

Public Hearing and Town Council Meeting
May 19, 2026

Open Public Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the public meeting.

Public Comment Regarding the June 9, 2026 Annual Referendum: Manager Doane explained the warrant articles that will be voted on:

Article 1: To appropriate \$1,984,640 for municipal expenses.

Article 2: Receive estimated revenues of \$838,820, transfer from reserves \$303,620 and raise \$842,200 from property tax.

Article 3: Authorization to apply and expend grants or other funds for municipal function.

Article 4: Authorization for the Town Council to regulate the taking of alewives for the 2027 season.

Article 5: Using the funds from the Viola Rand School to pay off the fire station debt.

Melissa also reported that the election will take place on June 9th at the fire station from 8 am to 8 pm. There also will be a municipal candidate ballot with Michael Wickett and Ethel Hill. She confirmed that absentee ballots become available on May 9th.

Close Public Hearing: Councilor Chair Ketch closed the public hearing.

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Town Council members were present. Also, present was Town Manager Melissa Doane.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the minutes of May 5, 2026, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 3/0.

Citizens Request: Ann Delaware left a note with Councilor Chair Ketch to announce that the next senior luncheon will be by May 20th at 11:30 at St. Ann Church.

Manager's Report: Melissa stated that the alewife harvest is going fairly well, there have been some bumps, however she and Barrett have worked through them. There was a question from a neighboring property regarding property ownership; Melissa provided the deeds and the tax maps and explained that the property ownership issue would be with the deeded property owner not the town. There have been a few complaints regarding the inability for recreational fishing due to the location of the harvest, however that is a Department of Marine Resource subject and has nothing to do with the town.

The Town reports were ready early last week; each Town Council member was provided a copy. The reports are also available on the website.

Melissa provided an update regarding road projects. The contract with Wellman Paving has been signed, they have the Town on the calendar for the first of July. John Milligan continues to work on ditching, removal of heavy road side sand and replacement of culverts that are damaged. She contacted the street sweeping contractor today, however he did not have a specific date for the road sweeping,

though again confirmed that we are on the list; the sweeping will be done in conjunction with Route 178.

Melissa reported that she will be attending a hearing regarding 114 Cram Street on Friday May 22 at 1:00 pm. At this time Mr. Wing remains in jail for a criminal issue. She plans on asking for updates regarding the nuisance complaints and the possibility of wage garnishment.

As requested, Melissa asked Dean to provide an update regarding the properties located on Main Street. He has been working with the property owners and is making progress. Dean provided a memo to the Town Council for additional information.

New Business: Melissa requested the Town Council approve the June 9, 2026 municipal referendum election warrant.

Councilor Ketch asked if there was anything in the land use ordinance that regulates signs on resident's home. Melissa stated that only free-standing signs are regulated.

Councilor Ketch also asked for an update regarding the speed posts that will be placed on Cram Street. Melissa stated that she was told they would be put in place in June.

Unfinished Business: None

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to approve the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 5/0.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for June 2, 2026

Online Comment: Allan Smallwood made a comment about speeding in front of his home on Main Street.

Adjourn: Councilor Ketch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Wade vote 5/0.