

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman McCartin called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Select Board Members Present: Shirley McCartin and Jeremy Hair. Chuck Sackett arrived late.

Staff/Officials Present: Town Administrator – Austin Albro, Deputy Tax Collector – Karen Youngman, Fire Chief – Arthur Heath, Police Chief – John Semertgakis, Treasurer – Sheila Foote

Public Present: Kevin Pierce, Jeff Tompkins, Donna Campbell, Wanda Adams, Marlene Wright, Lucinda Hope, Charlie Chandler, Lisa Mantz, Justin Monninger, Maggie Carr, Barb Langdon, Chanda Cunningham, Spencer Cunningham, Richard Case, Debra Case, Isley Mercier, Tom Babbit, Jazz Click, Karen Ganz, Kathy Archibald, and others.

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST: *S. McCartin moved to approve the July 23, 2025 manifest as presented. J. Hair seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes, Hair – yes, and the motion passed 2-0-0.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *J. Hair moved to approve the July 9, 2025 minutes as written. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes, Hair – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 2-0-0.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Plymouth Fire and Rescue Chief Kevin Pierce expressed his condolences to the community following the loss of the EMS service and provided an update of the events between July 9 and the current day. Chief Pierce applauded the leadership of Warren Fire Department Chief Heath, highlighting his efforts to improve his department's skills, including a recent CPR training and upcoming EMR training. Chief Pierce offered an overview of Plymouth Fire and Rescue, touting the competence and professionalism of the department and his responders. Chief Pierce opened up the floor for questions.

Lisa Mantz asked whether the EMR training would be open to the public. Chief Pierce responded that it was a local decision for Chief Heath and the Selectboard, highlighting the importance of local control.

Richard Case asked whether Plymouth would need more equipment or personnel to accommodate service to the towns of Warren and Wentworth. Chief Pierce responded that Plymouth was currently able to provide coverage and is calling in additional staff

when necessary. He further explained that Plymouth is actively working to take control of and staff the station in Rumney in the future.

Jazz Click asked for clarification on Chief Pierce's use of the term "career department." Chief Pierce explained that Plymouth was a full-time department staffed with professional firefighter EMTs.

Karen Ganz asked about future plans and the possibility of restoring service in town. Chief Pierce responded that it was unlikely a service would be restored in Warren or Wentworth, but expressed that a more realistic possibility was closer to the Wentworth/Rumney line. In a follow-up question, Karen asked whether there was any help residents could provide regarding contact with locally elected officials. Chief Pierce expressed that he anticipated a time in the future when that would be requested.

Tom Babbit asked for an overview of the financial relationship between the town and Plymouth Fire. Chief Pierce offered an overview of the financial operation of Plymouth Fire and Rescue. He noted that the cost to run the department was \$2,000,000 and that this amount was raised by the Plymouth taxpayers each year. Chief Pierce explained that Plymouth bills each town a fixed fee per call (\$1,500 for Warren and Wentworth), and that money recovered through billing and insurance is returned quarterly to the respective town. According to Chief Pierce, Warren had 106 medical calls last year.

Donna Campbell asked whether insurance companies pay Plymouth Fire and Rescue or the patient. Chief Pierce, impressed with the specificity of the question, explained that it varies by insurance company. Chief Pierce explained that Plymouth uses a third-party billing company.

Lisa Mantz asked if there was any information about the Grafton County ambulance project. The Administrator explained that he met with the consultants hired by the County earlier in the day and that they were traveling from town to town to gather information and put together a comprehensive picture of the current landscape of ambulance providers in Grafton County and opportunities to support the town. Both the Administrator and Chief Pierce confirmed that the County was not, at this time, exploring the creation of an ambulance service.

Donna Campbell asked how the Town and Plymouth will verify quarterly call volumes. Chief Heath indicated that he would work with the Town Administrator to accomplish this.

Chief Pierce explained that Woodsville is covering Benton, including the Glenclyff Home for the Elderly.

Justin Monninger expressed that the website and ambulance page for Warren

Wentworth Ambulance was shut down.

Richard Case asked whether the Town can seek reimbursement for funds paid to Warren Wentworth Ambulance Service. The Administrator explained that the Town made quarterly payments and paid for service through July 31, 2025. The Administrator explained that the difference between funds paid and service received was just shy of \$20,000 and that the Town was exploring options for reimbursement of taxpayer dollars.

Lisa Mantz asked what happened to the equipment. The Administrator explained that he understood some equipment could be sold at market value to surrounding communities.

Karen Youngman asked what will happen to the food pantry. The Administrator explained that the Board was actively looking for options and that he hoped to brainstorm potential solutions with the audience later in the meeting.

Lisa Mantz inquired about the possibility of receiving a notice when meeting minutes were available. The Administrator explained that the functionality exists within the current website and he hoped to have it active before the end of the year. The Administrator also explained that he was working to create an emphasis on the importance of volunteerism and to expect additional changes to the site in hopes of inspiring residents to get involved.

Chief Kevin Pierce was thanked by many for his willingness to attend and assist the community.

TREASURER:

Treasurer Sheila Foote was present at the meeting and provided a report to the Board for review.

The Town of Warren Operating Account balance is \$827,172.24 after tonight's approved manifest of \$184,679.19 of which approximately \$141,000 represents the monthly school payment.

The Town of Warren Town Clerk Account balance is \$3,500.00.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$419,805.48.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Manager George Russell was not present but submitted a written report. He cleaned up after Old Home Day, helped John put up two street signs, and assisted with the decking on the Breezy Point Bridge. G. Russell reported having the Buildings and Grounds truck towed to CMR to have the shifter repaired. G. Russell informed the

Board that, due to an injury, he continues to use Stephen Albro to help with mowing and will be cutting back, only mowing select areas as needed.

At the Transfer Station, G. Russell reported that the scrap metal has been shipped out and thanked John for helping. One bale of cardboard was produced, and a bale of plastic is in production.

ROAD AGENT:

Road Agent John Corso was not present but submitted a written report. J. Corso reported that paving is scheduled for tomorrow, July 24, and that the shoulder work will be completed shortly after paving. The redecking of Breezy Point Bridge is underway and should be completed by Tuesday. J. Corso indicated that he is still waiting on the final quote for the truck and that he will follow up. J. Corso listed upcoming projects to include: roadside mowing starting on August 4 for one week, Swain Hill gravel work, Gould Hill and Beech Hill ditch work, and culvert clean-ups.

FIRE CHIEF:

Fire Chief Arthur Heath shared recent department activity, including a report of trees on the wires on Route 25. Chief Heath explained the current medical call response structure within the fire department and commended his team for their willingness to respond.

POLICE CHIEF:

Chief Semertgakis was present at the meeting and provided a report of recent activity to the Board. Suspicious person, Route 25: released from House of Corrections, offered a courtesy ride to Whole Village in Plymouth. Trespass issue, Scenic View Laundry: report of person asked to no longer visit. Old Home Day: OHRV rollover and fireworks complaint. OHRV complaint, Moses Road: report of past-tense OHRV use in the river. OHRV accident, County Road: rollover accident with injury, transported to Speare.

Chief Semertgakis informed the Board that he planned to take the upcoming EMR course and would be responding to emergency medical calls when available.

19 Stops, 2 Citations.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Town Administrator Austin Albro indicated that the majority of his recent activity would be covered throughout the remainder of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The Board reviewed and approved an Intent to Cut for property identified on Town Tax Map 237 as Lot 001 and Tax Map 238 as Lots 003 and 004, owned by John King and to be logged by Josh King.
- b) The Board informed the audience that they were actively pursuing alternative

locations to house the Warren Wentworth Food Pantry, currently located in the Warren Wentworth Ambulance Service building, and issued a call to the public for ideas. The Board noted the importance of trying to keep the Food Pantry in the community and expressed their awareness that it is a vital resource to the residents of Warren, Wentworth, and neighboring communities.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) The Administrator confirmed with the Board of Selectmen that their desire was to pursue funding for Fish Hatchery Road Bridge through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) rather than the State's Red List bridge fund. The Administrator and Board highlighted the benefits of the FLAP funding, noting that this fund would cover 100% of the project as opposed to the State funding, which would cover 80%. The Board acknowledged that FLAP was a competitive grant program and expressed their commitment to apply for the funding, hoping to save the taxpayers between \$340,000 and \$400,000, if successful.
- b) The Administrator confirmed that the Demolition Support Scope of Work was approved and the State's contractor, Weston and Sampson, would be on-site to begin work. The Administrator shared the most recent timeline. Demolition design will begin in July and is scheduled to last between 8 and 10 weeks. Site restoration and stabilization analysis will begin in July and is scheduled to last between 12 and 16 weeks. Demolition bidding and oversight are currently expected to begin in September and be complete by December.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) The Board reviewed recent correspondence, including a notice from BTLA relating to the Town's recent land use change tax case, resident concerns about the shoulder and erosion on Beech Hill Road, and resident concerns related to the Old Home Day fireworks.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

S. McCartin moved to enter into nonpublic session, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Vote: McCartin – yes, Hair – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board entered into nonpublic session at 6:21 P.M.


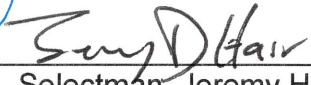
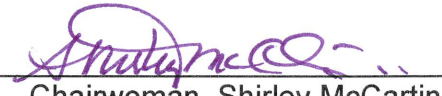
S. McCartin moved to exit nonpublic session and return to public session at 6:33 P.M. The motion was seconded by J. Hair. Vote: McCartin – yes, Hair – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.

C. Sackett moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session for 40 years, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, III, as it was determined that the divulgence of the information discussed would likely adversely affect the reputation of an individual other than a member of the Board. Given the unique dynamics of a small-town community, where information can quickly become personal and impactful, the Board affirmed that long-

term confidentiality is essential to preserving the privacy, dignity, and reputation of the individual involved. The motion was seconded by S. McCartin. Vote: McCartin – yes, Hair – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.

ADJOURN:

S. McCartin moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Vote: McCartin – yes, Hair – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board adjourned at 6:35 PM.

		
Selectman, Chuck Sackett Jr.	Selectman, Jeremy Hair	Chairwoman, Shirley McCartin