

Minutes
Maidstone Special Selectboard Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 2026 @ 5:45 PM
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person at Town Hall - 508 VT Rte 102 and via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82523445058?pwd=RktkcUlKaWdmWnNrMTMyL2JNdUhnUT09>

Members Present at Town Hall (in person): Scott Lovell, Brad McVetty, Bruno McKenzie
Town Officials and Staff Present at Town Hall (in person): Amy Pear, Laurie Snowman, Tammy Haas
Town Officials and Staff Present via Zoom: Bob Champagne-Willis, Andy Champagne-Willis
Also Present via Zoom: Linwood Mixer

Chairman Bruno McKenzie called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM

SELECTBOARD:

- Consider and render a decision on the Riverside Rescue Support Request – Brad made a motion to give Riverside Rescue the support payment that they requested. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion carried.
- Finalize the 2026 Budget - The auditors decided that due to the wage freeze the Selectboard wages would remain at \$3,800. There were two corrections made to the budget since the last budget meeting. Employment and Unemployment tax numbers were added. The county tax assessment numbers are now available. The low is \$39,594.90 and the high is \$39,863.34. That budget line will be set at \$39,600. Total budget with appropriations will be \$325,657 and without appropriations will be \$295,657.
- Approve the 2026 Town Warning – The draft warning was reviewed and three articles which were added due to citizens petitions were determined to be non-binding.

Brad made a motion to recess the meeting until after the BCA Meeting. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Chairman Bruno McKenzie called the meeting back to order.

The warning articles were voted on.

Article 1 – Shall the voters of the Town of Maidstone authorize payment of the 2026 property taxes in 2 (two) installments, with the due dates being October 15, 2026, and April 15, 2027, by physical delivery to the Town Treasurer at the Town Hall before 3:00 p.m. on each of the said due dates or by delivery to the Town Hall via USPS, postmarked on or before said due dates?

Scott made a motion to approve article one as amended (date correction). Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 2 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to raise \$20,000 and put it in the earmarked Town Road Rebuild Account within the Highway Fund?

Scott made a motion to approve article two. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 3 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to raise \$2,000 for a donation to the Maidstone Lake Association to help support the Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Program at Maidstone Lake?

Scott made a motion to approve article three. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 4 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to raise \$3,000 and put it in the Reappraisal and Maintenance of the Grand List Fund?

Brad made a motion to approve article four. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 5 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to raise \$4,000 to set aside for the biannual purchase of official Maidstone Town Trash Bags?

Scott made a motion to approve article five. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 6 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to use the prior year's interest on Town of Maidstone bank accounts to offset the municipal tax rate of the current year?

There was discussion about the dollar amount of interest to be used to offset the tax rate and the fact that it would be a different number each year. Scott made a motion to approve article six. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 7 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to allocate funds to give annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment, as set by the United States Government to all employees of the Town that the voters have statutory authority to set the pay?

There was discussion about the COLA. Scott opposed adding article seven to the warning. Bruno also opposed adding article seven to the warning. Brad approved adding article seven to the warning.

Laurie Snowman asked why the Selectboard was against the COLA. Scott stated that both Amy and Bob are good at their jobs but has heard that some people are treated differently depending on how they vote and he did not feel they were team players. Amy rebutted, stating that everyone is treated equally even when she is sometimes treated poorly. A heated discussion followed.

The article was voted against. Scott rescinded his motion to article seven. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried. Brad made a motion to accept article seven as written. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 8 – Shall the town of Maidstone vote to adopt the following Declaration of Inclusion. “The Town of Maidstone condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community. As a town we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies and operational procedures reflect this commitment. The Town of Maidstone is and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.” If adopted the Declaration of Inclusion will be posted at Town Hall and on the town’s website.

There was discussion about the Declaration of Inclusion. Scott opposed adding article eight. Bruno also opposed adding article eight. Brad approved adding article eight to the warning. The article was voted against.

Article 9 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to amend the Flag Display Policy, to include the flag recognizing the silver star families, as stated in the Proclamation of recognition of said families by the Maidstone Selectboard?

There was discussion about amending the flag display policy to add the Silver Star Flag. It was decided that another flag might be more appropriate. Scott opposed article 9. Brad seconded the opposition. All voted to oppose article 9.

Scott made a motion to add a new article to amend the flag display policy to include flags honoring veteran’s service. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 10 – Shall the Town of Maidstone vote on all public questions by Australian Ballot?

Scott made a motion to accept article 10. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Article 11 - Shall the Town of Maidstone vote to raise \$295,657 to pay current expenses as requested in the proposed Budget plus the amounts raised in Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7?

Scott made a motion to accept article 11. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business to discuss.

ADJOURN: The business of the meeting concluded. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.