

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

August 24, 2026
5:00 pm

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Commendation: The meeting opened with recognition of two young sternmen, Lucas and Haydyn Fortin. While working aboard a local fishing vessel under the mentorship of Captain Jay Fiandaca, the captain's foot became entangled in trap line as a trap went overboard, placing him at immediate risk of being dragged from the deck. Despite being urged to let go for their own safety, the two apprentices acted without hesitation and with remarkable clarity. One brother secured the captain, preventing him from being pulled overboard. The other worked the line, creating critical slack and freeing the captain from the entanglement. Their coordinated actions, steady judgment, and refusal to abandon their captain directly prevented a fatality. In a community where fishing is both heritage and livelihood, Lukas and Hayden Fortin demonstrated the highest standards of seamanship: courage, competence, loyalty, and calmness under pressure. Their actions reflect great credit upon themselves, their families, their captain, and the future of Frenchboro's fishing tradition.

The Town expressed its profound appreciation for their bravery and acknowledges that their quick thinking saved a life.

Next Meeting Scheduled: Due to the upcoming Labor Day Holiday, the Board decided to schedule their next meeting one day later than usual, on Tuesday September 8, 2026.

Warrant and Financial Report: Daniel Swain was present to review the warrant expenditures and the monthly financial report he had prepared. There was little change in revenues since the last report. The current cash balance for all accounts is \$440,000.

The Board directed Daniel to pay third party organizations that were funded at this year's Annual Town Meeting. These include LifeFlight, the Cemetery Association, and the Library. Motion to do so by Chris Hodgkins, seconded by Larry Smith and unanimously approved.

It was agreed to replace the Town Clerk's worn-out computer at a cost not to exceed \$1,000, using the technology grant funds first. Motion by Joe Lunt, seconded by Chris Hodgkins and unanimously approved.

Head of the Harbor: The Town Administrator reported on meetings with Jaime Wallace from Wright-Pierce Engineers. Changes to the plan include a longer culvert to accommodate a guardrail required by engineering codes. Wright-Pierce estimates that bid notices will go out to interested contractors around 9/7/26 and that bids will be received at Wright-Pierce offices by 9/23/26. Bids could possibly be awarded by 9/28/26. There was discussion about potential use of the Teacher's House for contractor crew members to stay during the project. The Board reacted positively, but cautioned that it would depend on whether a new student arrives that would require the school to reopen. There was some discussion on whether the Parsonage might also be available for this use.

Building Repairs: Allen Duchesne has looked at the municipal building and the public restrooms and will submit a quote for repair work. The Board confirmed that they would like to also see a price from Austin Soucy.

Property Sale: The Board responded to questions regarding pricing of the Town owned parcels. The special town meeting vote requires them to be sold at market value and it was stated that getting property back on the tax roles is an incentive to expedite the sale process. Brooke Knights has proposed handling the listing and sale of the properties and would charge a 3% commission as the seller's agent. She has proposed listing the properties at a price somewhat lower than what Steve Shelton had proposed. This is based on an analysis of similar properties on comparable islands. Joe Lunt moved to accept Brooke Knights as agent for the Town. Seconded by Larry Smith and unanimously approved. Brooke will meet with the Town Administrator for further discussion.

The Board then took up a personnel matter under executive session as allowed by State law. Motion to go into executive session by Joe Lunt. Seconded by Larry Smith and unanimously approved.

Following discussion in closed session, Joe Lunt moved to adjourn from executive session. Seconded by Chris Hodgkins and unanimously approved,

There being no further business to come before the Board, Joe Lunt moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Larry Smith and unanimously approved at 6:30 pm.