

3/23/26

Town of Frenchboro

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Select Board
Joe Lunt
Chris Hodgkins
Myron Lenfestey
Jackie Mitchell
Larry Smith

Town Administrator
Rick Erb

Select Board Meeting

March 23, 2026
5:00 pm

Joe Lunt, Myron Lenfestey, Jackie Mitchell, Chris Hodgkins, and Larry Smith were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Minutes from Last Meeting: Motion to accept the 3/9/26 minutes by Larry Smith and seconded by Joe Lunt. Approved 5-0.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be on 4/6/2026 at 5:00 pm

Warrant & Treasurer's Report: Daniel Swain was not in attendance at the meeting. Larry Smith moved to approve the warrant. Seconded by Joe Lunt and unanimously approved.

Budget: The Town Administrator reviewed the budget that had been sent to the Board by email. The Board discussed whether to include appropriations for reserve accounts in the upcoming budget or as an alternative, appropriate funds that are coming from the MCHT land sale for that purpose. Using funds for capital improvements such as the Head of Harbor repairs, Municipal Building improvements, and float upkeep are in line with the MCHT suggested uses of the funds. Using MCHT funds would give the Board the option to retain the same tax rate as last year or possibly reduce it. This decision can be made in the coming month.

Town Buildings: There was discussion on furnace issues at the Municipal Building and at the Teacher's House. Both furnaces have reached the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. The School's furnace may also need replacement due to water damage when the pipes froze in the past winter. There was discussion on at least two companies that could bid on the work.

Road Work: The Board discussed priorities for road projects, focusing on the poor condition of old pavement. Austin Soucy has informed the Town that he is interested in temporary road

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patching work and in prep work for asphalt overlays that would include ditching and culvert replacement. There was discussion on which roads need a complete overlay and which could get by with patching. Austin Soucy plans to come out on April 15th and will review the roads with the Town Administrator at that time.

Ferry Report: Jan reported that the ferry service is running under budget and making electrical improvements on Swan's Island and at Bass Harbor. This is causing some service delays in those locations. There are no changes in the Frenchboro schedule, although there is still some pressure from Swan's Island for a revision. Frenchboro continues to oppose the changes and that seems to be working for us.

Planning Board: Kirk Emerson gave an update on the Planning Board meeting and the status of amending the Land Use Ordinance. Proposed 15' setbacks for buildings will be included in the proposal. The purpose is to minimize conflict between abutting owners and provide buffers. This led to discussion on how to notify abutters when a building permit is applied for. It was agreed that this will be investigated for the ordinance revision. Suggestions on how to handle lack of surveys or conflicting surveys were also discussed. Maximum size for Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs) was discussed with a consensus looking like 800 sq ft or a percentage of the primary dwelling, whichever is smaller.

Animal Control: Problems with dog behavior was discussed, including how "under voice control" is defined when a dog isn't on a leash. It was suggested that better educational outreach to visitors would be helpful and that this could be coordinated with the MCHT. Posting signs in key public locations was suggested.

Records Management: Discussion was held on how a system of maintaining town records could be implemented and it was suggested that Sarah Saxby may be available in summer and could be hired to help with this task.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Joe Lunt moved to adjourn. Seconded by Larry Smith and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.