

Town of Otis
Select Board/ Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Conference Room, 1 North Main Rd., Otis, MA
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:30 PM

This meeting will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A remote option is offered via zoom with the link provided below.

Please note that while an option for remote participation is being provided as a courtesy, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Anyone with interest in any specific item should plan in person attendance. This meeting is being recorded.

Topic: Select Board

Time: May 12, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118767461?pwd=q1GnblvFdXMzUD277D870CngTa58w1.1>

Meeting ID: 811 1876 7461

Passcode: 875247

Attendance: Gary Thomas, Larry Southard, Terry Gould, Brandi Page, Lisa D’Orazio, B.J. O’Brien, Stacey Schultze, Ross Knowles, Rick Phair, Chris Bouchard and Vinnie Crowe. On Zoom: Michael and Jose Jaime.

Call to Order: 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from Apr 16th were approved as written. The minutes from April 28th were approved as amended.

Pole Petitions: Stebbins Road 22822065 Jose Jaime was present on behalf of this petition. This was a single pole. The Board didn’t have any concerns and there were no questions from abutters. Terry made a motion to approve and Larry seconded. Motion passed, vote 3-0. **West Center Road 24155364** This petition included mid-span pole additions and replacement of old poles as part of upgrades to 3 phase wires. The Board didn’t have any concerns and there were no questions from abutters. Terry made a motion to approve and Larry seconded. Motion passed, vote 3-0. Jose said feel free to reach out if we have any further questions.

Appointments: Planning had submitted two interested parties for spots on the MP steering Committee. Terry made a motion to table this until after the election to give the newly elected person an opportunity to weigh in. Larry seconded and the motion passed, vote 3-0.

Per Diem Status: The Board discussed with Rick and Chris their request to make one of the per diem EMT’s full time. We currently have four full time and have not budgeted for a fifth. They explained this person covers the overnight shifts that are hard to fill and they want to keep scheduling them for 40+ hours. They are worried if the hours are cut back we may lose them all together. Terry asked if the hours had been reduced weeks ago when we brought it their attention this person was working beyond what is acceptable for per diem status. They replied no as of right now they had not reduced the hours. There was discussion on the budget and clarification on how

we will have to build coverage over the next few years. The Town cannot afford to fully staff 24/7 yet. It was agreed to reduce the hours and schedule a meeting in early June to have an in depth discussion. Everyone agreed setting aside time regularly to meet would strengthen communication.

Public Hearing for layout out of a section of Reservoir Road for the culvert project: Brandi stated this is the exact same plan as previously presented. There have been no changes. When we presented the first time we did not secure all the necessary easement within 120 days. We are now finalizing those and are presenting again to restart the clock. There were no questions or concerns.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: The Board reviewed the articles and Brandi asked if there were any questions or concerns ahead of Town Meeting. Terry stated she had seen some comments about the highway truck or cruiser purchase. She wanted to clarify that these purchases are approved as part of a larger capital improvement plan. Larry commented that he has been asked where the Board stands on the library project. He wonders if they should discuss and be prepared to make a statement. Terry agrees people are looking to them to weigh in. She wants to state for the record she has never said she doesn't support the Library. She has always been clear that she feels fiscal responsibility is important. Their job is to implement the will of the voters with careful financial oversight. Her concern is the financial burden of this project along with the impact of the recent RDA changes and the cost to provide and maintain public safety services. She takes issue with the large amount of misinformation as this project has progressed and lack of compromise on the part of the Library grant applicants. Larry stated he is also concerned about the financial impact. He absolutely supports the Library but does not support this project at this time. He is disappointed the group wasn't open to some of the other ideas that could have been explored. He feels this is the wrong project at the wrong time. Terry stated she feels this is a "want" not a need for the Town. She voiced that we have some needs coming down the road, one of which is a highway garage. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars of highway assets that need to be protected. If people are willing to pay for the "want" they need to be willing to pay for the needs that will follow, you will have to absorb both. Concerns were raised about the State and Federal financial pictures in the next couple years and how greatly it will impact towns. Denise Hardie asked Gary what his thoughts are. Gary replied that he feels the Board has done everything that has been asked of them and that now it's up to the voters.

Recent & Upcoming Events: Town meeting is next week at the School. Lyn will be pushing out parking information. The election is the 26th at Town Hall in the gymnasium. Otis Celebration Day is planned for June 13th.

Review & Approval of Warrants: Payroll and vendor warrants are on the table for signature.

Not Anticipated by the Board: Concerned residents brought up the condition of the property on West Center road.

Adjourn: At 7:53 PM.