

Selectmen's Meeting/Advisory Board Minutes
Anson Town Office, 5 Kennebec Street
December 3, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.

Present were Selectboard: Sharon Mellows, Brenda Garland, Jim Smith, Larry McHugh.
Advisory Board: Janice Miller, Daniel Savage, Tom Poirier. Dept heads: Nancy Gove, Arty Lane, Stacy Beane.

The dual meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

1. 2026 Budget review (5PM to 6PM): Administration, Select Board, Planning Board, Special Officers, Fire Department, Forest Service Grant, Ambulance, EMA, Street Lights, Storm Drains, Hydrants, Highway and Recreation.

Nancy gave each board member a packet containing the Initial "Budget" Request Worksheet, General Fund Expense Summary report (both dated 12/3/25). The above budgets were reviewed page by page with the following comments or corrections. Health insurance premiums are increasing 9% for all eligible departments. Payroll-related benefits have been moved out of operating costs and into a payroll and benefits section across the board for all depts. COLAs for wages increased 3%, dept heads received a 5% increase. Administration: Admin is looking to purchase a postage meter. Computer and software budget has significantly increased due to the new contract with BTS. There is now a budget for new telephone lease purchase, service and internet. Admin budget is currently showing an 11% increase. Board of Selectmen: Stipends are budgeted at \$3,000 per board member and chair receives an additional \$350. Training was not budgeted and \$500 needs to be added. This budget is showing a 14% increase. Planning Board: Their budget is increased by \$200 because of training. Special Officers: CEO is now contracted. ACO stipend has increased. KRDA – 1st Park: assessment is estimated. Fire: Stipends for officers: 5% for chief & deputy; 3% for Captain, Lieutenant & Secretary. IT, telephone and internet budget have been added. Not planning to apply for forest service grant in 2026. Ambulance: Ambulance budget should be finalized next week. EMA: Director received a 3% COLA. Warming shelter was budgeted for 2 days. St Lights: level funded. Storm Drains: waiting to hear. Hydrants: our budget is increasing 26%. Snowmobile grants: no additional funding this year. They receive state reimbursement. Highway: Road commissioner received a 5% increase. Highway employees received a total of 5% increase as well. Hydraulic pump for excavator - \$21,000 was added into the equipment budget. IT, telephones and internet services were added to budget. Recreation: Summer Rec will be combined with Madison next year. After school was level funded. Cobra Rec budget reflects our interlocal agreement.

Advisory board meeting ended and Chairman Jim Smith called the remainder of the Selectmen's meeting to order at 6:093 p.m.

2. Public hearing to discuss proposed amendment to Solid Waste Ordinance for the Town of Anson, proposed ordinance entitled "Controlled Substance Facilities Ordinance", and proposed ordinance entitled "Needle Exchange Program, Needle Disposal sites and Medical supervised Injection Sites". The public wants to bring the draft amendment of the Solid Waste Ordinance to town meeting as is (do not give option to remove paying tipping fees for commercial haulers). Controlled substance ordinance – the public wants to prohibit such facilities from being allowed in Anson. The Board asked Nancy to reach out to MMA legal services for an opinion on this matter. Needle Exchange Program, Needle Disposal Sites and

Medical Supervised Injection Sites proposed ordinance – no comments were addressed with this draft.

3. Approve Treasurer warrants #123 - #124. Sharon made a motion to approve. Brenda seconded. Nancy said the warrant details: #123 – payroll - \$14,102.93 and #124 was an A/P warrant - \$3,898.82. Vote 4-0.
4. Selectmen concerns. Larry McHugh addressed a post on social media involving weapons.
5. Public session. New admin position – Nancy indicated that she would like to schedule some interviews. It was asked if the proposed budget could be put on the website and Nancy indicated that she would add it. Residents wanted to clarify the wage adjustments mentioned in the budget. Stacy indicated that she had received the generator quote for the north station. It would be a 26KW generator at a cost of \$22,360 installed. She would like permission to purchase out of this year's budget; she has the funds. Brenda made a motion to approve the generator purchase. Larry seconded. Vote 4-0.
6. Continued 2026 Budget Review if desired. Not needed.
7. Executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A). Sharon made a motion to go into executive session. Larry seconded. Vote 4-0. The Board went into executive session at 6:50 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 7:23 p.m. Sharon made a motion to hire Jessica Schiaffino as our ACO effective 1/1/2026 at an annual stipend of \$3,500. She is to become certified within six months. Larry seconded. Vote 4-0. Jim made a motion to give the Road Commissioner a \$3/hour increase in salary in lieu of the 5% previously given. Larry seconded. Vote 3-1.
8. Adjourn. Sharon made a motion to adjourn. Brenda seconded. Vote 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.