

**Town of Hawley, Massachusetts**  
**Minutes of a**  
**Selectboard / Board of Health / Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**  
**in Person & via Zoom**  
**May 6, 2025**

Present: Will Cosby, Robert MacLean, Hussain Hamdan (the last via Zoom) – Selectboard  
Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday

Virginia Gabert, Treasurer and Financial Administrator  
Gary Mitchell, Chris Tirone, Lloyd Crawford, Charlie MacLean,  
And via Zoom Randy Crochier and Kurt Schellenberg

**The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.** Warrants and minutes from a previous meeting were signed. Then:

1. **Health Agents Randy Crochier and Kurt Schellenberg joined the group to discuss the water-testing results from town buildings.** Randy said he was particularly concerned about the coliform levels at the Fire Station and asked what sort of well it had. Hussain explained that the land had formerly been a potato field with pesticide use. He noted that the group had always advised against drinking the water. Randy said that even washing one's hands in the water could present problems. He suggested reaching out to John Rittall at Waterwright, a well specialist. He said Henshaw, another well specialist, was another possibility. Randy and Kurt suggested a filter at the very least for the garage, and Kurt said a simple flush there might help with the PH levels there as well. Tinky said she would follow up.
2. **The group moved on to an appointment for the Conservation Commission.** Hussain moved to appoint Charlie MacLean to the commission; Will seconded the motion, and both voted in favor. (Bob recused himself as Charlie was his son.) Virginia noted that Bob Taylor's term technically didn't end until June 30 so the group decided to ask Bob for a letter of resignation before appointing Charlie.
3. **Road news was next.** Will reported that Davenport had completed most of the work on Ashfield Road and that the new gravel was much finer than the previous version. The bid request for the culverts on that road would go up the following day. Bids were due at the end of June. The King Corner contract with the DER had to be completed by June 30. In addition, Lloyd was working on the bank reconstruction behind the Town Garage. Lloyd said that the plantings there were doing well. Unfortunately, the original source of funds for doing more work there was unavailable. (The DEP had thought settlement money from Tropical Storm Irene was available, but that money was under the control of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which had other plans for it.) Lloyd said that if the Selectmen approved, he would seek funds for the bank work from the Woodlands Partnership. The town would then ask the Conservation Commission to help determine applicability, and Will could sign the application for the plantings and a temporary irrigation system. All the Selectmen approved of this idea.

Will asked Gary about his plans for Chapter 90 funds. Gary said he was contemplating some paving work. Lloyd asked what Will had heard about the millionaire's tax. Will said that the fund might help a little, but it sounded as though most of that money was destined for transit work in the eastern part of the state. He noted that the process was messy.

4. **Letters were signed** advocating for better Chapter 90 funding and asking GoNetSpeed to install back-up batteries for Hawley's internet.
5. **The group discussed the new computers.** Hussain noted two issues. First, the computers were supposed to have CD/DVD drives and did not. External ones would be fine. Second, Virginia had received a smaller laptop than she had requested; she needed a larger screen. Will said he would look into the problem. Tinky reported that she had heard from Mitchell at TOSS (the company contracted to provide the computers) that Dreamhost, Hawley's email server, did not support two-factor authentication. Hussain suggested that town employees be asked whether they wanted that; he said he hadn't seen any demand. Tinky observed that she had not received the link to the password manager TOSS had promised; Hussain said some people had received it. The group agreed that any problems with the new computers were not a reflection on Brian, the installer, who had been very helpful. Hussain reported that the desktop computer for the Fire Station was to be used by the emergency-management director.

**In other business, Lloyd brought up a finance problem.** The Finance Committee had budgeted for two continuing vocational-education students. Three more had been accepted, throwing the budget for this expensive category out of whack. Virginia observed that there was some balance left over from FY25 that could be used. In addition, a special town meeting could be held to raise and appropriate more money. Lloyd suggested that instead of adding \$20,000 to the vocational-education stabilization fund at Town Meeting, the group could use those funds for FY26. Hussain asked whether the financial situation would be clearer by the Selectmen's next meeting. Lloyd said he expected so although factors such as a refund from Mohawk Trail School were still uncertain. After looking into her files, Virginia later reported that there might be as much as \$75,000 left in the current year's account, which would help.

**Bob asked about the recent dog bite.** Chris said he had not yet visited the owners but understood that the dog's rabies vaccine was now up to date. Tinky said she would check in with the owners. Will reported that the same dog had in the past bitten Marian Ives. Tinky told the group that she had informed the owner that the dog **MUST** be under control at all times.

**Tinky reported on the election results,** which were pretty much as expected since there had been no contests. Chris Tirone had received a write-in vote for Town Clerk but had refused the position. Hussain moved that the group extend Ellie Van Iderstine's appointment as Town Clerk until the next election. Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

**Virginia asked what the group would like her to prepare for Annual Town Meeting.** Hussain suggested that a comparison of the FY26 budget with funds spent in recent years would be helpful. Happily, that was in the Town Report.

**Tinky said that she and Peter Beck would like permission to pursue an ADA grant** for the Town Office. If nothing else, it might cover planning. The board agreed and asked her to report back. This was merely at an exploratory phase; the Board members noted concerns that embarking on one project might lead to a much more expensive endeavor.

**Tinky also noted that election workers had come up with the idea of a produce swap** at the Town Office to be called “Home Grown Hawley.” Will suggested a place for shelving for the produce.

**Will noted that HAY Day was returning to Hawlemont School** at the end of May.

**Tinky reminded the group that Hawley’s intergenerational Spring Fling was fast approaching.** It didn’t sound as though very many people were interested in coming.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday

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Williams Cosby

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Hussain Hamdan

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Robert MacLean