

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting
Monday January 12, 2026
6:00 pm
Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson; Chair, Keith Sprague, Curtis Koren, Stuart Edson, members of the Board. Laura Rochat did not attend. Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant. Kristi Ehlers, Treasurer. Amy Ingrassia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Public Comments:

1. Ms. Ehlers reported that the results of the 2025 Equalization Study determined that the Town, at 21 percent, is just over the average deviation of sales ratios (assessed value divided by sale price). A number over 20 % means that another appraisal must be done. This could take years, and Ehlers will file an Appeal with the State.

2. Ms. Ingrassia reported on the White River Valley Ambulance service, which is looking for EMT volunteers. She also said they were trying to partner with Northfield Ambulance because White River Valley Ambulance takes 50 minutes to respond to calls on Eagle Peak Road.

Payroll and AP Warrants: A motion passed to accept the January 12, 2026 AP Warrants as presented in the amount of \$69,319.14, with the largest sum going to Hart Electric for work at the Town Garage and Town office in the amount of \$20,739.

Highway Report: Mr. Sprague reported that the road crew has been mainly plowing and sanding. A temporary person has been hired to help until our

latest hire is up to speed and has his CDL. Mr. Sprague posed the idea of purchasing a wheeled excavator, which could replace the Town's 23 year-old backhoe. There was a lengthy discussion about placing this purchase on the Town warning, and how to replace other machinery so as not to put too much expense on the Town.

Old Business

The **budget** is an ongoing discussion and will be revisited at the next meeting.

Mr. Edson attended a webinar on the **Open Meeting Law** conducted by VLCT, and noted three ways the Town could better meet the Law's requirements:

1. Make sure all topics are on the **Agenda**.
2. Add statute numbers for topics to be discussed under **Executive Sessions**. Topics allowed for the sessions are: Contracts, Labor relations agreements with employees, Arbitration or mediation, Grievances other than tax grievances, Pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution and Confidential attorney-client communications.
3. Discuss only topics listed on the Agenda.

Meeting Minutes – As there was not a quorum, the minutes for the December 22, 2025 were not approved. They will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Other Proper Business

1. A **Public Assemblage Permit** from The Brookfield Community Partnership for the Brookfield Ice Harvest on January 31, 2026 was unanimously approved.
2. A motion to approve the **Hill House Estates Addendums** for both the Maintenance Contract and the Sexton Contract was unanimously approved.
3. The Sullivan and Powers contract on the December 22, 2025 Agenda could not be signed because not enough Selectboard members were

in attendance. It was signed by the Board at the January 12, 2026 to get it back to Sullivan and Powers even though it was mistakenly not on the Agenda.

Executive Session a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:05 pm for Personnel matters (1(V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B)) was unanimously approved, as was a motion to come out of Executive session at 8:44 pm.

Adjournment: With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Vicki Blanchard
Administrative Assistant