Braintree Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Present at the Town Office: Daniel Burson (Selectboard Chair); Lou Helmuth (Vice Chair); Chelsie Brown (Selectboard Member); Colin Evans (Selectboard Member); Paul Kowalski (Administrative Assistant)

Present on Zoom: There were no Zoom attendees.

1. Call to Order – Mr. Burson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Review of the Agenda - No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

3. Approve Minutes of October 6, 2026 Selectboard Meeting
On a motion by Mr. Helmuth, seconded by Mr. Evans, the minutes of the October 6, 2026 Selectboard meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Citizens' Comments - A citizen comment was noted by Mr. Helmuth regarding an email received from the Vermont State Director of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. The Board agreed that the issue did not require action but would be acknowledged under New Business.

5. Reports
a. Highway Report – In Mr. Bent's absence, Mr. Burson stated there was no significant highway activity to report. He planned to check in with the road crew the following day.
b. Grants Report – Administrative Assistant - Paul Kowalski reported the following:

- Submission of the MERP periodic performance report; additional documentation will be resubmitted separately.
- Active work on Class 2 Roads grant documentation.
- Acknowledgement that the Structures Grant extension request is still pending.
- Back Roads Grant application work is underway by staff

6. Old Business
a. Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Update - Mr. Helmuth reported that contractor activity at the Town Garage appears mostly complete. Installation work involving ventilation systems and dehumidification components has occurred recently. The Board discussed expectations for reduced humidity and improved energy efficiency over the winter months. Final installation of exhaust fans remained pending earlier in the week, though signs indicated work may have been completed just prior to the meeting.

7. New Business
a. Planking on Bridge to Pit - The Board discussed the need to replace planking on the bridge leading to the Town Pit. Pricing for pressure-treated boards has been obtained, and the matter will be revisited at a future meeting once more information is available.

b. Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT) Request - The Board acknowledged the request for discussion on road safety but determined that the issue does not significantly apply to Braintree given the absence of large-truck routes through town. No action was taken.

8. Payment Orders
On a motion by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Helmuth, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the payment orders.

9. Payroll Warrants
On a motion by Mr. Helmuth, seconded by Mr. Burson, the Board unanimously approved payroll for the period October 4–17, 2026, with a pay date of October 22, 2026.

Mr. Burson also informed the Board that a significant check for a new truck was issued the previous week after the vendor requested payment. The plow-body installation is expected to be completed in mid-November.

10. Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A)
On a motion made by Mr. Burson, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss a legal and contract matter at 6:11 p.m. The Board exited the Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. No action was taken.

11. Adjournment
On a motion made by Mr. Burson, seconded by Ms. Brown, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Kowalski
Administrative Assistant