

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of a
Selectboard / Board of Health / Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
(with a Tax-Classification Hearing)
in Person & via Zoom
December 2, 2025

Present: Will Cosby, Hussain Hamdan, and Robert MacLean – Selectboard
Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday; Virginia Gabert, Treasurer and Financial Administrator (via Zoom)
Madison Schofield (also via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. The board signed warrants and approved minutes from a previous meeting. Then:

1. **The group discussed John Sears's resignation from the Vocational Education Advisory Council.** Tinky explained that Suzanne Crawford had recommended Robert Sears to fill the position, and Robert had agreed to do the work. Hussain moved to appoint Robert to the position, Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Tinky was asked to thank both John and Robert.
2. **The tax-classification hearing began at 7:05.** Virginia explained that she had sent the board background information. She noted that the assessors had once again recommended a single tax rate for the town. (She added that the town had never had more than one rate.) Based on values, the budget, and expenditures, the assessors had recommended a rate of \$16.20 per \$1000 of value. Hussain moved to adopt that figure as the town's single tax rate, Bob seconded, and all voted in favor.
3. It was snowing quite heavily so **the board decided to take the FRCOG priorities list under advisement** and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.
4. **Tinky explained that the Department of Transportation wanted an individual named as the bridge-repair contact** for the state. The group decided that Highway Superintendent Gary Mitchell would be the ideal person.
5. **In road and grant news,** Will explained that the town was still waiting for the contract from the state for the Dugway work. He said it would probably arrive in 10 to 12 days. It would need to be approved (or amended) and then returned to the state. After that, the town could begin negotiations with the vendor. He asked Tinky to put the contract on the agenda for the next meeting. He said he would have preferred quicker action; survey work would probably not be able to begin in the winter. Will reported that he and Lloyd Crawford were planning to meet with MVP representatives on December 19 to discuss the King Corner project. He said they would also bring up the issue of the Highway Garage, which had been identified as vulnerable in the 2022 study. He said the MVP people should be helpful with wording for future grant applications

Will noted that the Ashfield Road culvert replacement was pretty much done. It was possible that silt tubes would still need to be removed; that could happen in the spring. In any case, he told Virginia, she could finalize the last piece of paperwork for that project. She asked whether GZA had submitted all its paperwork. Will said he would check and observed that the final bills could be paid at the following meeting.

Hussain told the group that now that the government shutdown had ended, Hawley and Cummington were getting ready to order the airpacks for which they had received a grant. He explained that Cummington would do the official ordering as it was the lead town. Each town would submit its specifications, and Hawley would have to send its five-percent matching funds (already allocated) to Cummington. Virginia said she was prepared to do this. Will asked how long it would take to get the airpacks. Hussain said they would probably take eight to 12 weeks once the order was placed, although timing could be affected by order volume. Luckily, the supplier was on the state-contract list, and the airpacks were standard equipment.

Will noted that the road crew was out plowing during the current snow storm and probably would be doing so for a while longer.

In other news, **Tinky noted that with the death of George Rice the previous week the board would need to appoint a new constable.** After a short discussion, Hussain moved to appoint Tinky to the position, Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Hussain offered to provide relevant legal information on the position to Tinky. Virginia reminded the group that both Tinky and Robert Sears would need to be sworn in to their new positions. Hussain noted that it would be nice to mention George in the e-news and/or the town report; he had done a lot for the town. The other board members agreed. Tinky said that Ellie, the town clerk, believed that more Hawleyites had died in 2025 than in any single year for decades.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday

Williams Cosby

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean