

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of a
Selectboard / Board of Health / Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
in Person & via Zoom
January 27, 2026

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

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 began by finalizing the list for the FRCOG District Local Technical Assistance.** Shared West County EMS topped the list, along with help with grant and contract administration and planning lines on roads. Other priorities listed by the Selectboard and other officials included help with ADU and floodplain bylaws (suggested by Lloyd on behalf of the Planning Board) and help finding money for tree trimming/maintenance in cemeteries (requested by John Sears on behalf of the Historical Commission), Virginia requested help in identifying and procuring financial-management software. That was added as a miscellaneous wish.
2. **The next point of discussion was the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be scheduled in February.** It included two articles. One used standard language to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed (contingent on a vote at the spring election). The other was a proposed bylaw that authorized the treasurer to enter into agreements about tax-title properties. Hussain read the tax-title language aloud. Will moved that the warrant articles be accepted, Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. The warrant was signed
3. **The group discussed signing the Tri-Town Landfill change order,** which Hussain assured his fellow board members was finally worded correctly. Bob moved that it be signed, Will seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

In other business the group briefly expressed gratitude to the DOT for putting the bridge on Route 8A at Savoy Road on its repair list. Will noted that the repairs were not guaranteed; the bridge would be included in a package of proposed projects. Nevertheless, he said, it was positive news to see the project being considered.

Tinky reported back on the question of speed-feedback signs. She informed the highway crew that all the signs being ordered would be solar, making installation easier (although Gary noted that the signs would have to be placed somewhere sunny). She asked whether Gary still wanted movable signs; he indicated that he did. She said the state wanted information about accidents and speeding. She hadn't found any reports about speeding, but the state's database about accidents didn't seem to include the two areas being considered.

Hussain said he knew that there had been accidents in those areas; perhaps he could help. He also indicated that perhaps FRCOG would have speeding data. Tinky said she would check.

The group briefly discussed a notification from the state that required the town website to be accessible by April 2027. Tinky said that web designer Bill Tuman had said he would be able to help but wouldn't know how much the help would cost until he investigated the website (and that investigation would cost money). Hussain noted that it would be helpful if people in town could look over the requirements for accessibility before engaging Bill. Tinky said that Jason Velazquez had offered to help and asked whether Hussain would be willing to work with Jason and her. He said he could if he had enough warning.

Hussain explained that he had been told by three households in town where internet had been difficult that GoNetSpeed was moving them to Starlink, supposedly at no additional cost. He said that he had written to Michael Baldino at MBI inquiring about this situation but had as yet received no answer. Tinky offered to look into the question.

Speaking of MBI, Tinky said that she had heard from Michael Baldino that the make-ready process for Hawley's broadband seemed stuck; the group discussing it was now meeting twice a month but did not appear to have made any breakthroughs. Will suggested she talk to Nancy Clark at Charter ... and remind Nancy that Charter's contract stipulated completion by the end of 2026.

Lloyd reported that the Planning Board would not be proposing bylaw changes soon. He also asked whether the contract with VHB for Dugway Design work had been signed. Will said he had not yet received it but would be happy to sign it when it came if the other board members had no further objections. Hussain indicated the latest iteration appeared to resolve all of his concerns. Hussain moved to authorize Will to sign the contract pending his (Will's) final review, Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean