



Deerfield Selectboard/Board of Health/Sewer Commissioners

January 7, 2026, 6:00 pm

8 Conway Street, South Deerfield MA 01373

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Deerfield Selectboard/Board of Health/Sewer Commissioners was held on January 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Deerfield Municipal offices, Main Meeting Room, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield, MA. Meeting was recorded by FCAT and/or Town of Deerfield Staff. This meeting was held in a **Hybrid** fashion for both in person and remote participation in accordance with House Bill Number 58 of the 193rd General Court, which extended the Governor's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20, until June 30, 2027. In accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, anyone intending to record the meeting must identify themselves to the clerk and provide their name and address for the record.

Board members present: Tim Hilchey & Trevor McDaniel

Absent: Blake Gilmore

Also present: Christopher Dunne, Town Administrator; Greg Snedeker, Assistant Town Administrator; Senator Jo Comerford, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and other members of the public.

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Public Comment – Two-minute maximum per speaker, up to 20 minutes total
- 3) Hearings and Appearances
 - a) Senator Jo Comerford
 - i. The Board and Comerford highlighted the need to review the Foundation Budget Review Commission, which was established over a decade ago, and emphasized the importance of considering declining enrollment, rural schools, and special education funding in the review. They also discussed the target local contribution and the impact of wealth on municipal budgets, noting that Deerfield's larger size helps mitigate the impact of wealthy individuals. The conversation ended with a brief mention of the rural school bill, which has been reported favorably by the Ways and Means committee in the Senate.
 - ii. East West Rail, Micro Transit Initiatives, Housing, Water Resources, Elm Street & Park Street MassDOT Collaboration, General Fiscal Concerns, Health Care Challenges, Municipal Empowerment Act, and Further Representation on State Boards for Western Massachusetts Communities were additional topics covered.
- 4) Selectboard Reports/Announcements
 - Emergency Preparedness Meeting Updates
 - 1888 Building Progress
 - Farmer's Forum on Seasonal Workers
- 5) Board of Health/Health Agent Discussion Items/Reports/Announcements
 - Flu and Covid Pre-Cautions
 - Burning Plastic Odor on North Main Street

6) Minutes – December 17, 2025

Motion the Selectboard Approve the Minutes as Presented – McDaniel

Second: Hilchey Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

7) Discussion/Decision Items

a) Stillwater Bridge Takings - Vote to be rescheduled to February

b) Steam Mill Forest Article 97 Designation

Motion the Selectboard Pursuant to the vote taken on Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting held on October 29, 2025, establish permanent protection of land located on Steam Mill Road, Deerfield, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Deerfield Assessor's Map 79, Lot 39, including 31 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 731, Page 32 of the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, for the exclusive purpose of conservation as Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and further move that the Selectboard enter into and negotiate all necessary and related documents, subject to such restrictions and limitations as the Selectboard deems appropriate, in order to effectuate the permanent protection of said parcel accordingly – McDaniel

Second: Hilchey Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

c) First Reading: Transfer Station Nonprofit, Charitable and Political Group Solicitation Policy

i. The Board discussed a proposed policy for non-profit, charitable, and political group solicitations at the transfer station. They identified the need to modify the designated area to accommodate multiple groups safely and comfortably. The Board also discussed the requirement for participants to sign waivers and the process for collecting signatures. They agreed to convey their comments to Matthew for further discussion at their upcoming meeting on Friday morning.

d) Sewer Abatements

- Ed Baronas for Bill #640 issued on December 17, 2025 for 82 Sugarloaf Street
- Conrad Valeski for Bill #11420 on December 17, 2025 for 28 Conway Street

e) Extend contract with Chris Curtis through June 30, 2026

Motion Selectboard approve the extension of the contract with Christopher Curtis for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant and Grant Coordination Services through June 30, 2026, as presented; and further to authorize the Town Administrator to sign - McDaniel

Second: Hilchey Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

f) 1821 Meetinghouse Steeple Repair Community Preservation (CPA) Funding Application Letter of Support

Motion the Selectboard Approve and Sign the Letter of Support for the Community Preservation Act application for the 1821 Meeting House Clock Tower Restoration and Re-use Engineering Report – McDaniel

Second: Hilchey Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

- g) Cemetery Fee Increase Proposal pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 114 Section 15

Motion the Selectboard approve the Cemetery Plot Fee increase from \$350.00 to \$650.00 per plot, effective July 1, 2026, as recommended by the Department of Public Works- McDaniel

Second: Hilchey Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

- h) Two Feathers Class II Dealer’s License

Motion that the Selectboard approve the Class II Dealer’s License for Two Feathers, subject to all applicable local and state requirements -McDaniel

Second: Hilchey Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

- 8) Board-Committee Applications, general appointments/resignations

- 9) Correspondence

- 10) Town Administration Updates

- a) FHWA Safe Streets for All (SF4A) Grant for Park Street
- b) DEP Technical Assistance for environmental assessment at 83-85 North Main Street
- c) South County budget working group
- d) Other updates
 - Dunne spoke to updates on various projects, including a cultural resource officer position and a grant received from Park Street. The Board also discussed a technical assessment of St. James Church and the rectory to identify hazardous materials. Consideration for a new initiative to collaborate with other towns on shared services and budget discussions. Finally, they touched on ongoing negotiations for an FCAT able advisory board and a staff walkthrough of the 1888 building next Friday.

- 11) Items Unanticipated 48 hours prior to posting *

- 12) Upcoming Regular Meetings: January 21, 2026

- 13) Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 7:21 pm – Hilchey

Second: McDaniel Vote: Hilchey – aye, McDaniel – aye, (2-0-0)

The matters listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which **may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed **may** in fact be discussed, and other items not listed **may** also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Herchenreder

Documents List:

- Selectboard/Board of Health/Sewer Commissioners Revised Meeting Agenda, January 7, 2026
- Selectboard/Board of Health/Sewer Commissioners Packet, January 7, 2025

Approved January 21, 2026