

## Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2026

**Present:** Pat Harvey, Chad Richardson, and Mike Teetsel

**Guests Present:** Julie Smith, Kristen LaPell, Kathryn Schenkman, Vic Ribauda, Dan McKinley, Larry Straus, Mickaela Richardson

**Guests Present on Microsoft Teams:** Orca, Becky Donnet, Barb DeHart

Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Discussion about Valley Hub budget item for Town Meeting:** Pat opened discussion about why we are here, where we are going and what we will do from this point forward. Mike made some statements. He shared at the last selectboard meeting there were clerical errors and the \$43,516 is missing in general budget from Article 5 and happens to be an appropriation that the town is giving to the HUB. We want to address this in a way that is appropriate, legal and clear to everyone, so the voters are well informed and not confused by what the board is asking of them. He said there are a bunch of invited guests to help us talk through this. Public input will be left until the end. He said that this is a work meeting. Chad added that this is in no way to discuss the actual numbers or whether we fund this. It's to discuss the procedural avenue to get this back in.

Pat said there are a couple of proposals, and they did reach out to the town attorney as well as VLCT for legal advice.

Mike shared there is no lack of transparency that we intend to fund the HUB for \$43,516. That has been discussed at several selectboard meetings and is in the town report. He said we have been talking about it. This is not new and should not be a surprise to anyone.

Mike felt it could be amended from the floor for Article 5.

Chad added his thoughts as his main concern is in theory we have a deadline item in the General Fund and that we can't introduce a new line item into the budget. Mary Fratini shared her understanding between a line item and an appropriation. She felt a line item exists and has a number. She feels her proposal would be to open Article 5 to be amended and what is amended is the line item for the total, such as found on page 31 of the Town Report to amend the subtotal 100-7-10-93-930.001 for \$43,516. She said Chad's concern is procedural.

Larry added trying to reconstruct what and why this had happened. He said Julie was trying to apply some of the accounting going forward for the HUB project and the selectboard and Budget Committee was trying to make everything as transparent as possible. The dual purpose of setting up the HUB budget page on page 36. Those accounts are 500 accounts as an enterprise fund and what ultimately didn't happen at the end of the process was to get the \$43,516 from the enterprise fund to get re-inserted in the general fund as part of the tax calculation portion of the general fund and just became a technical error, oversight. Setting up the 500 accounts was an

accounting issue and not a budgeting issue. He said that money is not part of the enterprise fund and should be just support of a town building. Making the HUB budget on its own page really made it very transparent. The error was just getting the \$43,516 back to the general fund. Larry asked where it would have gone. Exactly where Mary was proposing on page 31. He said that it is a live line item and could be used. Even though the note is there, it doesn't need to be removed from the FY27 budget. He said it's completely a straightforward and legitimate way to accept the amendment from the floor to add that money. Then it serves two purposes here for transparency. What can be more transparent than asking the voters to now have their opportunity to vote a very straight forward manner, do you want to vote to include this money specifically \$43,516 and amend the budget upward in support of the HUB. He said you could also create an article to include it that way, but it didn't get done. This amendment would make that happen.

Kathryn asked if this would also correct the \$500. Mike shared, let's forget, the \$500 with a 1.5-million-dollar budget. Larry said what line item would you amend for that. It's purely a technical formula error. What line item would you move to amend for \$500. It's a formula error. Kristen shared this goes back as far as 2017, at least if not more. Kristen shared the formula that was pulling in the revenue and not the expense. Kristen shared that it would change Article 5 number to \$500. Kristen said this is not a line item, it would be a correction on page 39 for the \$500 formula error. Both can be presented as clerical errors.

Discussion ensued with input towards the solution for the selectboard to make the amendment from the floor for Article 5 for both errors, separately and explanations from the board to make this solution clear, concise and transparent to the voters. The board will bring this forward to the voters at Town Meeting on Monday evening.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Smith