

## Town of Danville - Town Services Committee

Danville Town Hall

Meeting Minutes - June 10, 2025

### Attendance

*Committee Members: Mark Tucker, Alison Despathy, Keith Gadapee, Tim Ide, Brian Henderson, Michelle LeClerc*

*Public: None (some members of the Dog Park Committee arrived at the close)*

Mark Tucker (acting chair) called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Agenda changes and minutes review:** Minutes review occurred towards the end.

**Public comment:** None.

**Drinking Water:** Planning lead Alison Despathy led discussion of the Town potentially merging with/absorbing Danville Fire District #1 (DFD1).

- Key is reassessing future operation management and maintenance and determining whether/how the Town could take over the service and ensure it remains financially viable.
- Alison reviewed facts and assumptions about the current assets, status, and planned projects for DFD1, as well as information about similar water districts in other towns. It is financially stable, though rates should probably increase, and projects are not urgent, but do need to be scheduled.
- Options
  1. Status Quo: another DFD1 user takes over the responsibility of running the system (no Town action - this potentially includes DFD1 contracting with H2O, the company that operates the town's wastewater system).
  2. Town Merger: the Town of Danville takes on DFD1 and operates and maintains the water system. There are potential implementation suboptions such as selling some of the DFD1 lands or contracting with H2O.
  3. Privatize: a third party buys out and takes over DFD1 (no Town action - ruled out by FAST test as not acceptable).
- The committee agreed with those two primary options to be refined [by September] to make a recommendation.

**Wastewater:** Planning lead Brian Henderson led discussion of the management and oversight of the Town wastewater system.

- There is currently no entity in town that knows the system and its locations. Documentation exists but is not organized; with the superintendent's retirement without replacement in 2022 and subsequent change of support contractor (to H2O), there is no single authority except the Selectboard.
- Brian reviewed facts and assumptions about the wastewater system and how it is managed, including some discussion of required maintenance such as sludge removal (~\$100K) and a potential treatment facility upgrade (~\$2M). There was discussion of financials but the Town already does budgeting and billing.

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- Options
  1. Reinstitute Superintendent of Sewage Works: **a necessity** to manage the system effectively and efficiently, though not a long-term full-time job (potentially part of a Town Public Works department). Suboptions include hiring employees to work in-house - potentially taking over from the H2O contract - and setting job descriptions to define who's responsible for what.
  2. ~~Continue As-Is~~: the current processes do not pass the FAST test as they aren't acceptable or suitable for management and oversight.
- The committee agreed there was really only one essential option, to be refined [by September] to make a recommendation.

**Minutes Review:** Keith Gadapee moved, and Tim Ide seconded, **to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025, meeting** and the body approved unanimously.

**Board Recommendations:** none at this time.

**Additonal comments / discussion:**

- Brian Henderson noted that the Town of Hardwick is looking for a Public Works Director, for reference/comparison as to what other towns are doing.
- The members discussed the upcoming schedule. In July topics include Pedestrian Safety (Glenn lead) and Facility/Grounds Management (Keith Gadapee lead with Tim Ide). Water and Wastewater will come up for recommendations in September.

Tim Ide moved to adjourn and the meeting closed at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Herrin, secretary