

Town of Newry Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026 @ 4:30pm

Selectperson's Present: Virgil Conkright, David Bartlett, Mandy Berry

Staff present: Loretta Powers (Town Administrator), Joelle Corey (Code Enforcement/LPI/Road Commissioner)

Others present: Alison Aloisio

Executive Session: None

Signing of Warrants: all approved

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Selectman Berry made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 meeting. Selectman Bartlett 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Announcements: Amy made the Legislative Policy Committee and had her first meeting and she really liked it.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: Selectman Bartlett verified first 20lb is free at the Transfer Station and was curious about the how that showed on the slip. Selectman Berry stated she had people say they are being charged for household trash but is not sure what they were disposing of but it was in trash bags.

Public Hearings and Possible Action: None

Items for Discussion and Possible Action:

~Commit FY27 Taxes~

Selectman Bartlett made a motion to keep the mil rate at 6.95 for FY27. Selectman Berry 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

~Tax abatement & tax supplemental~

Selectman Berry made a motion to accept the supplement and abatement for R05-025-14B and R05-023-15B. Selectman Bartlett 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

~Junkyard Update ~

All signed for Joelle to delegate the CEO to enforce Junkyard and Automobile Graveyard statutes.

Selectman Conkright stated he was asked about buildings that are falling down which Joelle advised would be a miscellaneous nuisance and she could draft a letter. The person was comparing junkyards to building falling down.

The second notice will go out Monday. Joelle has spoken to one owner and the tenant. She will wait to hear from the owners after the next letter. We have reached out to attorney regarding possibly changing the ordinance if State Law allows.

Selectman Bartlett feels we should take on one thing at a time and deal with the Junkyard first. All of the board was in agreement.

~755 Sunday River Rd issues~

Maine Mountain Weddings previously stated they were out of business 2 years ago. Joelle drafted a letter stating they need to go to Planning Board if operating a business. A return letter stated they are not in business and are just renting the property.

~FEMA updates ~

Permits are in to Army Core and DEP. DEP has received the permit and it is in processing. Army Core went in yesterday. Joelle wrote a letter to the Maine Historical Society and they want more information and to receive it electronically. Along with that came an opportunity to update Hazard Assessments that were done yearly which now is an 80-page thorough document done every 5 years. Joelle is working on updating this.

~Sign for County Taxes~

Selectman Berry made a motion to sign the County Tax Assessment. Selectman Bartlett 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

~Ballot for MMA~

Selectman Berry made a motion to sign the MMA ballot. Selectman Bartlett 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

~Choose 2 Select Board members to serve as Budget Com. Members for County~

Selectman Berry does not want to serve on the Budget Committee. Retta will check regarding if Selectman Conkright doing business with the county is a conflict. Selectman Bartlett said he would.

~Comp Plan Vision Statement~

Selectman Berry read the Vision Statement. Erica talked about the Vision Statement at the training she held for the Planning Board and Appeals Board and it was well received. The Select Board like it as well.

~PB Rules of Procedure comment~

The Planning Board Rules of Procedure was sent to attorney and received it back stating it is overkill. Retta expressed her concern with paying for the attorney's opinion and not doing what he says because he is going to have to cover us if we go to court. She stated throwing it back at her and Ted she did not think was the right thing to do.

Ted took out town employee stuff. Retta sent the Rules of Procedure to Erica and will see what she says. Retta reiterated that when we talk to the attorney we should follow what he say as we pay for his opinion.

~Networking Day Sept 9th close office for training~

The office will be closed for training at Sunday River on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Road Commissioner/Code Officer Report:

Trash on shoulders of our public roads. Joelle called the area short term rental management companies. Joelle and Alan cleaned it up.

Fire Department has 2 new manuals. Going to replace all 3 doors.

The parade went well.

Still waiting on the excavator for the Branch Road culvert.

Alan has done some shoulder work on Skiway and Valley View and roadside bushhogging.

Clerk Report:

Waiting for tax bills to go out.

None of the liens have been paid.

TAdmin Report:

We got a dividend check back for \$199 from workman's comp that goes back in the general fund.

There is an open house for Town Managers, Selectman and Clerks Thursday, September 3rd at the Oxford County Complex to meet department staff, learn more about county services and connect with county officials.

The well was replaced in 2009 at the Grange Hall and is 146 ft deep. The well here was replaced in 1999 new pipe, tank and wiring for pump and is 256 ft deep.

Selectman Conkright stated he thought Sunday River Fire Station is an emergency shelter. Currently only the Grange Hall is.

Selectman Bartlett stated it would be good to test the water every 3 years.

Flanders sent a letter stating the battery to the generator at the Grange Hall is 4 years old and are recommending replacement.

We are going with a new company to send out the tax bills. Hygrade, our previous company, the service is horrible. Going with Cyber Copy out of Westbrook. They do several towns and the price is \$100-200 less. We do not need to pay postage upfront with the new company. September 4th is joint meeting with all towns at the Grange Hall.

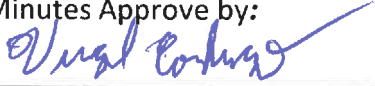
Selectman Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:22PM. Selectman Bartlett 2nd the motion; unanimous vote.

Next Meeting:

September 1, 2026, at 4:30 pm at the Town Office.

Refer to audio recording for verbatim discussion of meeting.

Minutes Approve by:



Virgil Konkright, Chair

Date: 9/15/2026



Mandy Berry



David Bartlett