

**Appleton Select Board
January 28, 2025
Minutes**

1. **Convene:** Reed, Esancy, Garrigan, Costigan. Road Commissioner: Boyington
2. **Edits/Additions:** Motion to authorize chair to sign revaluation contract.
3. **Esancy:** Motion to approve minutes. Garrigan: Second. Unanimous.
4. **Garrigan:** Motion to approve warrant 12 totaling \$9,163.00. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.
5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **Roads**
 - a. Boyington noted he didn't have anything to report on roads.
 - b. Garrigan asked about outstanding invoices and noted less than 10 percent of the road maintenance budget had been spent more than 50 percent through the year. Costigan inquired if the culverts and ditching was completed by Greg Moody's following the fall purchase order request and vote. Boyington indicated it had not but he had completed a cross culvert on Appleton Ridge by the Haynes property; other culvert-related purchase orders from the fall for other parts of the ridge (near 105) and Peabody and Magog roads have not been completed.
 - c. Boyington noted an additional driveway culvert on Appleton Ridge would need to be replaced by the Cliff Fuller residence.
 - d. Esancy inquired about rutting near Pieri Pond.
7. **Select Board**
 - a. **Revaluation Discussion:** KRT revaluation would begin in March 25 and complete by August 2027 at a cost of \$110,000. Additional costs of valuation software (\$10k) and annual maintenance (\$6k) would also be incurred. The town revaluation fund currently holds \$117k and would cover immediate costs of software, licensing and the start of the contract, with future budget needs tied to annual maintenance and remaining contract costs. Esancy:
 - b. **Assessor's Agent Discussion:** Costigan noted Curt Lebel had indicated he would not renew his contract. He has served on a per diem of \$600 per day, approximately one day per month, with additional days added. He will help the town through July and replacing his position, while the revaluation continues simultaneously, will be a staffing challenge.
 - c. **Esancy:** Motion to authorize the chair to place Winter Roads Maintenance to bid. Reed: Second. Unanimous.
 - d. **Lower Road Harvest:** Costigan noted harvesting had begun and the winning bidder (Powers) anticipated delivery its first stumpage check to the town in the coming weeks. The total anticipated harvest is \$16,000 and will be paid in increments.
 - e. **Garrigan:** Motion to authorize \$193.00 to fire dept personnel to retroactively cover a 50-cent minimum wage increase that began in the fourth quarter of 2024. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.
 - f. **Other:** Costigan discussed the upcoming budget process and concerns AVS may be reaching capacity. She discussed the option of tuition at the state-established rate to surrounding middle schools and indicated discussions with other superintendents

suggested it could be a three-year process from inception to actualization. At least one school in the five-town area anticipates capacity within three years at the middle school level. A letter from the select board encouraging a review of tuition pros and cons was suggested as a starting point. Garrigan indicated there has been historically no interest from the AVS board to review tuitioning students. Costigan indicated the next step would have to be for interested residents to petition, should there be interest, and that an analysis of operating costs, at the very least, would be a good exercise for a town lacking commercial tax revenue.

- g. Garrigan: Motion to adjourn: Costigan: Second. Unanimous.**