

Town of Greenville Select Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, 6:30 pm, Greenville Town Hall Meeting Room

Minutes for Meeting of the Select Board

Board members/Staff present at meeting:

 X Selectman Geno Murray (Chair) X Selectman Bonnie DuBien X Police Chief Jim Carr
 Selectman Newton Pierce (Vice-Chair) Selectman Burt Whitman X Fire Chief Sawyer Murray
 X Selectman Richard Peat X Town Manager Mike Roy X Town Clerk Tammy Firman

Others: John Contreni, Heidi St. Jean, Eric Nelson

Via Zoom: Kelly Kenneson

6:30 pm Meeting opened by Chair Geno Murray

1. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

3. Opening of Meeting & Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: The Chair asked all members of the Select Board to review the meeting agenda and to declare any potential conflicts of interest which members may have with any of the items listed. None were noted.

4. Minutes from July 16th, 2025

A motion was made by Richard, seconded by Burt to approve the minutes of July 2nd, 2025 as written. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Mike Roy requested one addition that would become item 5a. Sawyer Murray, fire chief, would like to discuss a fundraising opportunity.

5a. Sawyer Murray – Fundraising Opportunity for Fire Department

Chief Murray shared that the last time the fire department had a fund drive was during COVID when the fireworks were up at the airport. When the chief at that time requested permission to do this, he was given a one-time allowance for the fund drive. Chief Murray states that they would fundraise for a specific purpose. In the past, their Association has raised money for a snowmobile trailer, snow ambulance, ice water rescue suits, etc. The efforts of the Association help to keep the costs down. Bonnie and Richard both voiced their support for this endeavor. Perhaps it could be done sometime during fly-in weekend. Chairman Geno Murray suggested that the vote on this be postponed until all Selectmen were present and could weigh in. Mike Roy will add this to an upcoming agenda for discussion.

Chief Murray also shared that they continue to have issues with limited volunteers available to help with community efforts such as chimney cleaning. At some point, they may have to discontinue this service to the community as there are simply not enough volunteers.

6. Chief Jim Carr – Police Report

Chief Carr began his report by noting that it has been a busy summer for his department with lots of people in town. He shared that they have had 294 calls since June 1st, 2025. Many of these are mental health calls which can take hours to resolve. It takes significantly more time if someone has to be transported to Dover. There are many types of calls for which they respond including: PI accidents, ATV accidents, juvenile issues, property checks, motor vehicle accidents, thefts, a few OUIs, a few mental health issues, text scams and noise problems. Often there are large groups in town who are loud and cause excessive noise. In addition, people drop off items they have found from all around the lake and it takes time to track down the owners. They also respond to agency assist requests such as a recent chase from another area.

There are often ATV complaints. The department received a grant to help with ATV enforcement in the amount \$5000. These funds were used to add shifts to assist with ATV enforcement. Sometimes ATV riders are out late because their trips took longer than anticipated. Complaints occasionally come from the East Road and Lily Bay Road. They have checked 579 ATVs this year. Eric and Dawn Holbrook donated ice-cream cards which were distributed by the PD. There have been 9 complaints, 6 were from the same person regarding the same area.

The police body cams are working well. Chief Carr was on the phone with Motorola to get upgraded batteries. He is going to get the cameras upgraded with new batteries. They presently have the 300 series of cameras and will be upgraded to the 700 series. The cameras work well and provide good videos. There is still a learning curve for downloading the video. It is slow and we have to call the company for assistance at times. The insurance industry as well as defense attorneys are all pushing for body cams to be used.

Someone is scheduled at the front desk of the PD for most days which is working well. The chief is keeping a log and it works well. A trial was done during the summer months to see what this costs and what the value would be. We will think about this next budget season.

Geno asked about staffing. Chief Carr responded that staffing is adequate now. Josh Guay (school resource officer) works fulltime for the town in the summers.

Richard asked about the jail situation. At this time, while the Piscataquis County Jail cannot take additional prisoners, they must be transported to Somerset or Penobscot. They may even have to go to Hancock County. The problem is the Piscataquis County Jail did not pass their inspection. They will be re-inspected on Friday and we expect that all issues will have been resolved.

We are working on getting a new bail commissioner. Geno says that the importance of a local PD must be stressed. Chief Carr says that training and equipment is important to a good department.

7. Manager's Report

Pedestrian signs have been placed in major crosswalks. They have received positive comments. We obtained these in lieu of the speed tables which we decided against due to the problems with noise.

The Northern Forest Center lot on Spruce Street has been cut. Most of the trees have been removed. It is a nice piece of property. An RFP will go out for the water, sewer and new street. These will be due back on August 26th, 2025 by 1:00 pm. A non-mandatory meeting for contractors will be held tomorrow.

We were not successful with the grant moving forward. Senator King's office felt that we didn't make the cut. Chief Sawyer Murray and I then applied for a Gloria McKenzie grant. We had to submit an application indicating interest then wait for a response inviting us to apply. We have officially applied and have made it to the final round of approval. We're waiting to hear from them regarding whether or not we will receive the award.

The grand opening of the Red Cross Beach will be on August 15th at 11:30 am. The rain date will be August 16th at the same time. The garage is coming along nicely. Signs are being put up and a structure to hide the port-a-potties will be ready.

Regarding the ice rink, we have received and reviewed two estimates. The contract was awarded to Cameron Paving for the crack repair then 1 ½ inches of asphalt over that.

News from the Code Enforcement Officer – has received three single-family home applications in the last month and is working on 12.

We continue to work on the FEMA RFP for the roads that were damaged in the 12-18-2023 storm. We had a conference call week before last as we did not want to move forward until reimbursed for the work that has been done so far. We had to ask for a time extension which was approved. We are about halfway through the RFP which is tedious as we have to have GPS coordinates rather than linear measurements.

The warming hut at the ice rink has been taken down and disposed. The ramps were deemed unsafe by the MMA and have been removed.

Tammy sent 83 liens to the Registry of Deeds last week for the 2025 tax year. This is up 11 from last year.

We have received a few thank you notes from non-profits who received funding from the Town. (copies attached)

Regarding fireworks – I reached out to Central Maine Pyrotechnics the day after our last select board meeting to reserve the date for next year's July 4th fireworks at a cost of \$12,500. I did not hear back so I reached back out yesterday and was told that the minimum is now \$15,000. I later received an email from the owner that they will honor the \$12,500. We are now locked in for July 4th at a cost of \$12,500.

We received a check from JR Vinagro in the amount \$14,386. We have previously received \$11,256 in November of 2024. All of those funds are earmarked for the airport. This is a great opportunity for the Town.

The brush at the Transfer station will be hauled away and chipped on Monday.

We put out an RFP over a year ago for maintenance and staining of the boardwalk. Someone has just submitted a bid. The money to pay for this came from the sale of the strip of property that Hammond Lumber bought from the Town that is directly behind the Town Office. We received \$11,412.50 for that property. The bid for the boardwalk is \$11,610. IT will be done after the fly-in. Geno suggests that this be voted upon at the next meeting when all selectmen are present.

We find that we need cameras for the wharf, Transfer Station and Red Cross Beach. They would be powered by solar panels and would run off the cell towers. They use a lot of data. The town has three cell phones with a very old plan that allows for 8 gigs to be divided by the 3 phones. We never use all of this, but the cameras will use significantly more. Beth is looking into this and getting prices.

Week before last, we received a call from the Junction Wharf restroom custodian. The restrooms had been vandalized with feces spread on the walls, a water pipe was broken, a sink was broken and a toilet was plugged so much that it could not be plunged clear. The officer on duty took a look. The person who reported the vandalism to Mike said there were witnesses. This information was given to Josh Guay. The restroom was opened back up the next day. The restrooms are now closed and locked at 7 pm. Vandalism also occurred the next night including broken glass and trash strewn all over the beach. Police Chief Carr followed up and tried to track down the offenders. No one would talk. Some of the problems were occurring because the 9 pm lock-up was not happening. This occurred during two nights of the vandalism. Chief Carr went down and watched over the area. At 7 pm, there were still people coming and going. He believes that the 7 pm closure will alleviate many of the problems. In the past, we've had trouble with fish guts being strewn about the wharf area. It's not illegal, but people recreate and swim down there. The wharf is used a great deal. Most users are respectful and have a great time. We don't want the actions of a few kids to ruin things for everyone. We have not had any issues at the Red Cross Beach. We're hopeful that a police presence will deter mischief. We do not yet know the cost of the vandalism as we have not yet received a bill from the plumber.

The Greenville Airport was granted an AWOS from the state. In order to install it, we must have a area cleared of obstacles 500 feet in radius. This will be located on the southeast corner adjacent to runway #3. We will need to remove some trees. In order to do this, we will need to have the area surveyed in order that we not encroach on someone else's property. A property abutter plans to remove some trees from his property in order to construct hangars so he has agreed to split the cost of the survey with us. Richard asked if there was any value to the trees that needed to be removed from the town's land. Perhaps we could use that to recoup some of the costs. Mike thinks that they are mostly softwood. He will look into whether they could be chipped and sold.

The surveying for the AWOS should start this week. The RFP for the trees will go out for a late fall removal. Geno shared that the AWOS system is used by Life Flight. It is imperative that they have access to that. Our current AWOS unit is older and keeps going out. A new one is definitely needed.

The Fly-In is quickly approaching. There are safety concerns for the Katahdin parking lot. There are vendors and people milling about. For safety, we have decided to shut down half of the parking lot. There will be a lane open for emergency vehicles and the handicapped to use. All of the crafter spaces have been reserved. There are 15 on the waiting list. The Kiwanis will be moving their food sales to that area. Mike would like permission from the Selectmen to use an outlet at the parking lot for two days. They are a non-profit who does a lot for people. It was agreed consensus that the Kiwanis could use the outlet for two days.

Richard asked if there was any update on the construction at Spruce Street. Mike said that he does not have any additional information at this time.

8. Public Comment

Heidi St. Jean asked to discuss the communication between fire/police chiefs and the newspaper. She posts information online to help divert traffic in emergency situations. She would like to know what the best way to receive communication regarding emergency-type events once things calm down. Geno says that he is aware that there are protocols which must be followed. Chief Carr stated that some towns have a designated person to provide information to the press and to the public. Chief Carr and Chief Murray both say that Heidi may text them and they will respond when they are able. She does not have a scanner. She understands that some things are confidential and cannot be released. Heidi ways that she doesn't want to interrupt but that she does get questions as the local press.

9. Other Business

None

10. What's on your mind?

Bonnie would like to address the concerns expressed at the last meeting about ATVs. The ATVs are good for the town's businesses but should not be at the expense of residents. We were told that the trail was temporary and was never meant to be a permanent trail. We need to find a solution that works for both the ATVs and the homeowners. Geno says that we will continue to have issues with the ATVs. We will need to research and find a solution that works well for both parties.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Richard to adjourn at 7:36 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Tammy B. Firman
Town Clerk/Secretary to Select Board