

**Town of Hawley, Massachusetts**  
**Minutes of a**  
**Selectboard / Board of Health / Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**  
**April 21, 2026**

Present: Will Cosby and Robert MacLean – Selectboard  
Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday; Virginia Gabert, Treasurer and Financial Administrator  
Gary Mitchell and Chris Tirone – Highway Department

**The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.** The board signed warrants and approved and minutes from previous meetings. Then:

1. **The board members signed the warrants for the upcoming Town Election and Special Town Meeting.**
2. **Will brought up a possible cybersecurity grant.** He noted that the most likely way to use it would be for networking the town's computers but added that saw two problems with this idea. First, in many ways the non-networked computers were safer than networked ones might be. Second, Hawley didn't have an IT person to maintain the network. Virginia said she concurred; if one person in the office made a mistake on a networked computer, other computers might be affected. Tinky said she was concerned because she hadn't been able to figure out the password manager installed by the person who had helped set up the new computers. Passwords had been one of the issues flagged in the health checkup. Will suggested she try working with him or Hussain to solve this problem. If neither of them could solve the problem, perhaps a small grant could be applied for to get some assistance.
3. **In road and grant news,** Gary reported that the current slate of sales on Municibid had been completed. The gas motor power plant had a high bid of \$397; the landscape rake, \$860; and the flail mower, \$3800. Will asked about the old chipper. Gary said it had been scrapped; it was in terrible shape. Will moved to accept the winning bids, Bob seconded the motion, and both voted in favor. Tinky said she would send out invoices and make sure Gary had receipts to share with the high bidders when they came to pick up their purchases.

Will noted that VHB was busy surveying the area in and around the Dugway. He and Chris had spotted people with sticks and waders but no drones. Will added that FRCOG planned to do traffic-counter studies in Hawley for 48 hours in mid-May. He said he had no news about King Corner.

Will said he had spotted people from Charter Communications laying fiber on Route 8A. He asked Tinky to get in touch with Nancy at the company to ask whether the cable was being pre-fabricated for installation and to find out in general how plans were progressing. Gary confirmed that he was getting ready to install new signs to deter people from taking dangerous routes.

Will asked whether more street sweeping would be done. Gary said he would do what he could with the sweeping machine, which had been rented for one month. Although the machine had trouble getting rid of all the sand in the roads after a very heavy winter, it appeared to be the best option. People would complain if he found a way to blow the sand to the sides of the road. And hiring a sweeping crew would be expensive. He didn't believe he had any other options.

Tinky told the group that she had been informed the day before that the town had received the speed-feedback signs it had requested from the Department of Transportation. Gary had read the contract and was prepared to fulfill his responsibilities (training, maintaining the signs as well as he could, downloading data to send to the DOT). She expressed gratitude for the help she had received from Gary and Hussain in filling out the grant application for the portable signs. Will asked whether Gary could chain the signs down and take the wheels off to keep people from moving the signs. Gary said he would do his best. Will moved to accept the signs, Bob seconded the motion, and both voted in favor. Will signed the paperwork for the signs.

4. **The group briefly discussed the possibility of signing a letter of support for the Deerfield River Watershed Association.** Tinky read an email from Hussain, who was out of town, expressing his doubts that the Woodlands Partnership proposed by the association would benefit the town. Bob said he agreed. The board decided to table the idea. Will suggested that Tinky write to the association to say that although the board was skeptical, someone was welcome to come to a Selectboard meeting to explain how the project might be good for Hawley. Because the season was so busy, he asked that this happen no earlier than July 1.

**In other business, Tinky informed the group that she had some semi-news about the old Tri-Town Landfill.** Mia in Heath was concerned that maintenance costs might be quite a bit higher for the next fiscal year than expected, although Mia had no exact figures. There was more mowing to be done, and Japanese knotweed in the landfill needed to be removed. Tinky added that Virginia thought the budgeted amount would probably suffice. The group agreed to let the problem rest for the moment.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tinky **Weisblat**, Gal Friday

---

Williams Cosby

---

Robert MacLean