enter negotiations.

**MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to approve the Cable Franchise Agreement draft as presented and as amended. Approved (3-0).**

## **REPORTS AND CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

### Town Administrator's Report

Breault stated that there will be no Select Board meeting on Presidents Day.

### Select Board Updates

Ducey met with the Building Utilization Committee Chair Jim Rooney about the committee's proposed progress report at the Annual Town Meeting that is subject to the Moderator's approval.

Ducey reported that he has heard rumblings about Hampden's HWRSD school budget figures and would like communication to take place for the best budget development strategies.

Bunnell stated that she is attending the ERC5 Legislative Breakfast at the Ludlow Country Club tomorrow. There is no Traffic Safety Team meeting this week.

### Citizens Open Forum

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### FY 2027 Budget Proposal:

- Town Administrator to Recap the February 4 Finance Committee Meeting
- Fire Chief Andrews will discuss the FY27 Fire budget
- Select Board is Anticipated to Discuss the Budget Overall and Priorities to Advise the Finance Committee

Breault discussed his budget presentation on February 4<sup>th</sup> to the Finance Committee. He explained the changes in the numbers throughout budget development. The Finance Committee has asked for express directives from Select Board regarding this budget cycle.

Fire Chief Andrews joined the discussion in person to focus on the proposed fire budget. The "1A Staffing Request" document was referenced. The Board considered the need of the Fire Chief's ask for four new Firefighter/EMT hires. The Chief helped the Board understand the Department's increased runs of service. Financing options for the new hires were considered. Fire Commissioner Chair Ed Rigney was present in person and offered support for reducing the need and costs of mutual aid. Grant funding support was also reviewed and supported by the Board to pursue for these hires. The Board was supportive of this proposal overall but will work on the timing and financing of this plan. Squindo talked about budget number adjustments. The Chief left the meeting at 7:44pm.

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust released the health insurance cost increase of 11.2% for the next budget year.

Ducey does not want to dip into excess capacity this budget cycle. He wants to help set priorities for the Finance Committee specifically including Public Safety, DPW and the school district.

Discussion ensued about top budget priorities.

HWRSD Matters:

- Proposed Amendments to the Regional Agreement
- Responses from Hampden and the HWRSD School Committee to Facilities Merger Proposal
- FY27 Budget Proposal (also under budget discussion overall)

The HWRSD Planning Committee met last week Ducey reported. Language was changed in the draft regional agreement specific to three paragraphs. Discussion about the Wilbraham Middle School becoming a district owned property took place. These language changes can greatly impact the future of the buildings, and the CORE application and costs for a feasibility study. Legal counsel was suggested for guidance. Breault asked the Board for clarification to proceed asking if the Board is comfortable with Wilbraham financing 100% of the WMS building and its future costs. The Board agreed it is not satisfied with the amendments.

The HWRSD School Committee heard the request about the proposal of the town taking over the management of the school district building facilities. Hampden does not want to engage more in this proposal discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Reappoint Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector: Paul Morrissey

**MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to reappoint Paul Morrissey as the Animal Control Officer and the Animal Inspector for a term of May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027. Approved (3-0).**

DPW Bid Awards: Wastewater and Water Pump Station Instrumentation and Communication Service Contracts

**MOTION (Ducey, Bunnell): Move to award the Waste water Pump Station Instrumentation and Communications Service contract to Control Systems of Connecticut Inc., of Wallingford, CT for \$11,500 and to award the Water Pump Station Instrumentation and Communication Service contract to Control Systems of Connecticut Inc., of Wallingford, CT for \$11,500; and to authorize the DPW Department to issue the Notices of award and all corresponding paperwork. Approved (3-0).**

Board signed treasury warrants.

Having no further business, Select Board Member Ducey made a motion at 8:33pm to adjourn, Bunnell seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn open session. **Approved (3-0).**

  
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Michael A. Squindo, Chair

  
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Date Approved

*Materials Referenced: Motions agenda 2-9-2026; Memo dated 2-9-26 from DPW Director Capparello to Select Board re: Wastewater and Water Pump Station Instrumentation and Communication Service Contracts; e-folder contents "HWRSD 020926"; Knights of Columbus entertainment and Sec. 14 applications and related documents, D's Smokehouse BBQ LLC application for a one day food truck application; Draft document titled "Wilbraham Spectrum-Charter Renewal License - draft 3.30.25 7.31.25"; e-folder contents "Budget 020926".*