



# Town of Thetford Vermont

3910 Vermont Route 113 · P.O. Box 126 · Thetford Center, VT 05075  
802-785-2922 · Thetfordvt.gov

**Selectboard Regular Meeting \*Draft\* Agenda**  
**Thetford Town Offices**  
**(w/Virtual Attendance Option)**  
Monday, January 26, 2026 7:00 PM

To connect to Zoom via computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88354391166>

To connect via phone only: +1 (646) 558 8656 | Meeting ID: 883 5439 1166

7:00 PM – Call to Order

1. Agenda review
2. Notes from the Selectboard Chair
3. Town Manager report
  - Budget Summary Review
4. Committee and commission reports
5. Public comment
6. Update on Timothy Frost building ideas
7. Discussion of dividing article 3 into separate articles
8. Selection of 2025 Civic Pride Award winner
9. Warrants and minutes
10. Adjourn

# Timothy Frost Building Renovation

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**Next Steps**



# What we need from the Selectboard today

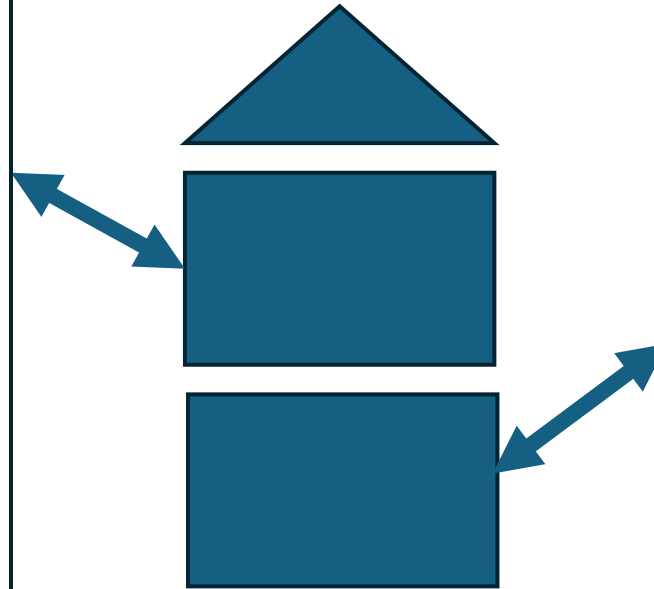
- Support the direction the Friends of the Frost Building are proposing
- Endorse the concepts of a Social Service Center and multi-purpose Community Gathering Space.
- Authorize expenditure for architectural and engineering Schematic Design Documents from the existing Timothy Frost Fund.

# Frost Community & Social Services Center

## UPPER FLOOR

Informal, open, versatile gathering space for town, public and private events:

- Performance & Dance Space with Stage
- Art Shows
- Work Space
- Local Food & Craft Sales
- Meetings
- Restroom
- Food & Beverage Sales



## LOWER FLOOR

Social Services with separate ADA accessible entrance and private, confidential offices, with wall-top windows for:

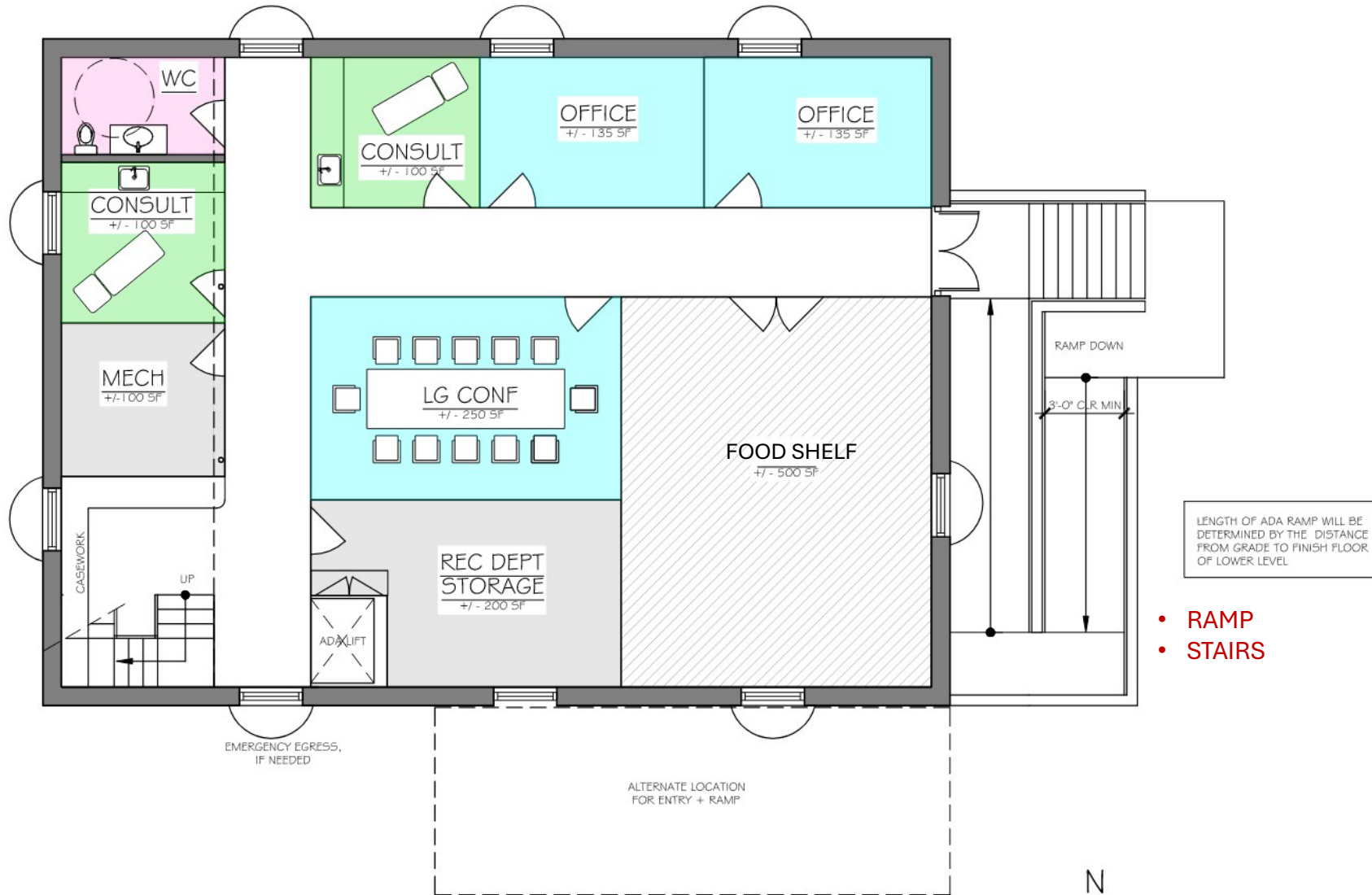
- Food Shelf
- Community Nurse
- Senior Foot Nurse
- Social Worker
- Recreation Director & Sports Equipment
- Community Closet Clothing
- Restroom
- Utility room

# Conceptual Floor Plans

VT ROUTE 113

EVERGREEN CEMETERY

- OFFICES
- CONSULT ROOMS
- REC DEPT STORAGE
- CONFERENCE ROOM
- W/C
- STAIRS
- ADA LIFT



- RAMP
- STAIRS

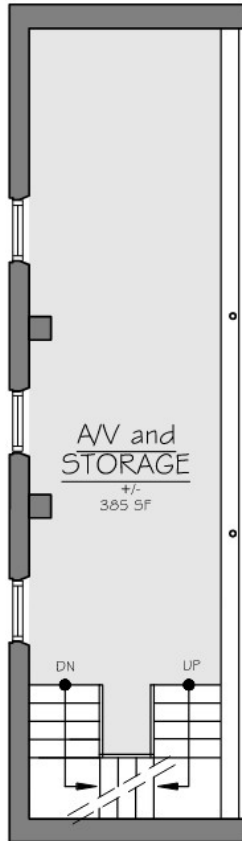
CONCEPTUAL LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

# Conceptual Floor Plans

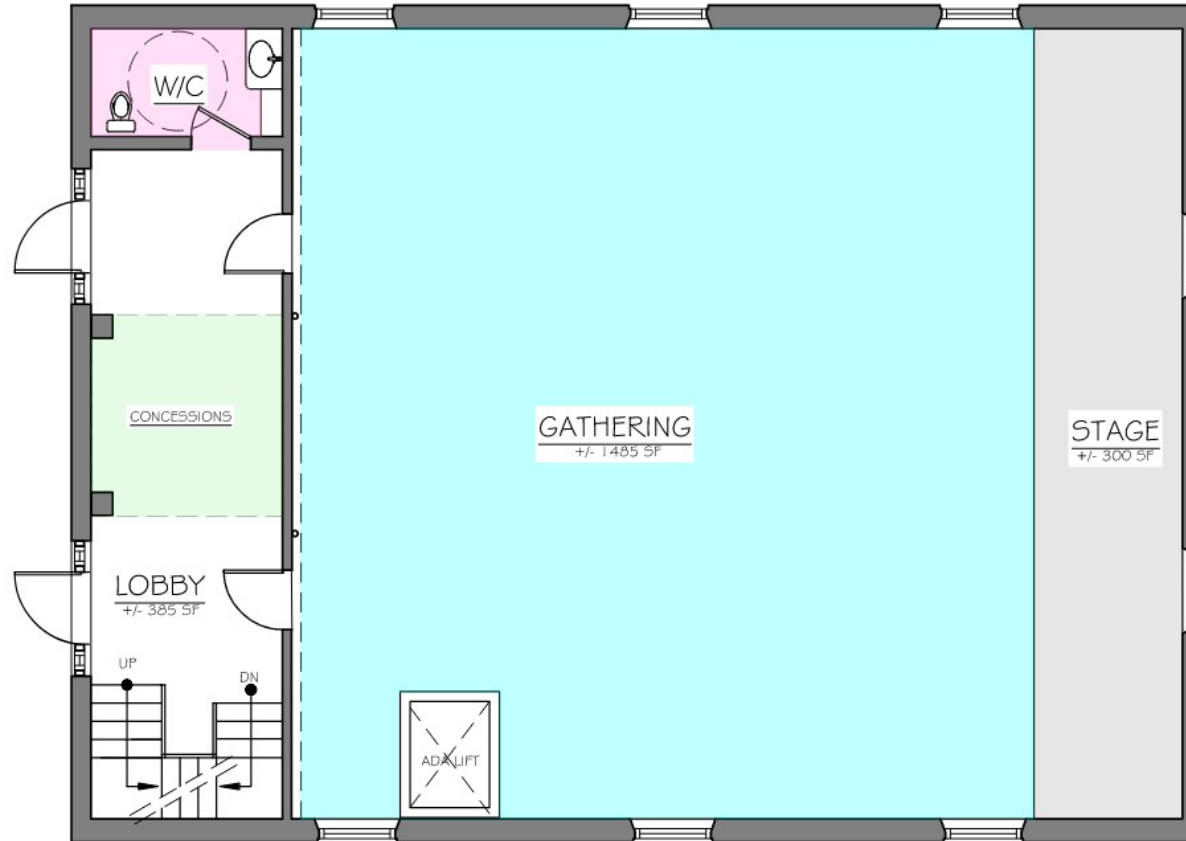
VT ROUTE 113

EVERGREEN CEMETERY

- AUDIO / VISUAL EQUIP
- STORAGE
- STAIRS



LOFT



CONCEPTUAL MAIN FLOOR PLAN

12 JANUARY 26



- GATHERING SPACE
- STAGE
- LOBBY with CONCESSIONS
- W/C
- STAIRS
- ADA LIFT

# Next Steps

Hire Architectural & Engineering consultants, with \$100,000 in funding from existing Town Frost fund, to develop Schematic Design documents and a detailed budget analysis, which will enable us to seek additional financial support and move the project to completion:

- Architectural Schematics
- Engineering Analysis and Schematics
- Energy Efficiency Analysis
- Budget Analysis
- Haz Mat (asbestos) Testing
- Environmental Testing for possible gasoline contamination (this may be handled by the Village Store)
- Acoustical Consultant

## Draft Example Warning (Based on 2025 Proposed Budget)

### Article 3 - General Administration and Fixed Costs

Shall the Town authorize General Fund expenditures for General Administration and Fixed Cost expenses of \$1,266,953, of which \$964,515 shall be raised by taxes and \$302,438 by non-tax revenues?

### Article 4 - Recreation

Shall the Town authorize General Fund expenditures for Recreation expenses of \$131,225, of which \$99,757 shall be raised by taxes and \$31,468 by non-tax revenues?

### Article 5 - Public Safety

Shall the Town authorize General Fund expenditures for Public Safety expenses of \$559,862 of which \$425,551 shall be raised by taxes and \$134,311 by non-tax revenues?

This is an example of how last year's General Fund Article 3 could be structured into three broad articles using the 2025 proposed budget categories.

For this example, non-tax revenues are allocated proportionally across Articles 3-5.

- Gen admin + Fixed Costs = 64.7%
- Recreation = 6.7%
- Public Safety = 28.6%

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Proposed</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>General Administration</b>						
Selectboard & Town Manager	376,621	363,545	592,844	579,990	412,365	-30.44%
Town Hall & Town Lands	72,633	76,335	457,480	300,280	113,150	-75.27%
Town Clerk & Elections	145,896	148,735	168,578	172,391	176,702	4.82%
Town Treasurer	37,807	31,769	34,945	33,812	36,074	3.23%
Listers	78,787	55,919	67,517	35,680	47,350	-29.87%
Transfer Station	62,819	65,118	84,847	72,224	76,528	-9.81%
Planning and Zoning	64,709	55,415	70,835	66,774	75,391	6.43%
<b>Total General Administration</b>	<b>839,273</b>	<b>796,836</b>	<b>1,477,045</b>	<b>1,261,152</b>	<b>937,560</b>	<b>-36.52%</b>
<b>Recreation</b>						
Adminstration	26,410	29,811	26,808	27,087	36,037	34.43%
Parks and Recreation	26,350	27,869	27,345	20,040	26,695	-2.38%
Treasure Island	54,828	55,187	64,898	60,175	68,493	5.54%
<b>Total Recreation</b>	<b>107,588</b>	<b>112,866</b>	<b>119,051</b>	<b>107,302</b>	<b>131,225</b>	<b>10.23%</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>						
Police Department	463,845	296,239	463,687	449,949	514,941	11.05%
Police Contracted Detail	20,210	9,802	20,210	8,760	20,210	0.00%
Emergency Management (EMS)	19,044	18,713	19,054	9,726	19,064	0.05%
Fire Warden	2,758	2,857	2,758	2,857	2,857	3.59%
Health Officer	588	538	589	538	590	0.11%
Animal Control	2,100	1,024	2,200	-	2,200	0.00%
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>508,546</b>	<b>329,173</b>	<b>508,498</b>	<b>471,830</b>	<b>559,862</b>	<b>10.10%</b>
<b>Fixed Costs</b>						
Regional Dues & County Tax	277,181	273,596	283,181	275,550	296,767	4.80%
Tax Appropriations	900	900	900	900	900	0.00%
Tri-Town Commission	27,887	27,003	27,271	26,592	26,726	-2.00%
Social Service Coordinator						NA
Miscellaneous	5,000	5,502	5,000	202,864	5,000	0.00%
<b>Total Fixed Costs</b>	<b>310,968</b>	<b>307,001</b>	<b>316,352</b>	<b>505,905</b>	<b>329,393</b>	<b>4.12%</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>1,766,374</b>	<b>1,545,876</b>	<b>2,420,947</b>	<b>2,346,189</b>	<b>1,958,040</b>	<b>-19.12%</b>
Remaining ARPA Funds	-	-	(526,583)			
Less Previous Year Surplus			(50,000)			
Less Non-Tax Revenues	(438,956)	(483,800)	(431,456)	(1,026,100)	(467,717)	8.40%
<b>AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES</b>	<b>1,327,418</b>	<b>1,062,077</b>	<b>1,412,908</b>	<b>1,320,089</b>	<b>1,490,323</b>	<b>5.48%</b>



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## *Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes*

### *Thetford Town Offices*

**(w/Virtual Attendance Option)**

Monday, December 15, 2025, 7:00 PM

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To connect via phone only: +1 (646) 558 8656 8656

Meeting ID: 883 5439 116

- Link to Audio Recording:



[1 5 26 Selectboard Meeting.m4a](#)

### **Selectboard members present:**

- Chair Sharon Harkay
- Vice Chair David Goodrich
- Li Shen
- David Forbes
- Steve Tofel

### **Present from Town of Thetford:**

- Town Manager Brian Story

#### **Via 'Zoom':**

- Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard, Donna Ransmeier
- Fire Department Trustee, Tim McCosker

### **Members of Public Present:**

#### **Via Zoom:**

- Alan Guttmacher
- David Fisk
- Carole Petrillo
- Libby Sax

### **7:00 PM – Call to Order**

Selectboard Chair Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. **{RTS: 00 7:00}**  
Board members and Town Manager Brian Story introduced themselves.

### **1. Notes from the Selectboard Chair {00 7:02}**

Chair Harkay stated that her only announcement for tonight was to remind people that the Board is still accepting nominations for the annual Civic Pride Award. The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nominations go to Martie Betts at her email ([mbetts@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:mbetts@thetfordvt.gov)) or it

1 can be brought in hard copy to Martie at her office at the Town Hall. The nomination needs to  
2 not only name the person one wants to nominate but also contain a brief explanation of why that  
3 person should receive the award. To avoid nominating someone who has received the award in a  
4 prior year, names of the awardees are listed on a plaque within the Town Hall, or also on the  
5 Town website.

## 6 7 **2. Agenda Review {00 7:05}**

8 Although normally first in order of topics, this topic was inadvertently done as second in order.  
9 Chair Harkay asked if anyone had any changes to the tonight's meeting agenda, and there were  
10 none.

## 11 12 **3. Town Manager Report {00 7:08}**

### 13 • **Social Service Coordinator Update:**

14 Town Manager Story stated that the new Social Services Coordinator, Liz Carey, will begin  
15 her employment this week. She works full-time at Senior Solutions, and this position is an  
16 additional part-time assignment for her. For the time being, Ms. Carey can be contacted at  
17 her office at Senior Solutions. There is currently not an open office for her at the Town Hall.

18  
19 Steve Tofel asked if a "stakeholders meeting" has been planned to introduce Ms. Carey, and  
20 TM Story said that will be a priority for the near future. Chair Harkay commented that it was  
21 "great news," to hear of Ms. Carey's beginning employment and that the Board will look  
22 forward to meeting her.

### 23 24 • **Scheduling Signing of the Warrant for Town Meeting:**

25 Town Manager Story asked the Board about meeting to sign the Warrant (a.k.a. "Warning")  
26 for Town Meeting. There had been some discussion about doing this on January 21, but an  
27 auditor is coming that day and will be in the office for a couple of days. After checking with  
28 Town Clerk and Treasurer Tracy Borst to assure that the Warrant is signed within the legally  
29 designated time limits, Town Manager Story said that it was permissible to delay signing the  
30 Warrant by a week, which would allow the auditor to review the 2026 proposed budget.

31  
32 Chair Harkay inquired if any members of the Board had conflicts with meeting on  
33 Wednesday, January 28, at 7 p.m., to review and sign the Warrant for Town Meeting. Steve  
34 Tofel stated he would be attending via 'Zoom' due to having eye surgery that day. Otherwise,  
35 all members were available.

### 36 37 • **Scheduling Law Enforcement Contract Review and Signing**

38 Town Manager Story asked Chair Harkay and Vice Chair Goodrich about scheduling a time  
39 to meet to review the law enforcement contract. He has met with the Town Attorney and  
40 wants to share his feedback with the Board. They will schedule a time after tonight's  
41 meeting.

## 42 43 **4. Committee and Commission Reports {00 7:21}**

44 David Forbes noted that the Planning Commission and the Housing and Energy Commission had  
45 both completed and given their submissions for this year's Town Report to Martie Betts. Chair

1 Harkay thanked them on behalf of the Board, and others commented, “well done...excellent  
2 work!”

3  
4 Steve Tofel said that the Thetford Elder Network will be showing a movie, “*Dr Doolittle*,” on  
5 January 20<sup>th</sup>.

6  
7 **5. Public Comment {00 7:23}**

8 Steve Tofel mentioned that he was going to bring up a subject for resident David Fisk; however,  
9 Mr. Fisk was present on ‘Zoom.’ Both Mr. Fisk and Mr. Tofel spoke a bit, explaining that Mr.  
10 Fisk had written an email to the Board asking about the Town plowing the public parking lot of  
11 the Post Mills Natural Area so that it is accessible to people wanting to use the area in winter.  
12 TM Story responded that while he could not promise to commit to anything definite, he would be  
13 happy to speak to the Public Works Department and see if they have the time to plow the parking  
14 area. Mr. Fisk thanked Town Manager Story.

15  
16 Resident Carol Petrillo thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts in keeping the  
17 roads in Thetford clear and safe, especially during the Holidays, “which were very challenging.”  
18 She said that “the back roads are great.” However, she wanted to note that the “main roads are  
19 not good. There are sections of [Route] 132 that are still solid ice...and is there any way that we  
20 can start using salt on the main roads when we have these ice storms?” She went on to describe  
21 how slippery and dangerous the curves on Rte. 132 are when there is ice coating the roadway.

22  
23 Town Manager Story explained to Ms. Petrillo that the Town is using salt; however, there is  
24 currently a salt shortage, and it is not only expensive but hard to get in the quantities needed.  
25 Therefore, the road crew is simply not able to apply as much as they normally might. Although  
26 they are also using sand, it tends to wash away if there is rain or other water build-up on the  
27 roads, and so that is not ideal. Town Manager Story assured Ms. Petrillo that the Public Works  
28 Department is doing its best to obtain alternative sources of salt and to maintain the roads at an  
29 acceptable level.

30  
31 Lee Shen asked about a resident’s comment that perhaps the grader could be used to  
32 break/scrape up ice off the roads. Town Manager Story said that is not necessarily feasible, and  
33 while a grader might be useful to break up ice formations at times, the Town plow trucks are  
34 usually better equipped to scrape ice better than a grader.

35  
36 Town Manager Story did tell Ms. Petrillo that he will have the Public Works Department look at  
37 the curves area on Rte 132 to which she referred, to see if there is any way this stretch of road  
38 can be improved.

39  
40 David Fisk then asked about an update on the speed limit reduction request made by Post Mills  
41 residents regarding areas of Rte. 113. Town Manager Story and the Board responded that they  
42 had submitted a letter to the State Department of Transportation, and that a public hearing has  
43 been scheduled for some time in April. Interested parties are welcome to attend. Vice-Chair  
44 Goodrich checked his calendar, and stated that it was April 8 at 9a.m., but no one was sure  
45 exactly where it would be held. Town Manager Story said he had attended prior hearings of this  
46 nature at the National Life Building in Montpelier. Lee Shen asked if perhaps the correct

1 information about the hearing could be obtained and posted on the Thetford List Serv. Town  
2 Manager Story agreed that this could be done in this instance.

3  
4 Chair Harkay asked if there was any other public comment, and being none, she moved on to the  
5 next topic.

6  
7 **6. Possible Adoption of the Fire Service Agreement with the Thetford Volunteer Fire**  
8 **Department {00 7:30}**

9 Town Manager Story introduced the topic, by stating that the revision to the Agreement was  
10 mainly to add information about emergency services provided by the Fire Department, and a  
11 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that focuses on reporting some operational data from the  
12 Fire Department. He had included the latest version of the Agreement in tonight's meeting  
13 packet and asked for any questions or comments by the Board.

14  
15 David Forbes asked about disposition of equipment and where that is included in the new  
16 Agreement? It was pointed out that it is found in the bylaws of the Fire Department. He  
17 wondered if perhaps this could be added to the MOU? Town Manager Story said he did not  
18 foresee that would be a problem, since it was already part of the Fire Department Bylaws.

19  
20 David Forbes also wanted to extend his thanks to the Fire Department for the report that they  
21 have included on manpower analysis by incident. He said that it is very detailed and wondered if  
22 adding training expenses and time to the report might be a possibility for next year?

23  
24 Tim McCosker, Fire Department Trustee, present at the meeting, explained that it is his  
25 understanding that much of the training received by the Department is provided by the VT Fire  
26 Academy, and he is not sure how much of that is funded by that organization as opposed to how  
27 much of it is paid for by the Department.

28  
29 Discussion followed about how Fire Department training is reported in the Town Report as a line  
30 item, and it did not seem clear to anyone if there are line items for training that that Department  
31 pays for versus that which it does not.

32  
33 Vice Chair Goodrich suggested implementing the Agreement as it is now written and "see how  
34 things go; see what information we find valuable and what we don't – then go from there." He said  
35 that he thought the current reporting as detailed in the MOU was a great improvement, and though  
36 "it may not be the final product, it's a very good interim product that we can tweak if we need to."

37  
38 It was decided that Tim McCosker would speak to the Fire Department at their next meeting  
39 (January 20,) about adding the equipment disposition piece that is currently in the Bylaws, to the  
40 MOU in the Agreement.

41  
42 Adding an expiry clause to the Agreement was also discussed, and some time periods were  
43 suggested between the ranges of ten years to no date whatsoever. A period of five years seemed to  
44 be agreeable to most, but, in the end, Chair Harkay suggested that discussions about this continue  
45 between Town Manager Story and Fire Chief Whitcomb, as well as that Tim McCosker would  
46 mention this in his discussion with the Fire Department at their next meeting.

1 **7. Review and Editing of 2025 Selectboard Report for the Town Report {00 7:47}**

2 Chair Harkay stated that Vice-Chair Goodrich had provided the draft of the Selectboard Report  
3 for this year's Town Report and thanked him for his efforts. All members reviewed and edited as  
4 appropriate.

5  
6 **8. Review and Editing of the Town Meeting Warning {00 8:11}**

7 The Board next reviewed the Town Meeting Warning. Each Article on the Warrant was  
8 reviewed and edited as appropriate.

9  
10 **9. Warrants and Minutes {00 8:28}**

11  
12 **Warrants:**

13 **The Warrants of 1/5/2026, as submitted by Kristie Wadsworth, Thetford Town Accountant**  
14 **are as follows:**

15

<b>55.1</b>	<b>\$39718.98</b>
<b>56.1</b>	<b>\$34731.42</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>\$54716.27</b>
<b>32.2</b>	<b>\$18278.15</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>\$2279.71</b>
<b>33.3</b>	<b>\$1655.23</b>
<b>34.3</b>	<b>\$5911.61</b>
<b>35.3</b>	<b>\$262.97</b>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>\$6172.25</b>
<b>26.4</b>	<b>\$32729.07</b>

16  
17 Chair Harkay asked for any discussion on the warrants of 01/05/2026.

18 David Forbes made a "Motion to Approve the Warrants of 01/05/2026."

19 Chair Harkay asked for any discussion on the Motion. Being none, she called for an "all in  
20 favor" vote.

21 All Board members present voted "in favor."

22 **Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

23  
24 **Minutes:**

25 The Board reviewed and edited the minutes of the Special Selectboard Budget Meeting of  
26 December 10, 2025.

27 Chair Harkay asked if there was any further discussion on the review of the minutes, and being  
28 none, asked for a Motion to Approve.

29 Lee Shen made a "Motion to Approve the Minutes of December 10, 2025, Special Budget  
30 Meeting, as Edited."

31 Chair Harkay asked for any discussion on the Motion. Being none, she called for an "all in  
32 favor" vote.

33 All Board members present voted "in favor."

34 **Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

1 The Board reviewed and edited the minutes of the Regular Selectboard Meeting of December 15,  
2 2025.  
3 Chair Harkay asked if there was any further discussion on the review of the minutes, and being  
4 none, asked for a Motion to Approve.  
5 Vice-Chair Goodrich made a “Motion to Approve the Minutes of December 15, 2025,  
6 Selectboard Meeting, as Edited.”  
7 Chair Harkay asked for any discussion on the Motion. Being none, she called for an “all in  
8 favor” vote.  
9 All Board members present voted “in favor.”  
10 **Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

11  
12 **10. Adjourn {00 9:05}**

13 Chair Harkay called for a “Motion to Adjourn the Meeting” at 9:05pm  
14 Steve Tofel made a “Motion to Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 9:05pm.”  
15 Chair Harkay asked for any discussion on the Motion. Being none, she called for an “all in  
16 favor” vote.  
17 All Board members present voted “in favor.”  
18 **Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**

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Date 09/15/2025

1  
Thetford Selectboard Meeting Minutes



# Town of Thetford Vermont

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## *Selectboard Special (Budget) Meeting Minutes*

### *Thetford Town Offices*

#### **(w/Virtual Attendance Option)**

Wednesday December 17, 2025, 7:00 PM

To connect to Zoom via computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88354391166>

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Meeting ID: 883 5439 116

- Link to Audio Recording:



[12 17 25 Selectboard Meeting.m4a](#)

#### **Selectboard members present:**

- Chair Sharon Harkay
- Vice Chair David Goodrich
- Li Shen
- David Forbes

#### **Present from Town of Thetford:**

- Town Manager, Brian Story
- Jim McCracken, Fire Department Trustee

#### **Via 'Zoom':**

- Town Clerk and Treasurer, Tracy Borst
- Director of Public Works Department, Dale Lewis
- Cheryl Trudowski, Library Federation Treasurer, Peabody Library, Chairperson, Board of Trustees
- Donna Ransmeier, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

#### **Members of Public Present In Person:**

- Pete Tanini, Treasurer, Latham Library

#### **Via 'Zoom':**

- Tracy Boch

#### **7:01 PM – Call to Order**

Selectboard Chair Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. {RTS: 00 7:00}

#### **1. Agenda Review**

Chair Harkay asked if there were any changes to the Agenda, and Town Manager Story said that while it is not a change, he wanted to explain that the last item that will be presented on the budget is a “summary page” with the total tax rate on it, as well as some organizations such as the Library Federation.

#### **2. Public Comment**

1 Chair Harkay called for any Public Comment on topics not on tonight’s agenda. There was none, so she  
2 asked Town Manager Story to begin the review of the budget topics, as listed.

3  
4 **3. Discussion and Review of Proposed 2026 Thetford Town Budget Sections:**

5 Town Manager Story presented on this topic, and utilized a PowerPoint presentation, which can be found  
6 as part of tonight’s meeting Agenda Packet on the Town website at

7 <https://www.thetfordvt.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/6744/639007985380811413>  
8

9 ○ **Town Hall and Land**

10 Town Manager Story said that although there were not many increases to this budget category, one of the  
11 most significant was under the line item of “Alarm Service,” and this was due to concerns that have been  
12 expressed by Town Hall employees and others who feel that there should be enhanced security features to  
13 protect them while at work. These concerns have, in part, stemmed from other incidents that have  
14 happened in other towns, where security was not adequate to protect town employees from customers or  
15 others who became combative or destructive.

16  
17 He also mentioned the line item “PACIF liability” which is highlighted in yellow because it remains as an  
18 estimated cost.

19  
20 Regarding the Timothy Frost Building, Town Manager Story stated that the changes that are reflected in  
21 this year’s budget have been due to a lot of funds being moved into the Reserve Fund, to which most of  
22 the incurred expenses for the year, have been charged. However, some of the expenses for the building,  
23 such as Planning and Engineering, were attributed to the Town Manager and Selectboard budget.

24  
25 Under “Town Lands,” he stated that there were not many changes, but one cost that would go up “a  
26 little,” was Mowing and Maintenance,” which reflects the higher prices of fuel, equipment, labor, etc. He  
27 is confident, however, that the budgeted amount should be sufficient, and feels that that the Town  
28 cemeteries are similarly covered by their budgeted funds.

29  
30 ○ **Transfer Station**

31 One line item that Town Manager Story wanted o focus on was “Commingled and RRA,” which refers to  
32 the recycling contract, for which final costs will not be known until the end of the year. Thus, fully  
33 accurate projections cannot be made until then. There may also be some fluctuations in the cost of  
34 compensation for employees at the transfer station, due to increased hours.

35  
36 ○ **Fixed Costs**

37 Town Manager Story explained that most of the section regarding “Regional Views and County Taxes”  
38 are also estimates, but that he estimated somewhat high, with the idea of being reasonably confident that  
39 the budget would cover increases. He expects that County Tax will be a bit higher than the latest quote of  
40 10%, but that also is built into the budget.

41 The Social Services Coordinator position is included in the 2026 budget and is expected to start before the  
42 end of this year or early next year, as Town Manager Story expects that the contract with Senior Solutions  
43 and The Bugbee Center to be done within a day or two. Under Real Estate Abatements and Interest on  
44 Loans, Town Manager Story said that he does not expect to see any significant changes, not does he  
45 foresee that the town will incur expenses from unexpected loans.

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○ **Recreation and Treasure Island**

There has been a “decent increase on revenue on the Recreation side this year,” according to Town Manager Story. Chair Harkay asked if this was due to new programs being offered by the Recreation Department and Town Manager Story confirmed this, saying that along with the associated user fees for certain programs and places, these have helped support the financial health of the recreation department.

There was some discussion about games that are held by the Rec Department, and the need for referees. Apparently, there is some free training offered, but still not enough volunteers.

Treasure Island had had various improvements to its grounds this year. Usage was down a bit, which was surprising, considering the weather this summer.

It is not easy to find staff for Treasure Island, as most are part-time and all are seasonal positions. The Treasure Island staff, including lifeguards, gatekeepers, etc., do not get the same pay increase as the rest of the Town employees for 2026, (also due to being seasonal.)

○ **Department of Public Works (DPW)**

Chair Harkay explained that the Town is still waiting for the DPW to select a new union to represent them, before salary negotiations can happen. Town Manager Story said that “there’s no ill will or anything,” and that the lack of a union is beyond the control of the DPW or anyone else, and that a contract will not be in place before the end of the year. Therefore, he put a “placeholder” figure in the budget that is reflective of a “slight increase,” largely to cover the overtime pay that he is sure will happen during winter plowing season.

Town Manager Story told the Board that it is the hope of the DPW to do more of the work on the Town roads themselves rather than hire outside contractors in the coming year(s). This will cut down on costs and provide more work for local people. As the Board is aware, there are plenty of paving and improvement projects coming up for the roads in Town.

It was also explained that Thetford participates with other neighboring towns in an informal type of “mutual aid” cooperative whereby if one town requires an extra truck and driver for a day for a project, one of their operators and trucks will be “loaned out,” at no charge to the town that needs one, and then the converse will happen when Thetford is in similar situation of need. The Capital Fund was discussed.

There was a lengthy discussion about which specific DPW trucks will need to be replaced this year, the monies budgeted for same, and what will be done with the old trucks (traded-in, sold, etc., Town Manager Story showed where margins in the budget were built in for these situation after consultation between him and DPW Director Dale Lewis.

Other increases to the DPW budget included in telecommunications for some new radios. The larger purchases will require voter approval and appropriation.

○ **Revenue**

1 Town Manager Story said that the monies that the Town will receive in 2026 have been estimated to be  
2 close to those received in 2025. There are plans for the Town to generate more income in a couple of  
3 areas, including from the Recycling Center, from an increase in sticker fees, to an increase in zoning  
4 permit price. Town Manager Story also wanted to recognize Town Clerk and Treasurer Tracy Burst,  
5 whom he said has been doing a great job in “aggressively” investing the Town’s fund in higher-interest  
6 bonds, CDs, and funds that are yielding good rates of return. He said that the Town certainly plan to  
7 continue these practices.

8  
9 He explained the Line Item, “Pilot Revenue,” which means payment in lieu of taxes, which, in this case is  
10 describing money that is received from the State for state-owned properties that don’t pay taxes. There is  
11 a modest increase budgeted under that line item.

12  
13 Grants that the DPW has that are in a disbursement phase or will be in that phase in 2026 are included in  
14 revenue. Town Manager Story is also hopeful to receive a State paving grant in 2026. He said that any  
15 grants usually require matching funds from the Town of approximately 20%. Discussion about the  
16 potential paving grants followed, and for how long we might be able to draw on these funds.

17  
18 Next, the discussion turned to the General Fund, which may be used in part to help fund a third officer  
19 position for the Thetford Police Department. There has been an ad for filling this position out for some  
20 time, but no appropriate candidates have been found. From his experience, Town Manager Story felt that  
21 most Thetford residents are in favor of having another full-time officer on the department. Vice -Chair  
22 Goodrich stated that he has felt strongly that the police in Thetford did not need 3 cruisers. Town  
23 Manager Story explained the logic of having three cruisers for three officers – better response times; back  
24 up is more readily available, and it is safer for officers.

25  
26 This led to some discussion about the overall increase in the budget and it was mentioned that the Town  
27 Manager form of town governance was supposed to save money. This year’s budget is up by over 6% and  
28 this seems to conflict with that concept. TM Story explained that perhaps some of the reasons the budget  
29 appears so high under the Administration and Salary line items this year is because of the Town  
30 Accountant position being put under the Selectboard/Town Manager section, and it had not been  
31 heretofore. He is not !00% certain on this, so will double check,

32  
33 It was suggested that perhaps a part of the Town Manager responsibilities was grant writing and that this  
34 could possibly help with sustaining a growing budget. Town Manager Story explained about the costs  
35 associated with grant writing, the matching funds, the costs of hiring an outside grant writer, and that  
36 perhaps some of the municipal associations (Vermont League of Cities and Towns; Northwoods) can help  
37 with grant writing at little or no cost.

#### 38 39 **4. Appropriations (not heard at last week’s budget meeting)**

##### 40 **o The Library Federation**

41 Pete Tanini, Treasurer of The Latham Library, and Cheryl Trudowski, Treasurer of The Library  
42 Federation and Chairman of the Board of the Peabody Memorial Library both spoke. In summary,  
43 they said that Thetford’s three libraries have been working together to form one, non-profit, public  
44 library organization that will support all the current physical buildings and the employees, provide the

1 employees with better wages, benefits, and stability, and continue to serve the residents of Thetford  
2 and the public as they have always done. Their aim is to manage joint library operations more  
3 professionally and efficiently, while preserving the historical background and value of each of the  
4 libraries. To accomplish their goal, they will need legal advice and other support, which will cost  
5 some money, as well as reorganization efforts, as mentioned above, which also require some extra  
6 funding. This is reflected in their 2026 budget increases. They understand that because they did not  
7 appear at last week's budget meeting, the petition process must be followed to get their appropriation  
8 request on the ballot for Town Meeting.

9  
10 Chair Harkay asked Tracy Borst, Town Clerk and Treasurer to explain the petition process to all who  
11 might wish to get an appropriations request on the ballot for Town Meeting. Tracy outlined the  
12 following:

- 13 1. The requesting organization must get a petition form from the Town Clerk's Office, requesting  
14 their appropriation
- 15 2. The organization must gather the signatures of 120 Thetford residents (ages 18 years and over) that  
16 agree with their petition
- 17 3. Once the signatures are gathered, the petition must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office no later  
18 than January 26, 2026.

19  
20 At the end of the meeting, resident Tracy Boch spoke to the Board about the possibility of a hiring a  
21 third police officer. She said that she had attended last year's Town Meeting and had sat with both  
22 Thetford PD officers. Neither had expressed to her the need for a third officer on their department.  
23 She has lived in Thetford for over thirty years and feels that most residents are against a third officer  
24 and that it is an unnecessary cost to taxpayers. She is most definitely opposed and is planning to  
25 attend Town Meeting to speak to the issue.

26  
27 Chair Harkay thanked Ms. Boch for her input and concern.

## 28 29 **5. Adjourn**

30 Chair Harkay asked for a "Motion to Adjourn the Meeting" at 9:23PM.

31 Steve Tofel made a "Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:25 PM.

32 Chair Harkay asked if there was any discussion on the Motion, and being none, called for a "Roll Call  
33 Vote."

- 34 • S Tofel – In Favor
- 35 • Vice-Chair D Goodrich – In Favor
- 36 • L Shen – In Favor
- 37 • D Forbes – In Favor
- 38 • S Harkay – In Favor

39 **All in Favor. The Motion Passed.**

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12/17/2025

Thetford Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes