

Selectmen's Meeting/Advisory Board Minutes
Anson Town Office, 5 Kennebec Street
January 7, 2026, 3:00 P.M.

Present were, for Select Board, Jim Smith, Sharon Mellows and Larry McHugh. Brenda Garland was absent. Advisory Board present were Janice Miller, Daniel Savage and Tom Poirier (arriving at 3:09 p.m.). Department Heads present were Arty Lane and Nancy Gove. Stacey Bean was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. 2026 Budget review: Recycling, Solid Waste, Debt, Capital Projects. The Boards started with Debt Service. This is the final payment of the 2020 road bond. Financed equipment is included here. There is a budget for a new excavator, to be financed over 6 years. Capital projects include the removal of the railroad ties, at a cost of \$31,000. This cost will be reduced by a 50% matching grant (\$15,000). Arty would like to purchase a used 2015 or 2016 Trackless machine at a cost of \$50,000. He's planning to trade in two older trackless machines (one's a 1988 and the other is a 2005). The trade-in value is not yet confirmed. Nancy would like to purchase a heat pump for the meeting room at the Town Office, cost is roughly \$9,800, add a propane wall furnace for the back wall, and remodel the employee bathroom. Revaluation budget was discussed; we would put money away for it now in anticipation of completing it by 2029.

Capital Transfers budget consists of putting money away for the SCBA tanks and Fire Capital Reserves.

Recycling and Solid Waste budgets were reviewed. Recycling - \$8,500 is budgeted for a Spring clean up effort/household hazardous waste collection effort should we decide to join again. There was much discussion on the Kennebec Valley Regional Waste Corp, a quasi-municipal corporation between the towns of Anson and Starks, funded by population at the last census. With about 200 participating households, limiting the types of recyclables that can be accepted, and low revenues from sale of recyclable materials, the cost effectiveness of the program was noted as a concern. Solid Waste – Waste Management's contract provides for a 3% annual increase in rates for tipping fees and back gate services.

The boards decided to cut funding for the Children's Center from Charity. They also discussed whether we should advertise a full-time position in the Highway Department. They will discuss it with the Road Commissioner at their 1/13/26 board meeting.

2. Schedule next 2026 budget meeting. It was agreed to put the budget into warrant articles and vote on them at the next Select Board meeting scheduled for January 13th starting at 5:30 p.m.
3. Adjourn. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.