

**Minutes
Select Board
July 28, 2025
Cotter Room
10 a.m.**

Members Present: Roger Woods, Chairman, Suzanne Djusberg, Kevin Donovan, Paul Bunker, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Items:

1. Approval of July 10, 2025, Minutes – motion by Mr. Donovan to approve, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
2. Consider status of Opioid Committee – Town Manager expressed thanks to the Opioid Committee who has done some great work. The Committee was originally appointed for a year, which was extended for a second year. It is time to disband the Committee and streamline the process. The website will be updated with the pertinent information. Applications will now come through the Town Manager's office, and recommendations will be made to the Select Board to distribute the funds. So far, about \$287,000 has been taken in and \$148,000 distributed through different programs – Narcan programs, Narcan training, equipment for the Fire Department, training for the Police Department, Abington COPES has received some money, as well as other organizations. There is a list of things that are eligible to spend the money on, and it is pretty clear that if we get requests that fall within those parameters, the Board can make those decisions.

Melissa Cook, High Street, Abington COPES – at the last Opioid Committee meeting, about \$80,000 was distributed. She wasn't sure where \$148,000 came from. The Town Manager got that figure from the Town Accountant. When the information goes on the website, the distributions will be listed.

Mr. Woods – information on when applications should be sent in and when money will be sent out will be on the website going forward. Distributions will probably be twice a year.

Mr. Donovan made the motion to disband the Opioid Committee and thank the members for their service, and any future applications will come through the Town Manager's office and be voted on by the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Mary D'Eramo, 122 Buckboard Lane – asked how they would know when there was going to be any activity on this. Mr. Woods - it will be a regular agenda item which will be posted on the

website. The deadline for applications and the process will be posted on the website. Ms. D'Eramo submitted information to the Board on the program and how it is to be spent. She has had direct impact because of this issue and is very involved.

- Police Chief Bonney gave an update on the MBTA crossing gate situation. Last Friday the majority of the gates came down at once. Sgt. Gillan utilized the Public Works crew who are great. He had to call in Rockland and the MBTA. Lt. Simmons put together information – from July 1st last year to this past Friday, there have been 35 incidents, with an average length of time that an officer had to be on the scene for about 30 minutes, sometimes it takes hours. The MBTA response isn't great. Keolis or whoever maintains these gates isn't doing the job for our community. It's happening too many times and is a massive safety issue.

Mr. Donovan – there were 17 incidents in July alone and the last one affected all the crossings for almost an hour. This hasn't been rectified. He went on record to insist/demand that the MBTA meet here with the Board to determine what is going on. It can't be allowed to continue both from a safety and an operational standpoint. The last incident happened at the beginning of rush hour on a Friday afternoon. They can't expect the town to come to a halt because of their inability to deal with their situation and incompetence.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to send a directive to the MBTA and Keolis as well as the MBTA Advisory Board asking them for an immediate meeting. They had met previously with the Chief Operating Officer of the T and included the Executive Director of the Advisory Board. The directive should also be cc'd to our legislative delegation, the Governor, Lt. Governor and Secretary of Transportation. When they see those people copied, they usually pay a little bit more attention. They will be getting calls from above to report on what actually happened. Send the letter to the T and cc everybody else, requesting/demanding a meeting and an action plan as to what they are going to do. Mr. Woods – would like to have it at a regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Mr. Woods – made a motion to bill the T for Police and DPW, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. Chief Bonney – our crews and Rockland did a great job.

3. Update on North and Center Schools – Water had previously approved connections, and they are going to update that vote. They are on the next Sewer agenda on August 4th, and Town Counsel is working on filings for Conservation and the Zoning Board.
 4. Request for appointment to Council on Aging – Motion by Mr. Donovan to appoint Christie Coombs to the Council on Aging, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
- There is a cookout at the Senior Center on August 28th at 11 a.m., which was started by Mr. Donovan back in 1981. The Police, Fire and department heads do the cooking.
 - The vanport was started at the Senior Center on the July 4th weekend by Jack Shea, Angelo Harris, Keith Duquette, Jason Harris, Roger Woods, and AJ Schneider who arranged for a bucket truck from Sullivan & McLaughlin Companies and safety gear that was donated, Devin from

Grass Seed Landscaping donated a lift truck for the day, which made the process go much quicker, and Bob Brainard, Got Pavement Needs, donated the work and materials to pave the vanport. The Board wanted to recognize them for their time and donations.

Representative Alyson Sullivan-Almeida obtained the grant for the materials, and the van was through an award from MassDOT which comes in September. Amy Barrett and the staff are doing a great job at the Senior Center and will be adding more classes in the fall.

5. Motion by Mr. Donovan to go into Executive Session pursuant to chapter 30A, section 21 (2) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations for non-union personnel: to wit; Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, and pursuant to chapter 30A, section 21 (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and to reconvene in Open Session, seconded by Mr. Bunker. Roll call vote: Mr. Bunker, aye; Mr. Donovan, aye; Ms. Djusberg, aye; Mr. Woods, aye.

Meeting reconvened. Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve the employee agreement by and between the Town of Abington and John Glynn as Fire Chief as delineated before us; and additionally approve the employment agreement by and between the Town of Abington and Jarrod Driscoll as Deputy Chief, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. The next meeting of the Board will be held on September 8th at 5 p.m. unless required earlier.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst