

Town of Baltimore
Selectboard Meeting
May 7, 2026

Attending: Sandy Rich, Walter Rich, George Wheeler, David Sigl, Deb Bean, Wayne Wheelock

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 PM.

Comments and Concerns: Bay wanted to thank Steve Waldo and Tom Williams for help provided with the ongoing situation at 39 Baltimore Road.

Bay also questioned who was going to obtain the Job Description for Road Commissioner. Bud said that looking back through the prior minutes of past meetings, it had been common practice that bills were paid on time prior to signing of the orders.

Bud voiced a concern over the fact that Gurney Brothers Construction had lost its favoritism with the town, he didn't understand why.

Bud commented on concern over price of Culvert on Beaver Brook Road. Bud then gave us a copy of a bid of Gurney Brothers Construction Company. The bid was for the culvert that needs to be replaced on Beaver Brook Road, which we have two prior bids on, which have been submitted to the state. The bid was dated April 26, 2026. The bid was for \$85,750.00 a revised price for removal, replacement and installation of culvert of Beaver Brook Road. The bid said that Doug Gurney had taken upon himself and had been working all winter with engineer Jason Waysville and VT Stream Alteration Engineer Scott Jenson. They (Doug and Jason) had come up with an alternate way to install the culvert and save \$31,250.00 from the bid price Gurney Brothers Construction Company had given us Oct 1st.

Bud included a copy of Section 3 perennial stream – bridge and culvert standards with the Gurney Brothers Bid. Included in the bid statement it said Doug Gurney spoke with Jason Waysville about ways that town could lower the cost of replacing the culvert on Beaver Brook Road. In the new bid, culvert length had been shortened to 30' and the guardrail had been removed from the previous bid submitted by Gurney Brothers Construction Company.

Bay questioned the legality of how we could change the standard of construction and not have all bidders notified of the changes, so new bids could be submitted.

Bud became upset and raised his voice, complaining about the cost of the construction, and that we needed to save money on projects.

I raised my voice stating that the town needed to be very careful of how we interact with the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation using grant monies and the standards required by the state for projects involving grant money use.

Deb Bean said that she was not feeling well and left the meeting.

I called Wayne Wheelock to ask if he knew anything about changes to the engineering and a bid provided by Gurney Brothers Construction, he said that he did not, I asked him to come to the town hall.

Wayne arrived and was provided with the paperwork Bid from Gurney Brothers Construction. Wayne said that he had spoken with Jason Waysville but wasn't told about any changes to the design and or the engineering needed to meet State requirements for the Beaver Brook Road culvert project.

We the Selectboard had previously met with Meghan Brunk and her partner providing them with the two bids received for the Beaver Brook Road Culvert Project, which they used to submit the grant application. Crown Point Construction Company had been the low bidder. Bud continued to be upset about the discussion around the project. He said that he was done, that he couldn't understand why we didn't just accept the bid from Gurney Brothers Construction for the Culvert Project on Beaver Brook Road.

Sandy Rich spoke at times during the meeting trying to help Bud in the conversation around the grant and bid process, which caused Bud to become more upset about the situation.

Dave spoke up and tried to calm the situation, to no avail.

Wayne brought up that Bud had Signed the Grants in Aid paperwork and sent it into the State and questioning why? Bud said that he just signed it to get it done and back to the State. Wayne said that Bud should not have done that. Wayne said that he had contacted Bay to have him sign the paperwork as the Selectboard Chair, Wayne then sent the Grant in Aids paperwork to the State. The State said that they had already received the paperwork which was signed by Bud.

Bud brought up hiring a private company to develop and maintain a website for the town, he provided a bid from a company Pinnacle Marketing Group. Bud commented that having website that used a bunch of colors and different ways to say the same things that we have on the town's current website would be a waste of money.

Bud eventually picked up his paperwork and left the meeting, stating as he walked out of the meeting room that "he would have his registration letter to us before the next meeting".

Secretary's Report- Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Carried.

Treasurer's Report- Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried.

Grants- There was no update from Wayne about the grant for the culvert on Beaver Brook Road.

Old Business- Bay said that town attorney had been given the information and documentation about 39 Baltimore Road. Bay said that he had not had time to get the Road Commissioner job description completed

New Business- Dave said that he would look into websites for the town.

Orders- Orders were not ready to be signed, Sandy said that she would complete them and let us know when they are ready for signatures. Sandy said that when complete we could go to the Town Hall and sign.

No Ella Graves

The meeting was adjourned approximately 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

George Wheeler

Selectboard Chairman