



**Norridgewock Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026
5:00 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Clark, Chair
Becky Ketchum, Vice Chair
MaryAnn Anderson
Tara Desroches (via Zoom)
John Malek
Bruce Obert
Sallie Wilder

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Todd Pineo, Fire Chief

Also present for all or parts of the meeting were Abby Clair, Sherri Lewis, and Lincoln Whitney.

1. Call to Order, Introductions

Mr. LaBelle called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Election of Officers

Nominations for Chair were opened. Mr. Malek nominated Joe Clark. Mr. Clark nominated John Malek; Mr. Malek declined. Ms. Wilder nominated Becky Ketchum. There being no further nominations, nominations ceased. Joe Clark is ELECTED CHAIR by a vote of 4-2.

Nominations for Vice Chair were opened. Ms. Anderson nominated Becky Ketchum. There being no further nominations, nominations ceased. Becky Ketchum is ELECTED VICE CHAIR.

Nominations for Secretary were opened; there were no nominations. The Town Manager will serve in the Secretary's capacity without committee objection.

4. Discussion/Action on January 21, 2025 Minutes

Ms. Ketchum made a MOTION to approve the January 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION PASSED.

5. Review of Elected Officials' Stipends

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend shifting \$600 from the Tax Assessor stipend to the Select Board. There being no second, the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Clark made a MOTION to recommend \$10,000 for Select Board, \$2,000 for Tax Assessor, and \$3,000 for Planning Board. There being no second, the MOTION FAILED.

Ms. Ketchum made a MOTION to recommend \$10,000 for the Select Board, \$1,500 for Tax Assessor, and \$2,500 for Planning Board. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION

PASSED, 5-2 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek in favor; Obert, Wilder opposed).

6. **Review Proposed 2026 Budget**

Ms. Ketchum made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Fire in the amount of \$354,100.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Clark made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Parks in the amount of \$40,950.00 Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION FAILED, 5-2 (Clark, Malek in favor; Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Obert, Wilder opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend Parks in the amount of \$33,240.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 5-2 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Malek, Wilder in favor; Desroches, Obert opposed).

Ms. Anderson made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Libraries in the amount of \$54,335.00 Seconded by Ms. Ketchum. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Code Enforcement in the amount of \$52,065.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 6-1 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Wilder in favor; Obert opposed).

Ms. Ketchum made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Planning Board in the amount of \$4,200.00 Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Local Philanthropy in the amount of \$8,000.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Ms. Desroches made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Summer Grounds in the amount of \$45,000.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Ms. Anderson made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Debt Service in the amount of \$96,115.00 Seconded by Ms. Ketchum. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Ms. Desroches made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Unclassified in the amount of \$32,002.00 Seconded by Ms. Ketchum. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Contingency in the amount of \$4,200.00 Seconded by Ms. Ketchum. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Administration in the amount of \$503,550.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 6-1 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Wilder in favor; Obert opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend Elected Officials in the amount of \$21,125.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 6-1 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Wilder in favor; Obert opposed).

Ms. Ketchum made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Tax Assessing in the amount of \$28,000.00 Seconded by Ms. Desroches. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Ms. Desroches made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Public Safety in the amount of \$136,595.00 Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Ms. Desroches made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Public Works in the amount of \$775,525.00 Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Cemeteries in the amount of \$8,400.00 Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Ms. Anderson made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for General Assistance in the amount of \$5,600.00 Seconded by Ms. Desroches. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Mr. Clark made a MOTION to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation for Recreation in the amount of \$54,140.00 Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION PASSED, 4-3 (Clark, Anderson, Malek, Obert in favor; Ketchum, Desroches, Wilder opposed).

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend the Capital Reserves budget as proposed by the Town Manager, less \$20,000 for Recreation and \$10,000 for Cemeteries. Seconded by Ms. Wilder. Ms. Ketchum made Ms. Wilder aware of the proposed reduction to the Cemetery Reserve; Ms. Wilder withdrew her second. There being no second, the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Clark made a MOTION to recommend the Capital Reserves budget as proposed by the Town Manager, less \$10,000 for Parks, \$25,000 for Public Works Equipment, \$10,000 for Public Works Building, and \$250,000 for Roads, resulting in a total of \$900,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Obert. MOTION FAILED, 5-2 (Clark, Obert in favor; Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Wilder opposed).

Ms. Desroches made a MOTION to recommend the Capital Reserves budget as proposed by the Town Manager, less \$10,000 for Parks, \$25,000 for Public Works Equipment, \$10,000 for Public Works Building, and \$100,000 for Roads, resulting in a total of \$1,050,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Malek. MOTION PASSED, 5-2 (Clark, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; Ketchum, Anderson opposed).

Mr. Clark made a MOTION to recommend Anticipated Local Revenues as proposed by the Town Manager in the amount of \$2,064,947.00. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 6-1 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Wilder in favor; Obert opposed).

7. Other Business

None.

8. Set Next Meeting Date

There is no meeting needed at this time.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Clark made a MOTION to adjourn at 8:27 PM. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. MOTION PASSED, 7-0 (Clark, Ketchum, Anderson, Desroches, Malek, Obert, Wilder in favor; none opposed).

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard LaBelle
Town Manager