

Justin Paré, President  
Keith Lapointe, Vice President  
John Costello  
Daniel Donovan  
Mark Gould, Jr.



Kevin McCarthy  
John Simmons  
Andrea Slobogan  
Laura Wagner

Town of North Attleborough  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760  
Phone: (508) 699-0100 ext. 2555

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1/12/2026 - Minutes

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Pare' called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. and lead the Town Council, the School Committee and all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

**II. CALL TO ORDER TOWN COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**CALL TO ORDER TOWN COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Town Council:**

**Members Present:**

Justin Pare'

Keith Lapointe

John Simmons

Andrea Slobogan

Dan Donovan

Kevin McCarthy

Laura Wagner

John Costello

Mark Gould

**Members Absent:**

**School Committee:**

**Members Present:**

Tasha Buzzell

Sarah Stone

Lyndsey Aubin Benharris

Colleen Endres

Gideon Gaudette

Charlie Peters

Cari Orsi

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Town Manager Michael Borg

Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito

Clerk of the Council, Kerrin Billinghoff

Communications & Information Officer, Taylor O'Neil

Town Department Heads

School Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci

Assistant School Superintendent Peter Haviland

School Administration

**Residents:**

Dick Keiltyka, Resident

Francisco, Resident

**Documents Reviewed:**

- Town Council Minutes of December 8, 2025
- **Measure 2026-011** - Approval to amend the Town's Zoning Map and Bylaws to rezone 290 Allen Avenue from R20 to C60 in preparation for its sale.
- **Measure 2026-041** - To Create the Bylaw associated with the M.G.L. c. 59 & 59A as Amended
- **Measure 2026 - 045**- Authorization to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Town's Reserve Fund to the K.P. Law Services Account
- **Measure 2026- 046**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new section establishing Multi-Use Overlay Districts (MXO)
- **Measure 2026- 047**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones
- FY27 State of the Town Address
- **FY27 State of the Town Briefing Package**
- FY27 School Budget Power Point

### III. RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT

- a. Resident Dick Keiltyka was in attendance to address the Town Council and residents and express his opposition to the Rezoning of Allen Ave.
- b. Resident Francisco was in attendance to address the Town Council and School Committee to express his concerns about the School Budget.

### IV. A REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN AND OTHER RELATIVE INFORMATION TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED BUDGET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6-2 OF THE TOWN CHARTER

Town Manager Borg Presented the "State of the Town: Financial Condition, Outlook and Fiscal Discipline" 1/12/2026 Power Point. The following was reviewed:

- **Expenses, Revenues, & Economic Signals**- How strong is our base?
  1. Current Budget Execution through November 2025
  2. FY26 Town Budget: Departmental Spending Overview
  3. Local Receipts & Economic Activity
  4. Local Growth
  5. Mean Assessed Home Value: Trend & Context
  6. State Aid Outlook: Structure & Constraints
  7. Looking Ahead: Economic Signals, Not Assumptions
  8. Why Local Discipline Matters
- **Core Expense Pressures** -What is Driving Costs?
  1. Health Insurance- Structural Costs Growth & Budget Impact
  2. Inflation Fixed Costs- Compounding Budget Pressures
  3. Debt Service
  4. Capital Investment
  5. FY27 Capital Requests vs. Funding Capacity
- **Reserves, Long-Term Liabilities & Discipline** – Are we managing risk responsibility?
  1. Stabilization Funds and Free Cash: Status & Strategy
  2. FY26 Free Cash Strategy Proposal
  3. Retirement Systems & Pension Costs

#### 4. OPEB

- **Workforce Occupational Capacity**- Can we sustain services?
  1. Collective Bargaining: Fiscal Implications & Planning Horizon
  2. Workforce Pressures: Capacity, Competition, & Cost
- **Close & Outlook**
  1. Looking Ahead: Discipline, Clarity, & Shared Responsibilities

School Superintendent Dr. John Antuniccì presented the "North Attleborough Public Schools, January 12, 2026" PowerPoint Presentation. The following was reviewed:

- **NAPS by the Numbers**
  1. Strengths & Accomplishments
- **Financial State of the School District**
  1. Challenges
  2. Context
- **Recent Budget History**
  1. A 4% Budget Increase in Context
  2. Concrete Example: FY'26 Budget Reality
- **How the School Budget is Developed**
  1. Budget Development Approach
    - Needs Based
    - Sustainable
    - Fair & Equitable

1. Predictable Cost Driver that Shape the School Budget
  - Salaries
  - Special Education
  - Operations & Maintenance
  - Outside Revenue Sources
  - Enrollment
  - Transportation
2. Budget Drivers Built to the Dollar
3. School Budgets are largely fixed not discretionary
4. **Additional Areas with Limited Discretion**
  - Curriculum, Instruction, & Technology
  - Student Services, & Support Staff
  - English Learner (EL) Services
  - Legal Services
5. What This Means for Budget Flexibility
  - Most of the school budget is committed before we ever get to programmatic choices.

- **Special Education: Structure and Budget Impact**
  1. Special Education- Bottom Line Up Front
  2. Special Education- By the Numbers
  3. North Attleborough- In District
    - 893 Students Receiving Services In-District
  4. North Attleborough- Out of District
    - 36 Students Receiving Services Out-Of- District
    - Range of Costs for Current Out-Of-District Students
    - Rising Costs of Out-Of-District Tuition FY23- Projected FY27
  
- **How Outside Revenue Offsets the School Department Budget**
  1. FY27 School Department Budget- Revenue Offsets
  2. Common Misconception: "Available Revenue"
  
- **Overview of the Superintendent's Recommended Budget**
  1. Needs-Based
  2. Budget Drivers: FY26 to FY27
  3. New Requests
  4. Foundational Positions Required to Operate Schools

President Pare' stated that there is "One Budget", we are "One Town." He thanked both the Town Manager and the School Superintendent for their informative presentations.

President Pare' asked if any of the Town Councilors or School Committee had any questions.

There was discussion amongst the Town Council, the School Committee, Town Manager Borg, and School Superintendent Dr. Antonucci.

School Committee Member Sarah Stone thanked everyone for giving Dr. Antonucci an opportunity to present this evening.

Chair of the School Committee Tasha Buzzell reported that we are not level service funded, and the children are not receiving a level service budget. Classrooms should have no more than 25 children in them. Teachers have an increased workload.

Town Manager Borg stated that \$7mm in costs due to the New Tri—County School Building.

Town Councilor Wagner had a few questions:

Are all the classroom number too high? Or just specific schools? Should we be redistricting?

Dr. Antonucci stated that at this time there are only 4 or 5 problem classrooms. No need to redistrict at this time.

Councilor Wagner stated that we do care about the Schools and the Teachers, but the

Town Council has no control over how the Administrative Budget is spent.

Councilor Gould thanked Town Manager Borg and School Superintendent Dr. Antonucci for their informative presentations.

## V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

At 8:45PM, Vice President Lapointe made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation. VP Lapointe stated that the Town Council will be returning to Regular Session after exiting Executive Session.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

### Roll Call Vote:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes

**Motion carried 9-0.**

Chair of the School Committee Tasha Buzzell made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation. Ms. Buzzell stated that the School Committee will not be returning to Regular Session.

Motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Tasha Buzzell	Yes
Sarah Stone	Yes
Lyndsey Aubin Benharris	Yes
Colleen Endres	Yes
Gideon Gaudette	Yes
Charlie Peters	Yes
Cari Orsi	Yes

**Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **VI. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

The Town Council returned to Regular Session at 9:26PM.

#### **VII. ADJOURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The School Committee adjourned from Executive Session at 9:14PM and will not be returning to Regular Session:

A motion was made to adjourn from Executive Session.

Motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Tasha Buzzell	Yes
Sarah Stone	Yes
Lyndsey Aubin Benharris	Yes
Colleen Endres	Yes

Gideon Gaudette	Yes
Charlie Peters	Yes
Cari Orsi	Yes

**Motion carried 7-0.**

## VIII. RECESS

At 9:16PM President Pare' stated that the Town Council would be taking a 10 minute recess and will then return to Regular Session.

## IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Town Council Minutes of December 8, 2025

Approval of Town Council Minutes of December 8, 2026

VP Lapointe made a motion to approve the Town Council Minutes of December 8, 2025

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

## X. TOWN COUNCILOR COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

VP Lapointe reported that NAFD Deputy will be retiring from the Fire Department after many years of service to the Town. I would like to pass on to him Well Wishes from the Town Council and Happy Retirement as a "Pre Congratulaions."

VP Lapointe reported the passing of Robert Bliss and on behalf of the Town Council, passed on their condolences to his family.

## XI. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Finance

Nothing to report at this time.

- b. Economic Growth & Sustainability

Nothing to report at this time.

c. By-Law

- i. Vote on Measure 2026-011- Approval to amend the Town's Zoning Map and Bylaws to rezone 290 Allen Avenue from R20 to C60 in preparation for its sale.

**Vote on Measure 2026-011** - Approval to amend the Town's Zoning Map and Bylaws to rezone 290 Allen Avenue from R20 to C60 in preparation for its sale.

To see if the Town Council will vote to amend the Zoning Map and Bylaws to rezone the Town-owned property at 290 Allen Avenue from R20 (Residential) to C60 (Commercial), pursuant to M.G.L. c.40A, §5 and Section VIII.J of the Town of North Attleborough Zoning By-Laws. The property is identified as Assessor's Map 26, Lot 33 and is shown on a plan entitled "290 Allen Ave Proposed Zoning Change R20 to C60", prepared by NAED GIS. Copies of the proposed zoning amendment and map are available for public review in the Planning Department, the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760, or online at [www.nattleboro.com](http://www.nattleboro.com)

under Planning Board.

The Town is preparing to sell the former Allen Avenue School. Rezoning to C60 is intended to enhance the property's marketability, broaden redevelopment opportunities, and maximize the financial return to the Town through the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

VP Lapointe made a motion to approve **Measure 2026-011** - Approval to amend the Town's Zoning Map and Bylaws to rezone 290 Allen Avenue from R20 to C60 in preparation for its sale.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

Councilor Donovan gave an update on the measure which was discussed at the 12/4/2026 Bylaw Sub-Committee Meeting. The vote was 3-2 in favor. Councilor Donovan was not in favor for the following reasons:

1. Time
2. RFP hasn't been put out yet
3. Mixed-Use Bylaw being proposed tonight
4. The vote to not approve is NOT against development, but rather because of the sequencing.
5. In favor of developing this property

Councilor Simmons stated that he was also a vote of "No" at the Bylaw Meeting for many of the same reasons as Councilor Donovan, and stated that he was still in favor of development.

VP Lapointe stated that at the Economic Growth Meeting he voted "No" as well, but was also in favor of development. He understands and applauds the idea of repurposing the property, but feels that it is clearly a residential area. He was not opposed to commercial development, but would like to explore the Mixed-Use Bylaw.

Councilor Wagner stated that she voted in favor of this at the Bylaw Meeting. At this time the Town Manager and the Town Planner haven't heard of any interest in this property. She feels that this choice to change the Zoning seems to be the way to go, as it is also in line with what the residents want to be there.

Town Manager Borg explained that this measure takes 6 votes to pass, which would be a Super Majority.

Roll Call Vote:

President Pare'	No
VP Lapointe	No
Councilor Simmons	No
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Gould	No
Councilor Donovan	No

**Motion denied. 4-5**

& 59A as Amended

**Update on Measure 2026-041** - To Create the Bylaw associated with the M.G.L. c. 59 & 59A as Amended

Councilor Donovan gave a brief update of this measure, as it was discussed at the 1/7/2026 Bylaw Sub-Committee Meeting. Town Manager Borg provided criteria and information for this measure.

d. Rules

Nothing to report at this time.

e. School Committee Representative

Nothing to report at this time.

f. School Building Committee (MSBA)

Town Manager Borg reported that everything has been set into motion. We have the funds for the next stage of construction, \$70mm worth of bonds at an interest rate of 3.694%. The groundbreaking will begin this summer after school gets out.

g. Communication, Public Participation & Engagement

Nothing to report at this time.

h. Local Emergency Planning

Nothing to report at this time.

i. Audit Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

**XII. Old Business**

a. None at this time

**XIII. New Business**

a. Measure 2026 - 045- Authorization to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Town's Reserve Fund to the K.P. Law Services Account

**Measure 2026-045**- Authorization to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Town's Reserve Fund to the K.P. Law Services Account

VP President Lapointe made a motion refer **Measure 2026-045**- Authorization to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Town's Reserve Fund to the K.P. Law Services Account to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and discussion.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

- b. Measure 2026- 046- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new section establishing Multi-Use Overlay Districts (MXO)

**Measure 2026-046**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new section establishing Multi-Use Overlay Districts (MXO)

VP Lapointe made a motion to refer **Measure 2026-046**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new section establishing Multi-Use Overlay Districts (MXO) to the Bylaw Sub-Committee and the Planning Board for further review and discussion.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

- c. Measure 2026- 047- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones

**Measure 2026-047**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones

VP Lapointe made a motion to refer **Measure 2026-047**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones to the Bylaw Sub-Committee, the Economic Growth & Sustainability Sub-Committee, and the Planning Board for further review and discussion.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

**ADJOURNMENT**

VP Lapointe made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:53PM**