

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
DATE FEBRUARY 23, 2026 – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
FINAL

PRESENT: LARRY HEBERT, CLAYTON WOODWORTH, COTE GRIGGS, SCOTT MCCARTHY, TYLER MITCHELL

ALSO PRESENT: BARBARA GRAHAM, RODNEY GRAHAM, DAVID WILDER II, MICHEAL MACASKILL, GARRETT EARLS, LISA ST. LAWRENCE, CHRIS WADE, JENNIFER ALLARD, CHRIS PELOQUIN, AMY GILBERT, JENNIFER GILBERT, CHRISTIAN PRATT

CALL TO ORDER: LARRY HEBERT, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SET THE AGENDA: Question and Answer Discussion Concerning: Article 2 Forensic Audit and Article 3 – Road Rehabilitation Project

Larry opened the discussion with Article 3 – Road Rehabilitation Project focusing on the why, locations, costs, and projected time frame in an easy-to-follow format for the audience. The basics were presented from previous meetings as well as the letter that was sent out to the residents of Williamstown.

Why:

1. Not enough material to grade in our Class 3 gravel roads: need to build roads back up.
2. Town of Williamstown is currently spending about \$30K annually during mud season filling in mud holes.
 - a. Benefit of the project: savings on about half of the amount of money not having to fill in mud holes which allows us to utilize the funds elsewhere such as the interest for the proposed project.
3. The need for proposed work is not going to go away; it will get worse over time and more expensive.
 - a. By continuing to piece-mail road projects we will lose money that could've been saved by purchasing materials in bulk.

Locations: The following road locations are priorities:

1. FLINT ROAD – 2.45 MILES - Starting at Gilbert's house to the Class 4 portion.
2. MARTIN ROAD - .97 MILES – Starting at Windy Acres continuing to 4-Way intersection on Baptist St.
3. BAPTIST STREET – 3.88 MILES - Starting at Graniteville Rd continuing to Chelsea Rd.
4. CHELSEA ROAD – 1.00 MILES Starting at blacktop continuing to town line.
5. SOUTH HILL – 2.00 MILES - Starting at Graham Rd to the town line or Beagle Club.
6. TOWER ROAD – 3.07 MILES Starting at McCarthy Rd continuing to Washington Rd intersection.
7. GEORGE ROAD - .50 MILES Starting at Flint Rd continuing to end of George Rd.

Length of priority 7 roads: 13.84 miles.

We would like to keep the project at \$1M – 13.84 miles, 24 ft wide, 9 in thick material will go this far; some areas aren't 24 ft wide so if materials are left over we will look at working on the following additional roads: Ferno Rd (.87 miles) and Cold Springs – 1.58 miles for a total of 2.45 miles. It is recognized that some roads aren't 24 ft wide, some are 18 ft and some are 20 ft; so those factors will also lend material for the extended miles proposed.

Costs:

14 miles of roadway 24' wide by 9' thick of 1 1/4" crushed granite – 49,000 cy at 16.80 pcy

SUBTOTAL:	\$823,200.00
1.5 MONTH GRADER RENTAL: \$ 20,000.00	
2 MONTH ROLLER RENTAL:	\$ 16,000.00
MATERIAL TRUCKING	\$ 80,000.00
CHLORIDE:	\$ 16,000.00

CULVERTS:	\$ 18,000.00
MISC LABOR:	\$ 25,000.00
TOTAL COST:	\$998,200.00

Best rate for this project was through Vermont Bond Bank which will cost us 2.9% for 10 years; total cost in interest will be \$140,215 which equates to roughly \$14,000.00 a year.

The estimate average tax impact of the bond would be: \$29.76 per \$100K of assessed home value and \$74.40 per \$250K of assessed home value.

Projected Time Frame: The projected time frame for this project is between 60 and 90 days being done by the Williamstown Town Highway Department with help from other resources.

There was much discussion pertaining to why these roads were chosen, maintenance in other locations in town, what was anticipated in regard to a 5-to-10-year plan. It was felt that the town needed to take care of the roads that have the most amount of traffic. Regular maintenance in other areas will be prioritized less until the project has been completed. If there are days when this work cannot be worked on then small projects can be completed; but this project takes precedence. Should this plan work as well as anticipated then as long as the town votes to try something similar to this again then it will be researched. If this project isn't passed then the town will reclaim the stones and materials that they have available and use those in their gravel pit, the town would spend \$150K in the worst spots and continue to do the same thing as we are. There are other resources; but it will take the town longer to get things completed at a higher dollar amount in the long run. It was discussed that with the prices of materials that a Million dollars would be easily spent and we could easily see benefits on the highest trafficked areas for at least 6 years; others longer. It was discussed that if we were to bid the project out, it would be an estimate of \$2.5M.

Larry switched over to the Article 2 Forensic Audit discussion again focusing on the why, costs and projected time frame in an easy-to-follow format for the audience. The basics were presented from previous meetings as well as the letter that was sent out to the residents of Williamstown.

Why:

1. The first Selectboard meeting held after the former town manager's arrest a large group of concerned residents requested that the town put out for bid for a forensic audit.
2. It was known/speculated from previous similar situations that it would carry a hefty price tag and the Selectboard wanted to make sure that it was brought to a vote before acting on those initial concerns. A bid for proposal was done and presented to the Selectboard.

Costs and Projected Time Frame:

There were six (6) bids received; one of which followed the guidelines that were put forth resulting in a proposed dollar amount of \$250K for a forensic audit with no time frame for completion.

The estimate average tax impact of the forensic audit would be: \$65.00 per \$100K of assessed home value and \$163.00 per \$250K of assessed home value.

There was a great amount of heated discussion on whether the former town manager had access to the ability to embezzle town funds as well as the tone of each letter that was sent out to the residents pertaining to the two topics discussed. Discussion also included differences in received bid amounts and length of time each audit type; acknowledgment of extra cost for town staff to assist the hired firm to conduct their audit, if it were to be proven that there were lost funds - whether the Town of Williamstown be able to recoup lost funds. It was reiterated again that the Town of Williamstown has procedures in place to safeguard funds; the Town Manager doesn't have control of funds. If someone was to pay toward their balance; delinquent or not, and it wasn't credited they would get a bill letting them know of an outstanding balance and bring it to the attention of other personnel.

APPROVE WARRANTS: SB22181: Tyler Mitchell recused himself due to a Fire Dept Item. Scott made motion to approve, Clayton seconded; so, moved.

PAYROLL WARRANTS: 02/22/2026: Both Tyler and Cote recused themselves due to being on warrant. Clayton made motion to approve, Scott seconded; so, moved.

Tyler made a motion at 8:39 p.m. that a 5-minute recess be taken and then go into Executive Session; Cote seconded; so, moved.

Clayton made a motion at 8:43 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Possible Legal Issue; Scott seconded; so, moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 V.S.A. SECTION 313 – PERSONNEL ISSUE

Cote made a motion to exit executive session at 9:10 p.m. Tyler seconded; so, moved.

Tyler reported that legal issues were discussed and that there was no action was taken.

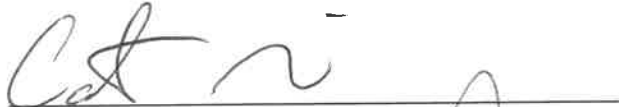
Cote made a motion to exit executive session at 9:11 p.m. Scott seconded; so, moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

May Edson



LARRY HEBERT



COTE GRIGGS



TYLER MITCHELL



SCOTT MCCARTHY



CLAYTON WOODWORTH

