



Select Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 12, 2026

Time: 7:15P.M.

Location: Members of the public may access the hybrid meeting via the Select Board Chambers, Zoom, or ACMI

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Chair, Mr. DeCoursey, Mr. Helmuth, Mrs. Morgan

Also Present: Mr. Feeney, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Maher

Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair arrived at 7:50p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of Meetings: December 22, 2025

2. Contractor/Drainlayer Renewal
Milltown Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Chelmsford, MA 01824

US Pavement Services, LLC
Woburn, MA 01890

Mr. DeCoursey moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd was not present for this vote.

LICENSES & PERMITS

3. For Approval: Food Vendor License

Bangal Inc d/b/a Little Joe's Convenience, Kamal Hossain, 206 Summer Street
The Select Board discussed and approved a food vendor license for Bengal Inc., operating as Little Joe's Convenience at 206 Summer Street (applicant: Kamal Hossain). The board asked the applicant to ensure compliance with the town's signage by-law, as referenced in inspection reports. Board members noted improvements in compliance compared to the previous owner and emphasized the importance of working with the building inspector.

Mr. DeCoursey moved approval subject to all conditions.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd was not present for this vote.

4. For Approval: All Alcohol Package Store Change of Manager

Mystic Wine Shoppe LLC, Greg Weber, 901 Massachusetts Avenue

The Select Board considered Mystic Wine Shop's request to change managers, with Greg Weber introduced as the new full-time manager. The owner, Eric Faiola, and attorney John Maher highlighted Mr. Weber's work history and positive impact. Mr. Weber addressed the board directly, acknowledging two past DUI convictions from 16 and 19 years ago, explaining his efforts to turn his life around, maintain job stability, participate in community service, and obtain TIPS certification. Board members commended his honesty, growth, and community contributions, expressing support for his appointment.

Mrs. Morgan moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd was not present for this vote.

OPEN FORUM

Mark Kaepplein, 11 Palmer Street, spoke about road and pedestrian safety. He thanked the board for their attention to speed limits, highlighting the importance of 25 mph speed limits, especially during winter. He underscored the value of reflective clothing (like jackets, hats, leashes) for pedestrian visibility at night, provided recommendations on where such items could be bought, and discussed the advancements and limitations of reflective materials for safety.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hurd arrived late to the meeting.

5. Discussion and Vote: Outdoor Restaurant and Retail Permit Application Rules and Regulations

The board confirmed application windows (April 1 and July 1) and discussed including clear references to check the Board's website for application timing. Members emphasized aligning permit fees with actual costs to the town, especially for parking spaces used. The board agreed it was fair to limit businesses to two spaces, balancing resources for businesses and the public. The board will monitor the policy's impact and remain open to business and customer feedback.

Mr. DeCoursey moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

6. Thickly Settled District 25 MPH Signs
Transportation Advisory Committee

The Transportation Advisory Committee, led by Jim Stubbe, presented plans to install additional 25 mph speed limit signs throughout thickly settled districts in Arlington for consistency and improved road safety. The plan includes about 24 new sign locations covering 1.7 miles along Mass Ave and other areas to match previous safety zoning. Board members praised the impact of current signage and APD enforcement and approved the new placements, emphasizing the project's role in reducing speeding and enhancing public safety. The committee will finalize sign locations and coordinate with town staff for installation in the spring.

Mr. Helmuth moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

7. SSR Speed Limit and Safety Zone Recap

Transportation Advisory Committee

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) provided a recap of their work on speed limit changes, specifically relating to the "SSR" (Special Speed Regulation) and town-wide 25 mph limits:

- All speed limits above 25 mph have been rescinded, except for the Route 2 frontage road (which is state-owned).
- Regulatory signs above 25 mph were removed, and 94 new "Thickly Settled District 25 MPH" signs were installed on qualified roadways.
- Five 20 mph safety zones have been established around critical areas, such as fields and schools.
- Mass Ave, being the location of many traffic incidents, has received special attention, and additional improvements are planned, including collaboration with the town and other stakeholders to further enhance traffic safety.
- Some older 20 mph signs were removed if they conflicted with newer school zone regulations to avoid confusion.
- The TAC encourages feedback on future enhancements, such as more safety zones, painted "Don't Block the Box" warnings, or other traffic calming measures.

This recap highlighted the significant progress made in reducing vehicle speeds and improving pedestrian safety throughout the town.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

8. Update: Long Range Planning Committee

Stephen W. DeCoursey, Select Board Member

James R. Feeney, Town Manager

Town Manager Mr. Feeney, presented updates to the town's long-range financial plan, comparing historical projections with current conditions.

Key changes:

- Health insurance costs for the town are now projected to be significantly higher than previous estimates, with three years of double-digit premium increases (11.25% forecast for FY27), creating major budget pressures.
- Student enrollment, which was previously projected to decline, has instead remained steady or increased, affecting school budget assumptions and removing projected reductions.
- Solid waste costs have risen more than expected, largely due to new contracts and changes in recycling market prices, causing additional budget strain.
- The town now pays for single-stream recycling for the first time, and recycling commodity prices have dropped, increasing costs further.
- State aid to the town is variable and currently lower than prior growth trends, which also contributes to projected deficits.
- While property taxes and local receipts continue to be strong revenue sources, the marijuana excise tax is notably declining year-over-year.
- The projected deficit for FY27 has been reduced from earlier estimates (from over \$13 million to \$3.7 million) due to cost controls and increased local receipts, but an override will still be needed for financial stability.
- The override is expected to cover three fiscal years (FY27-29), with a recommendation and final vote scheduled after the governor's budget is announced.

Board members and the manager stressed that upcoming budgets will not fund new or expanded services but are aimed at maintaining basic town and school operations in the face of sharply rising fixed costs. Actions underway include cost controls across departments, a hiring freeze, careful reviews of financial projections, and continuing to seek efficiencies while preparing for the override request. The board agreed to continue refining projections and will update the public as new information is available. No final override dollar amount was available at the time of the meeting.

No vote was required for this item.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Feeney noted the upcoming launch of a new meeting management platform (set for January 26) was discussed. This platform will enhance accessibility, introduce ADA-friendly agenda and minutes templates, and improve user experience. Training for staff and volunteers is underway. Mr. Feeney announced the installation of four new rectangular rapid flash beacons (RRFBs) at high-volume pedestrian crossings, funded by a MassDOT grant. These include new spotlight features to enhance nighttime safety. Mr. Feeney stated that a solar-powered radar driver feedback sign was permanently installed on Park Ave, following successful data collection and speed reduction with a temporary

sign; funding support came from a state earmark. Mr. Feeney noted that two additional RRFBs will be installed in the spring.

Mr. Hurd congratulated the Arlington PeeWee AAA Hockey Team on their win at tonight's game.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss the Open Meeting Law complaint of Mr. Paul Pandolfo pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A sec.21(a)(1).

Mr. DeCoursey moved to enter into executive session and to adjourn at 8:32p.m. A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Cunningham.

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board January 26, 2026

A true record attest.
Ashley Maher
Board Administrator

1/12/2026

Agenda Item	Documents Used
1	Draft 12.22.2025 Minutes
2	Contractor Drainlayer Reference
3	FV Application Inspection Reports
4	AA Package Store Reference
5	Outdoor Restaurant and Retail Permit Policy – Red Line
6	Presentation
7	Recap Presentation
8	LRP Reference