

TOWN OF PATTEN

21 Katahdin Street | PO Box 260 | Patten, ME 04765

Phone (207) 528-2215 | Fax (207) 528-2055

www.pattenmaine.org

PATTEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

These minutes are not verbatim.

Location: Public Works Garage, 23 Katahdin Street, Patten, ME 04765

Date & Time: Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 5:30pm

Called to order by Gregg Smallwood at 5:35pm.

ROLL CALL

Select Board: Gregg Smallwood, Chair; Rae Bates, Vice-Chair; Janice Dancer, Teena Goode, Theresa Schmidt

Town Employees: Gail Albert, Town Manager; Raye Porter, Finance Consultant; Willow Brooks, Deputy Clerk; Kevin Noyes, Director of Public Works; Julie Buhler, Library Director; Jon Harvey, Animal Control Officer

Public: Charlie Kenney, Laura Kenney, Marcia Pond Anderson, Kent Smallwood, Benita Qualey

Guest Speaker: Ron Blum, Planning Board Chair

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Planning Board Updates

R. Blum: Dale Ronhock attended the July Planning Board meeting and presented his plan to commercially develop property he bought on South Patten Road. Patten has no regulations for commercial developments, but Island Falls does. The Select Board is going to review the Island Falls regulations and would also like to hear the Planning Board's suggestions.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion made by G. Smallwood to add Payroll Warrant #17 to the agenda. Seconded by R. Bates, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Warrant #15 for General Government, Water, Sewer, Ambulance

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign Warrant #15. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Payroll Warrant #16 & #17

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign Payroll Warrants 16 and 17. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2025

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the minutes for July 22. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Special Town Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2025

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the Special Town meeting minutes for July 22. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

TIF Paperwork for Ambulance Pickup

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the grant agreement with Penobscot County and resolution for TIF funds for a pickup for the Ambulance Service. Seconded by T. Schmidt, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Town Manager

G. Albert: Patten Pioneer Days was a success, Brittney and Gail will begin realigning the Community Activities Committee as well as plan for a fall festival, senior programming, and a possible Turkey Trot in November to raise funds for a coat drive.

The Mount Chase Men's Club has donated \$500 toward an ADA Compliant swing for the Stephen Yates Community Playground, Terry Hill has offered to match those funds. The swing will cost \$2,000, Gail asked the Select Board to match the remaining \$1,000.

Motion made by G. Smallwood for Patten to spend \$1,000 toward the purchase of an ADA Compliant swing for the playground. Seconded by T. Schmidt, there are currently \$8,000 in the playground fund but the Select Board agreed there are other uses for those funds. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Gail shared that Stephen Yates passed away, his family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Stephen Yates Community Playground.

Patten's budget decreased \$31,697 for this year, but the County tax bill increased \$23,617 and the RSU 89 budget is up \$127,000, so there will be an increase to the mil rate. The Select Board will choose the mil rate for 2025 taxes on Thursday, August 14.

Public Works

K. Noyes: There was an issue with the system that controls the level in the water reservoir, Ashland Water donated the part Kevin needed and saved Patten a lot of money. A few new customers have hooked up to town water. DEP completed their yearly sewer inspection and everything went well. Burials at the cemetery this year have all been cremations and there have been few lot sales. Randy and Kevin have laid out the new section of cemetery. FEMA is still working on a replacement for the Rowe Brook crossing. The State temporarily repaired the end of Church Street, but the underdrain system needs a complete rebuild in the next year or two.

Library

J. Buhler: Julie continues to host events and programming at the library. There was an author reading in May, and Summer Reading and Family Movie Night were a success. An arts and crafts group meet at the library on Wednesdays. The library now has 287 registered patrons.

NEW BUSINESS

Historical Society Sign Request

The Historical Society requested that the digital speed limit sign on North Road be moved from in front of the Cultural Center. Gail spoke with Lieutenant Harris, who recommended the sign stay where it is and the town add more signage up the road in hopes that drivers slow down before coming into the middle of town.

Motion made by R. Bates to leave the digital speed limit sign where it is and add speed limit signage where drivers will see it before coming to the digital sign. Seconded by G. Smallwood, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Mowing Contract Increase Request

Andrew Smith originally bid \$28,700 for mowing contracts #1 and #2, he is requesting \$11,000 extra for the 2025 season and shared that he is losing money at his original bid price. Andrew also proposed a 3-year contract for mowing, starting at \$43,937 for 2026 and increasing 4% in 2027 and 2028. It was included in his proposal that Andrew would buy a new bagger if the Select Board agrees to a 3-year contract.

Motion made by G. Smallwood to accept the proposal for a 3-year mowing contract. Seconded by R. Bates, verbiage that the Town is not paying for the new bagger will be included in the contract. **Approved 4/0/1 abstention.**

No motion was made regarding Andrew's request for \$11,000 for the rest of the 2025 mowing season. Raye is going to look at the numbers and recommend to the Select Board a counteroffer.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

Rae suggests that Brittney should start planning for Memorial Day as soon as possible, since the Women's Club is no longer putting on the Memorial Day Parade.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

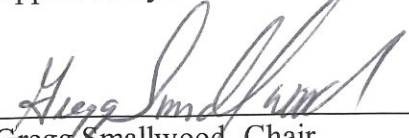
Kent said he would like to see live music in the Patten Pioneer Days Parade.


ADJOURN

Motion made by G. Smallwood to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Seconded by T. Schmidt, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2025

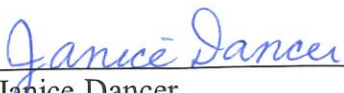
Approved by the Select Board on August 14, 2025


Gregg Smallwood, Chair


Teena Goode


Rae Bates, Vice-Chair

— ABSENT —
Theresa Schmidt


Janice Dancer