

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Town Offices

Selectboard: Chair, John Roleau (via Zoom), Vice Chair, Marie Jewett, Mike Audy, Chris Bataille and Bruce Many
Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Visitors: John Peters, Patty Lewis, David Lewis, Marianne Eaton, Kim Callahan, Polly Darnell, Deborah Young, Karen Catrone, Betsy Taylor, Denny May, Mary Pratt, Leanne Gund

** John Roleau joined via zoom, Vice Chair, Maire Jewett ran the meeting. Introductions were made around the room for everyone's benefit.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. Patty Lewis: Resolution to Condemn Surveillance and Enforcement

Practices of Federal Immigration Agencies: Patty began by saying how grateful she is for the Selectboard for the work they do, and she appreciates their time. She chose this topic to support limiting ICE surveillance and the tactics they are using across the country while seeking undocumented farm workers. Patty told the board about her personal history as a nurse practitioner through the Open-Door Clinic; she has worked with migrant families since moving to Vermont 15 years ago. She grew up on a farm and knows the importance of farm safety. For farm workers there is constant fear of deportation, they know they are here illegally, but right now the Federal Government doesn't offer a visa that allows them to stay for extended periods of time. Patty played an audio recording of a farmer who lives in Addison County who asked to remain anonymous. His voice tells the story of his first hiring migrant workers, because his regular farm help was aging and they could no longer do the work. He said the migrant workers were wonderful, even with the language barrier, the work got done. Until one night he came home to find them gone and taken to a facility in St. Albans. He said the work on the farm came to a halt.

Through the Vermont Humanities Council the New Haven Neighbors group hosted a Migrant Day in 2021 on the Village Green, and fun was had by all. New Haven set the standard; there were articles in the Addy Indy and Seven Days.

Patty said many towns across Vermont are looking at this Resolution, she acknowledges it is not a binding resolution. John Peters, Betsy Taylor and Deborah Young all support the resolution, and appreciate the Selectboard considering it.

Chris Bataille said he too feels strongly about this, his concern is having the Selectboard sign this with 1400+ residents in town, that they are making a decision that not everyone else in town may agree on. He went on to say the Selectboards job is to run the nuts and bolts of the town, any many could find this offensive. He has been in law enforcement for 18 years, he said to him this resolution would be better served to our senators, representatives and legislature to act on. Chris went on to say he agrees some of the tactics being used by ICE are disturbing, and it is what the media is showing us. He feels the Selectboard needs to be inclusive and by taking sides in a political argument is not inclusive. If someone comes to the next Board meeting and wants them to sign a resolution in support of ICE, he said the board shouldn't sign that either. John Roleau said he agrees with Chris that it should not be up the selectboard to make this decision. He asked if the board signed it, does anyone in the room feel it would actually stop ICE?

Marie Jewett offered an idea, for Patty Lewis to bring the Resolution up at Town Meeting under non-binding business. Everyone agreed with this idea.

UPDATES ON:

1. Roads given by Road Commissioner, Bruce Many:

- The crew has started thawing some culverts
- They are doing ditching along Hunt Road and Cobble Road.

2. Town Buildings and Land:

- Town Hall Grease Trap & Pipe replacement to be replaced by Dundons on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Estimated cost of \$4,168. Chris Dundon wanted the Board to know that the double sinks are too big for the grease trap, that the grease trap should have been larger to accommodate the sinks. If he were to change the size it would entail digging into the concrete and be very costly. He also recommended not putting a new trap outside the building, because it can lead to problems.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Mike Audy made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 2/7/26, in the amount of \$8,654.44, seconded by Chris Bataille. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau)
2. Bruce Many made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 2/14/26, in the amount of \$5,432.86, seconded by Mike Audy. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau)

- 3. Marie Jewett made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 2/17/26, in the amount of \$44,520.01, seconded by Chris Bataille. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau)
- 4. **Brookfield Service Contract:** Mike Audy made a motion to approve Plan #1, once a year major service for the Kohler mobile generator for \$470. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau)
- 5. **Development Review Board letter of resignation:** Marie Jewett made a motion; to accept with regret the letter of resignation from Carol Charbonneau from the DRB effective immediately. Motion seconded by Chris Bataille. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Roleau)
- 6. Mike Audy made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/3/26, seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call: 3 yes / 2 abstentions (Bataille / Jewett)

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. **Preparation for Town Meeting**
- 2. **March Meeting Schedule:** Organizational / Special Meeting on March 10 and Special Meeting on March 24, 2026.

Adjourn: 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

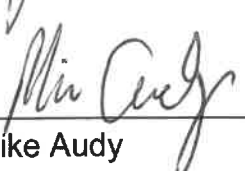
Approved on 3-10-26



Chair, John Roleau



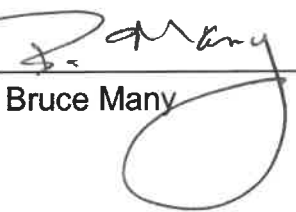
Vice Chair, Marie Jewett



Mike Audy



Chris Bataille



Bruce Many

