



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE • STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 772-7391 • FAX (603) 775-0517

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## SELECT BOARD AGENDA

February 2, 2026

7:00 pm

**Hutton Room, Stratham Municipal Center  
10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, NH 03885**

**This meeting of the Select Board will be held in the Hutton Room of the Stratham Municipal Center**

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consideration of Minutes –1/20/26
- IV. Finance Report (second meeting of the month)
- V. Department Reports & Presentations
  - a. No department reports scheduled
- VI. Correspondence and Informational Items
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Public Hearings, Ordinances and/or Resolutions
  - a. Public Hearing concerning the Town of Stratham's 2026 Town Budget and 2026 Town Warrant
- IX. New Business and Action Items
  - a. Tax Abatement Analysis (Non-Public Discussion)
  - b. Facilities Lead Position (Non-Public Discussion)
  - c. SHP Dog Leash Ordinance
  - d. SHP e-Bike Ordinance
  - e. Road Salt Update
  - f. Terrastar Truck Condition Memo
  - g. Fire Inspector Report – Lane Property
- X. Town Administrator Report

The Select Board reserves the right to take up business in any order deemed appropriate by the Chair. A motion to enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 may occur at any time during the meeting. Submission of items to be placed on the Agenda must be to the Town Administrator by 4 pm the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting.



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- XI. Reservations, Event Requests & Permits
  - a. Acorn School requesting fee waiver for use of the Scamman Pavilion on 4/24 for their Earth Day celebration
  - b. Easter Sunrise Service at SHP
- XII. Review of Recent or Upcoming Board & Commissions Agendas
  - a. SHP Advisory Committee
- XIII. Boards and Commissions Nominations & Appointments
  - a. Appointments for consideration
    - i. Kim Williams to the vacant alternate position on the Heritage Commission
  - b. Appointments to be voted on
    - i. Mike Lamb – Appointment for EMD Director Position for a three-year term
    - ii. June Sawyer -Appointment for EMD Deputy Director Position for a three-year term
- XIV. Miscellaneous & Old Business
- XV. Adjournment

## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2026 SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Board Members Chair Mike Houghton, Vice Chair Allison Knab, Joe Anderson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Tim Roache, Finance Administrator Lori Ruest, Planning and Building Director Vanessa Price. Lt. David Pierce

At 7:00pm Mr. Houghton opened the meeting and asked for a motion on the draft minutes. Mr. Anderson noted an edit to the minutes. With that amendment, Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the January 5, 2026 minutes. Ms. Knab wasn't at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and therefore abstained. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Houghton recognized Ms. Price for her department report. Ms. Price provided updates on Planning projects at 301 and 217 Portsmouth Avenue and noted that she anticipates seven proposed zoning amendments for the Warrant. She reported that the Building Department fee structure took effect on January 1 and that staff are currently reviewing the land use board fee schedule. In 2025, a total of 917 building permits were issued; permit activity has been trending downward or remaining flat in recent years. She added that last year's building permit fees were sufficient to cover the Building Department's budget, with a small surplus.

Mr. Houghton asked about activity at the school. Ms. Price stated that the Building Inspector had been on site. When Mr. Houghton clarified he was referring to the old vocational school, Ms. Price indicated she had no new information. Regarding Stoney Brook, she reported that the applicant still needs to file a formal application. A request for a variance extension related to the single-family home project was recently granted by the ZBA for one year. Mr. Houghton noted that a prior settlement requires a mixed-use component.

Ms. Price revisited the matter of Winnicutt Road naming. She recalled that Copley Properties did not agree with the names proposed by the Heritage and Conservation Commission. Gallant Place had been recommended and, although a proper name, was considered acceptable by the Board. Ms. Knab expressed a preference for the names originally proposed by the Heritage Commission. Ms. Ruest emphasized how a road name is pronounced is important for emergency response purposes. Ms. Price noted that the names have not yet been reviewed by E911. The Board directed her to submit the list of twelve native soil and grass names to E911 for review, after which the Board will make its selection. Ms. Price confirmed that the Board has approved Gallant Place and Wildflower Place, and Mr. Houghton affirmed this.

Ms. Price then presented the Aberdeen West Decommissioning Landscaping Agreement which was part of the requirement of the Notice of Decision and also the Landscape Agreement. These have been reviewed by legal counsel and agreed to by all parties. Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the landscape surety agreement and the decommissioning agreement for Aberdeen West Cooperative as outlined in the January 14, 2026 memo from the Director of Planning and Building. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Price next called attention to 217 Portsmouth Avenue and reviewed the Cistern Agreement and the Stormwater Management Agreement. She explained that the access and joint-use easement for the on-site cistern provides the Fire Department with the necessary rights to access and utilize the cistern. Both documents are required as part of the Planning Board process. She further noted that the Stormwater Management Infrastructure easement specifies that the grantor must retain ownership of the stormwater facilities and ensure their proper maintenance. Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the stormwater management infrastructure easement and the access and joint use easement agreement for the on-site cistern for 217 Portsmouth Avenue, Tax Map 21, Lot 88 in the Route 33 Legacy Highway Heritage Zoning district as outlined in the January 14, 2026 memo from the Director of Planning and Building. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton recognized Lt. Pierce, who reported that Chief King is requesting approval to purchase a new cruiser using Detail Funds. The cost of the vehicle is \$54,045, with an additional approximately \$4,000 for a five-year, 100,000-mile warranty. New equipment for the cruiser, totaling \$13,956, would also be funded through the Detail Fund. Lt. Pierce noted that the 2014 detectives' vehicle will be auctioned due to significant body deterioration. Under the proposed vehicle rotation, the Chief's current car will be reassigned to the detectives, and the Chief will receive the new cruiser. He also requested the release of \$2,000 from the Detail Fund to cover car wash expenses, which had previously been paid from the maintenance budget. Ms. Knab motioned to authorize the Police Chief to expend a total of \$70,001 out of the Detail Fund of which \$54,045 will go to the new vehicle, \$13,956 will go to equip the cruiser and \$2,000 will go towards car washes and to auction the vehicle that is coming out of service. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Lt. Pierce then requested on behalf of the Police Chief the release of \$6,171.78 in the traffic control CIP to purchase new equipment for the Police Department. Ms. Knab authorized the Police Chief to move forward with funds out of the traffic control CIP and the amount of \$6,171.78 toward traffic control. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board then discussed when to have the snow date for the Public Hearing on the Warrant. They wanted to avoid having it on the same date as the SAU16 meeting. They decided on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm as the snow date.

Mr. Anderson motioned to accept the \$5,902 donation from the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department Association for the purchase of a cordless DeWalt fan. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned support for Stratham Memorial School to move forward with its Wellness Walk on Friday, May 15 at 1:15pm and approve the road closure. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Roache said the Energy Commission is requesting to come before the Board in February to discuss the electric rates.

The group questioned the terms for the Office of Emergency Management positions. They will revisit those appointments at a later date.

Mr. Houghton motioned to re-appoint Nate Merrill to the Local River Management Advisory Committee for a three year term ending in 2029. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton called attention to the School Board flier on the anticipated tax increase. Ms. Knab recalled that much of the increase was due to the bond and that the contract negotiation was reasonable. They have mandatory out of district tuition for students with disabilities that is very expensive.

Mr. Roache said he's been made aware by the State's Attorney General that state law now requires us to review all town contracts for DEI requirements. Mr. Houghton suggested examining the grants. He will review and bring back to the Board with his findings.

Going forward, Mr. Roach will include in his Administration Report highlights from each of the departments. From Fire Dept, Paramedic Emily Yelle just did a training on how to transport a service dog with the person that's having an issue. Parks and Rec decided to keep camp at Stratham Memorial School. Graham Emanuel contacted the Town Clerk to recreate an old style ballot box and present that at Town Meeting. Mr. Houghton said Mr. Emanuel should present his project to the Board prior to that.

Mr. Roache briefly discussed the Lane property repairs. He would like to schedule a walk-through of the property, including Nate Merrill and Drew Bedard. Mr. Houghton suggested mid-February. The tenant who lost access to water for nine days had requested rent relief for those days. We did not own the property at that time, therefore it was not our responsibility. Mr. Houghton observed that he was inconvenienced for nine days. He declined to have us put him up in a hotel, which would have cost us close to \$700. They agreed to rent relief of approximately \$500 - \$700.

Mr. Roache reported that he has been in communication with Underwood Engineering regarding potential water interconnections related to ongoing PFAS concerns. He noted growing interest and collaboration among neighboring communities. He plans to meet with Underwood and representatives from surrounding towns once the budget process is complete.

The Board expressed interest in meeting with the legislative delegation some time in the coming months.

Mr. Anderson wants to meet with the Police Chief and Mr. Roache in late February to discuss the annual review process.

After discussion, the Board agreed to discontinue the monthly department reports. Moving forward, Mr. Roache will provide department heads with high-level highlights from Select Board meetings and encourage a more interactive exchange.

Ms. Knab noted the value of the statistical information previously provided by departments and expressed a desire not to lose that insight. Mr. Roache stated that while his summaries will

remain high level, departments can continue to provide detailed information during their appearances before the Board. Ms. Knab also cautioned against departments becoming siloed. Mr. Roache added that the information will be maintained as a SharePoint document, allowing all departments to view one another's updates and promote transparency and collaboration.

Mr. Houghton opened the discussion on the budget. The Board noted that the current draft reflects an approximate 3.5% increase, and their goal is to reduce it to 3%, which would require identifying \$50,000–\$60,000 in reductions. Ms. Ruest reminded the Board that the fund balance could be used to help achieve this target, and the group discussed appropriate levels of fund balance usage. Mr. Anderson expressed support for establishing a formal fund balance policy.

Mr. Roache reported that the CIP figure had decreased based on recommendations from the Budget Advisory Committee. The Board reviewed potential areas for expense reductions, including past practices regarding fund balance use. They also discussed the Casella proposal and agreed that additional research and further discussion are needed.

The Board reviewed departmental budget requests and committee submissions to identify possible cuts. They agreed to allocate \$15,000 for Patriotic Purposes to support the America 250/Summerfest celebration. Mr. Houghton requested a non-public session later in the meeting to discuss a Heritage Commission project. After making adjustments, the Board believed they were close to the target.

The discussion then turned to road paving and opportunities to reduce costs in that area. Mr. Anderson commented on revenue projections, noting they are conservative. After speaking with the Town Clerk regarding motor vehicle fees, he suggested the estimates may be able to be adjusted upward. The Board continued discussing ways to reach their budget target. Mr. Houghton concluded by noting that they will follow up on the Casella proposal and revisit DPW matters at a later time.

Ms. Ruest requested that the Board review the draft warrant, noting that it had been prepared using the DRA form. She highlighted several articles and asked the Board for clarification or confirmation as needed. Mr. Houghton asked Mr. Roache to provide an updated spreadsheet that includes the CIP and CRF figures.

Ms. Ruest reported that she will follow up with the DRA and the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and will also contact the Assessor regarding a recently identified change to the veterans' credits. Information for the Public Hearing will be posted on the Town website.

At 9:03pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(c) and (e). Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:21pm Mr. Houghton motioned to adjourn. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard, Recording Secretary

DRAFT

<b>Town of Stratham Preliminary Budget</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>YTD 11/30/25 Actual 2025</b>	<b>Projected Budget 2026</b>	
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#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Select Board/Administration	249,240	255,217.39	256,790	220,660.25	275,820		
ELECTION & REGISTRATION	27,950	23,114.99	14,100	9,531.81	25,400		
FINANCIAL ADMIN	208,800	193,524.60	216,125	202,468.97	224,650		
ASSESSING	101,385	74,472.60	79,795	65,671.36	67,870		
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	169,880	175,692.04	196,862	197,636.69	208,060		
COMPUTER SERVICES	112,800	126,947.24	123,000	119,679.80	126,000		
LEGAL EXPENSES	40,000	35,847.88	40,000	38,364.04	40,000		
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	1,417,560	1,273,025.63	1,504,574	1,247,161.88	1,596,637		
PLANNING	145,450	127,342.85	129,780	128,685.38	140,590		
BLDG INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT	149,285	132,004.83	132,050	124,590.51	138,952		
GENERAL GOVT. BUILDINGS	185,100	192,504.80	187,068	178,948.96	235,251		
CEMETERIES	40,260	33,103.82	59,250	36,850.43	15,350		
INSURANCE	136,273	136,273.00	149,097	149,097.00	191,780		
OTHER GEN. GOVT.	6,000	458,005.33	5,000	36,968.35	1,000		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2,989,983</b>	<b>3,237,077.00</b>	<b>3,093,491</b>	<b>2,756,315.43</b>	<b>3,287,360</b>		

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE	1,385,700	1,334,688.04	1,448,966	1,421,568.32	1,442,170		
FIRE DEPARTMENT	563,665	574,837.92	810,375	688,123.61	812,500		
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9,500	4,598.63	9,500	3,627.18	8,500		
DISPATCH SERVICES	1,000	2,588.93	3,000	2,718.52	3,600		
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>1,959,865</b>	<b>1,916,713.52</b>	<b>2,271,841</b>	<b>2,116,037.63</b>	<b>2,266,770</b>		

#### PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY/STREET LIGHTS	769,111	737,208.40	737,450	732,203.24	785,300		
SANITATION	1,061,200	1,071,542.62	1,096,500	1,024,795.11	1,161,500		
OTHER	1	-	1	-	1		
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>1,830,312</b>	<b>1,808,751.02</b>	<b>1,833,951</b>	<b>1,756,998.35</b>	<b>1,946,801</b>		



**OTHER**

ANIMAL CONTROL	600	-	600	-	100	
PEST CONTROL	50,000	47,750.00	50,000	50,600.00	50,600	
PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES	38,700	38,700.00	39,200	38,400.00	38,400	
DIRECT ASSISTANCE	10,000	5,394.49	9,500	17,016.93	10,800	
PARKS	155,400	202,666.41	179,505	174,076.81	178,372	
RECREATION	195,010	206,173.18	204,650	234,372.99	245,250	
LIBRARY	584,130	551,116.94	604,544	559,559.88	616,160	
PATRIOTIC PURPOSES	1,750	2,789.02	2,700	2,142.32	17,700	
CONSERVATION	5,000	2,714.03	5,000	938.22	1,000	
HERITAGE	5,700	6,832.32	5,700	3,808.13	4,700	
ENERGY	1,200	-	1,200	300.00	700	
PRIN/INT DEBT	654,510	654,510.00	391,803	391,477.50	378,429	
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>1,702,000</b>	<b>1,718,646.39</b>	<b>1,494,402</b>	<b>1,472,692.78</b>	<b>1,542,211</b>	

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	8,482,160	8,681,188	8,693,685	8,102,044	9,043,142	<b>3.86%</b>
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## Stratham

The inhabitants of the Town of Stratham in the County of Rockingham in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

### First Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Stratham Memorial School (39 Gifford Farm Road) Stratham, NH

### Second Session of Annual Meeting (Transaction of All Other Business)

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Stratham Memorial School (39 Gifford Farm Road) Stratham, NH

### GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION

We certify and attest that on or before \_\_\_\_\_, a true and attested copy of this document was posted at the place of meeting and at the Municipal Center, 10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, NH, and that an original was delivered to the Town Clerk.

Name	Position	Signature
Michael Houghton	Chair, Select Board	
Allison Knab	Vice Chair, Select Board	
Joseph Anderson	Member, Select Board	



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**Article 01 Choose All Necessary Town Officers**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the following year.

One Select Board Member	One Position	3 Year Term
One Town Clerk	One Position	3 Year Term
One Supervisors of Checklist	One Position	6 Year Term
One Trustees of Trust Funds	One Position	3 Year Term
One Cemetery Trustee	One Position	3 Year Term
Two Library Trustees	Two Positions	3 Year Term
One Library Trustee	One Position	1 Year Term

NOTE: The full text of all zoning amendments is on file at the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website and will be available at the polling place on election day.

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**Article 02 Zoning Amendment #1**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend Section III, Establishment of Districts and Uses to add Route 33 Legacy Highway Heritage District; and substantially amend Section 3.10 Route 33 Legacy Highway Heritage District, updating 4.1.5; 4.2 the Table of Uses; and 4.3 Explanatory Notes.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.

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**Article 03 Zoning Amendment #2**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend Section 4.2 Table of Dimensional Requirements and 4.3 Explanatory Notes for the removal of (a); add a footnote placed in the section header; define the lot size for all districts; and renumber the Section accordingly.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.

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**Article 04 Zoning Amendment #3**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend Section 5.13.3 Use Regulations for Solar Energy Systems and update Table 1 to add Route 33 Legacy Highway Heritage District solar uses.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.



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**Article 05      Zoning Amendment #4**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

The creation of a Technical Review Committee for all Planning Board major site plan and subdivision applications.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.

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**Article 06      Zoning Amendment #5**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Substantially amend Section VIII, Residential Open Space Cluster Development, including the renumbering of sections; strengthening the requirements for design criteria and the yield plan; preserve rural character, protecting historical structures, protecting ecological resources, create greenway networks, increasing requirements for open space to amend lot sizes and setbacks; limiting density and remove array and multi-family housing.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.

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**Article 07      Zoning Amendment #6**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend Section II to update and add definitions for accessory dwelling unit; attached unit; detached unit; lot, corner; lot coverage, lot depth; non-buildable area; principal use; setback line; historic structure; and renumber the Section accordingly.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.

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**Article 08      Zoning Amendment #7**

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Town of Stratham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend Section XXI, Amendments, to add a new subsection 21.2 authorizing the Planning Board to assign and modify section numbers and make other technical corrections to the Zoning Ordinance, provided that no substantive changes may be made.

The Planning Board recommends this article by unanimous vote.



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**Article 09     2026 Operating Budget**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine million, forty-three thousand, one hundred forty-two dollars (\$9,043,142) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required)

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**Article 10     Capital Improvements Program**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$666,000) for the purpose of implementing the Capital Improvements Program for 2026 as presented in the Town Report. This is a special warrant article, per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 VI, which will be non-lapsing until the specific items are completed or obtained but shall in no case be later than December 31, 2031.

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required)

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**Article 11     Appropriate Funds to Capital Reserve Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established with one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to come from unassigned fund balance and two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to be raised through general taxation.

\$150,000 Fire Department Capital Reserve  
\$150,000 Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve  
\$100,000 Town Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve  
**\$400,000 TOTAL**

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required.)

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**Article 12     EMS Special Revenue Fund Ambulance Operating Expenses**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$108,500) in accordance with Warrant Article 13/2025 for the purposes of supplies, training, billing contracts, ambulance vehicle equipment and ambulance repairs and upgrades, gas and oil, and uniforms with said funds to come from the Stratham Fire Department EMS Special Revenue Fund.

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required)



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**Article 13      Municipal Buildings Keyless Access Systems**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) for the purpose of purchasing and installing keyless access systems at the municipal center, fire department, police department and public works department. This amount to come from unassigned fund balance. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2031, whichever is sooner.

The Select Board recommends this article.

(Majority vote required)

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**Article 14      Maintenance and Improvements Fire Tower**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the fire tower located at Stratham Hill Park. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the maintenance and improvement work is completed or by December 31, 2031, whichever is sooner.

The Select Board recommends this article.

(Majority vote required)

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**Article 15      Distribution of Funds Received from the Sale of Cemetery Lots**

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, to be funded by future proceeds received from the sale of cemetery lots in Stratham cemeteries, with the Trust principal and any interest gained thereon to be used for the maintenance of cemeteries; and, further to name the Trustees of the Trust Funds to manage these funds and name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from this Trust Fund.

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required.)

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**Article 16      Discontinue Right of Way**

To see if the town will vote to completely discontinue the portion of the right-of-way formerly known as State Route 101 from its intersection with the center line of Blue Ridge Circle to the Greenland town line. The road was discontinued as a state highway in 1961 when Route 101 was relocated. Upon its discontinuance as a state highway, it reverted to the town as a Class V road under RSA 230:57. Although legally a Class V road, it has never been used as such, but is vacant land that abuts the north side of Route 33 (Portsmouth Avenue), and the town has no use for the land. This action will not affect Route 33 (Portsmouth Avenue) or the town's right-of-way associated with that road. Further, to authorize the Select Board to convey by quitclaim deed any rights in the property underlying the former Route 101 right-of-way to the abutting landowners.

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.



(Majority vote required)

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**Article 17      Modify Optional Veterans Tax Credit**

To see if the Town will vote to modify the existing provisions of RSA 72:35, optional Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability from property tax in the Town of Stratham to four thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars (\$4,750) to offset the Legislative change set forth in HB 99, adopted in 2025, that now prohibits combining veteran credits. This modification will allow these veterans to receive the same credit amount as previously, as the new \$4,750 credit amount would equal the sum of the previous combined credits.

The Select Board unanimously supports this article.

(Majority vote required)

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**Article 18      Other Business**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

## Amendments to Chapter 1-12—Animal Control at Stratham Hill Park

1. Amend Section 1-12-02 by deleting paragraph (d).
2. Amend Sections 1-12-03 through 1-12-05 to read as follows:

**1-12-03. RUNNING AT LARGE PROHIBITED:** Except as permitted by Section 1-12-04, it shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to permit the dog to run at large without being controlled by a six foot, non-retractable leash anywhere in Stratham Hill Park. This includes, but is not limited to, the playing fields, mowed fields, lawns, parking lot, wooded areas, and trails within the park.

~~**1-12-04. RUNNING AT LARGE PERMITTED:** It shall not be unlawful for the owner of a dog to permit the dog to run at large on the [two mowed fields that are not designated as playing fields] within the park, provided that the dog is accompanied by the owner and is under the command and/or control of the owner at all times.~~

**1-12-05. IMPOUNDING OF DOGS:** Any dog found at large within Stratham Hill Park, ~~unless the dog is in an area where dogs are permitted under Section 1-12-04 and is under the command and/or control of the owner,~~ may be restrained and impounded by the Town of Stratham Police Department and/or Animal Control Officer or deputy of such officer. A dog so impounded may be confined in a suitable animal shelter for not less than seven (7) days, following which the dog may be humanely disposed of by the Stratham Police Department or such shelter.

3. Amend section 1-12-07 by adding the following sentence at the end of the section:

The owner of any dog that commits any of the above actions within Stratham Hill Park shall be deemed to have violated this section.

4. Amend section 1-12-10 to read as follows:

**1-12-10. VIOLATIONS AND FINES:** Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and shall be liable to pay the civil forfeiture specified below. Any person choosing to pay the civil forfeiture set forth below shall be deemed to have waived the right to have his or her case heard before the Brentwood District Court and shall not be otherwise prosecuted for a violation of this ordinance. Any person who does not pay the civil forfeiture set forth below shall have his or her case disposed of in the Brentwood District Court. The civil forfeiture imposed by this ordinance shall be in the amount specified for the following violations, or such other amount as may be authorized by RSA 466:31 as it may be amended:

- a) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) for the first offense under Section 1-12-03 or 1-12-08; one hundred dollars (\$100) for a second or subsequent offense of the same sections committed within twelve (12 months) of the first offense:



- b) Fifty dollars (\$50) for the first offense under Sections 1-12-07(a) or (b); two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second or subsequent offense of the same sections committed within twelve (12 months) of the first offense:
- c) One hundred dollars (\$100) for the first offense under Sections 1-12-07(c); four hundred dollars (\$400) for a second or subsequent offense of the same sections committed within twelve (12 months) of the first offense:

The civil forfeiture under this section shall be paid to the Town Clerk of the Town of Stratham within 96 hours of the date and time notice of the violation is given by any law enforcement officer to the owner of the dog. If the civil forfeiture is not paid within 96 hours of the date and time of such notice, then the owner shall be subject to a summons and prosecution in the Brentwood District Court for violation of this ordinance and of RSA 466:31, relative to menace, nuisance, and vicious dogs.

Should a summons be issued as a result of nonpayment of the civil forfeiture and should any owner be found guilty in court of violating the provisions of this ordinance, then such person shall be guilty of a violation and fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) for a violation of Section 1-12-03 or 1-12-08; not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) for a violation of Sections 1-12-07(a) or (b); and not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) for a violation of Sections 1-12-07(c). These fines shall be in addition to any fines for a violation of RSA 466:31 or other state law.

## **CHAPTER 4-01—STRATHAM HILL PARK REGULATIONS**

- 4-01-01** Mini-bikes, motorcycles and all like vehicles are prohibited in Stratham Hill Park except on tarred areas and on the main driveway. Use of such vehicles at the Park are limited to transportation to and from Park activities exclusively. Violation of this regulation will result in vehicles being towed away at the owner's expense.
- 4-01-02** All auto license numbers of persons attending any or all parties at Stratham Hill Park will be taken by the Police Department. Malicious damage will be the financial responsibility of those persons present. Littering is prohibited. All minors in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages will be prosecuted. All persons in possession of or using a controlled drug will be prosecuted.
- 4-01-03** There shall be no admittance to the Park after 9:00 pm without written permission from the Board of Selectmen.
- 4-01-04** No individual, organization or the Board of Selectmen may move or construct any building on Stratham Hill Park property unless approved at a Town Meeting.

Adopted 1974

By: Selectmen Richard Scamman, Elizabeth Corbin, & John Hutton



# **TOWN OF STRATHAM**

## **Department of Public Works**

70 Bunker Hill Avenue • Stratham, NH 03885 • 603-772-5550

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### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:	Michael Houghton, Select Board Chair Allison Knab, Select Board Vice Chair Joe Anderson, Select Board
CC:	Timothy Roache, Town Administrator Lori Ruest, Finance Administrator
FROM:	Trevor Batchelder, Director of Public Works
DATE:	1/21/2026
RE:	2014 International Terrastar – Out of Service

During the most recent winter storm event, the Department of Public Works' 2014 International Terrastar sustained mechanical damage during routine snowplowing operations. There were no accidents or operator errors involved but it's believed to be mechanical failure from age, rust, and other factors. As a result of the damage, the vehicle is currently out of service and cannot be safely operated on public roads.

Following the incident, DPW attempted to schedule a vehicle evaluation with Liberty, the Town's primary truck service provider. Due to current service backlogs, Liberty advised that an inspection could not be scheduled for three or more weeks. To avoid extended vehicle downtime, the truck was transported to National Wrecker for assessment.

A full diagnostic evaluation is still in progress. However, preliminary observations indicate the following issues:

- Broken exhaust up-pipes at the engine block
- Burnt diesel particulate filter (DPF)
- Multiple damaged or malfunctioning emissions control sensors

Addressing these issues would require lifting the engine and performing extensive mechanical repairs. These findings are preliminary only, and additional issues may be identified once the full diagnostic review is complete if we decide to move forward.

Based on these initial findings, the cost of repairs is expected to be significant, reaching into the thousands of dollars. The 2014 International Terrastar is at the end of its useful service life and was already scheduled for replacement in the Town's 2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Given the vehicle's age, condition, and anticipated repair costs, DPW does not recommend investing in repairs. Any funds spent repairing the vehicle would not be recoverable upon disposal, and due to its condition, the truck would not be eligible for trade-in and would instead be disposed of through auction.

In light of these factors, DPW recommends proceeding with the replacement truck identified in the 2026 CIP as soon as possible. Advancing the replacement will help maintain adequate fleet capacity during winter operations and avoid further investment in a vehicle that has reached the end of its service life. DPW will continue to keep the Select Board informed as additional information becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor Batchelder  
Director of Public Works



**Stratham Volunteer Fire Department**

10 Bunker Hill Avenue • Stratham, NH 03885 • (603) 772-9756



Tim Roach  
Town Administrator  
Town of Stratham

January 27, 2026

Mr. Roach,

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, I joined DPW Director Batchelder, Assistant Town Manager Hickey and Departmental Admin. Secretary Fowle in my capacity as the Fire Inspector to do a walkthrough of the property inside the traffic circle known as the "Lane property".

It is my understanding that the Town is intending to rent out the buildings as both residential and mercantile spaces. The Fire Department does not have any inspection or enforcement authority for single or two family dwellings. I would recommend the town hire an engineering firm to assess the buildings and make recommendations for needed improvements.

In the following days, I did a walk through of the commercial space and found some deficiencies that need to be addressed. Those include:

1. Exit signage and access
2. Lack of emergency lights
3. Extension cord usage

I am unsure of the agreement the town has with the business owner in regards to these issues so some direction would be welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Matthew Newton NFPA-CFPE IAAI-FIT  
Fire Inspector

Cc: Jeff Denton  
Seth Hickey  
Trevor Batchelder

**From:** [Kim Williams](#)  
**To:** [Karen Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Acorn School April 24, 2026  
**Date:** Friday, January 23, 2026 9:53:12 AM

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Hello Karen,

Acorn School is again looking to request the use of the Scamman Pavilion on Friday, April 24, 2026 for our annual Earth Day celebration.

All the details of our activities will be the same as previous years...including our planting pansies near the pavilion and picking up trash. Is going through you still the best way for Acorn to apply for this?

Thank you again for your assistance!

Warm regards,

Kim Williams

Acorn School

Stratham, NH

**From:** [Kristen Dusseault](#)  
**To:** [Karen Richard](#)  
**Cc:** [Westley Conn](#)  
**Subject:** Easter sunrise service at SHP  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:59:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Facebook.png](#)  
[Outlook-34t4oxsq.png](#)  
[Outlook-0r5zrhep.png](#)

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Good morning, Karen,

I hope you are doing well.

I would like to secure our Easter sunrise service at the fire tower at Stratham Hill Park.  
(Sunday, April 5) We are planning to be there a little before the sun rises and have a short  
service as the sun comes up; most likely around 6:00am.

Do you need me to complete any paperwork? Will we be able to use the road to bring people  
up who need some assistance?

Let me know if you need anything further from me.

Thank you,

**Kristen Dusseault**

Office Administrator

Stratham Community Church, UCC

Stratham Circle Learning Center

Phone: 603.772.3389

Website: [www.strathamchurch.org](http://www.strathamchurch.org)

