



**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, August 5, 2025
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Chairman Announcements
4. Citizen's Forum

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Douglas Public Library / Entertainment License for Soldiers Field Eephus Event – Possible Votes
6. Town Property Use / Soldiers Field Mudville Baseball Club – Possible Votes
7. Review Letter of Support for a Grant from Open Space Committee – Possible Votes
8. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
9. Authorize TA to Sign USPS Lease for 331 Main Street – Possible Votes
10. BOS Policies & Procedures Amendments 1st Read – Possible Votes
11. TA & Town Goals – Possible Votes
12. Town Administrator's Report
13. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
14. Executive Session
 - a. *Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. **Interest in Real Property – 16 & 18 Riedell Road***
15. Adjournment

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<https://douglas-ma.gov/530/Remote-Meetings>

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Chair Les Stevens, Vice Chair Tim Bonin, Ross Smith, Matt Wojcik Town Administrator, and Lisa Freeman Executive Assistant.

Absent: Mike Fitzpatrick & Hal Davis.

1. Les Stevens called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. (0:10 TS) Pledge of Allegiance
3. (0:30 TS) Chairman Announcements
The Soldiers Field Eephus movie event is this Saturday 6:30pm – 10:00pm. Also a reminder that it is tax free weekend in Massachusetts.
4. (1:00 TS) Citizen's Forum - None
5. (1:40 TS) Douglas Public Library/Entertainment License for Soldiers Field Eephus Event - Possible votes
(1:45 TS) Motion to open the public hearing for the Douglas public library and the entertainment liquor license, made by Ross Smith, seconded by Tim Bonin. The vote passed unanimously.
Dawn Fontaine and Kate Anderson from the Library board of trustees and gave an update on the status for the event at Soldiers Field on Saturday. They have three food trucks so far, about 20 people signed up for the ball game going on from 3 to 6 and about 30 casting crew members from the movie are attending, they talked about the parking situation, bathrooms, etc.
(15:10 TS) Motion to approve the entertainment license for the Library Board of trustees to put on the Eephus screening Saturday, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
(15:35 TS) Motion to close the public hearing, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
(15:50 TS) Motion to approve the entertainment license presented tonight for the Soldiers Field Eephus event on Saturday, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
6. (16:30 TS) Town Property Use/Soldiers Field Mudville Baseball Club - Possible votes
John Shanahan, the founder of the Mudville Baseball Club, and captain Angelo Demato. They are before the board tonight to ask if they can get permission to play a vintage baseball game at Soldiers Field on September 6. They have a brief history of the league, and the public is welcome to come and watch.
(24:10 TS) Motion to approve town property use of the Soldiers Field complex for the Mudville Baseball Club on September 6, 2025, from noon to 4 pm, made by Tim Bonin, seconded Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
7. (25:45 TS) Review Letter of Support for a Grant from Open Space Committee
Becky Gallagher with the Open Space Committee, to discuss the Keeven property on SE. Main Street for access to the property and read the board the draft grant letter she wrote up. The

proposed improvements include the creation of a parking area, and the clearing of a 450-foot long, 14-foot-wide Trail to ensure a level handicapped accessible path to the forest edge and also include signage.

(31:00 TS) Motion to have Les Stevens or Matt Wojcik on the Boards behalf upon grammatical review sign the letter of support for the proposed hometown grant at location, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.

8. (32:35 TS) Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2025 & June 30, 2025
The Board will table the June 3rd minutes for when Mike Fitzpatrick is present.
(35:00 TS) Motion to approve the meeting minutes for June 30, 2025, as presented, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
9. (35:20 TS) Authorize Town Administrator to sign the USPS Lease for 331 Main Street - Possible votes
TA Wojcik stated that there was really no support to move the facility to another location in town. When presenting what Mike Fitzpatrick found researching what other towns are receiving for their lease agreement Mr. Wojcik was able to negotiate the lease amount with USPS to go from \$51k a year to just about \$79k, with a renewal option to increase to \$82k.
(38:10 TS) Motion to authorize Matt Wojcik, the Town Administrator to sign the USPS lease for 331 Main Street, Douglas, MA 01516, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
10. (38:40 TS) BOS Policies and Procedures Amendments 1st Reading - Possible votes
The Board will table this discussion until all members are present.
11. (39:05 TS) Town Administrator & Town Goals - Possible votes
The Board will table this discussion.
12. (39:15 TS) Town Administrator's Report
 - Depot Street project digging is nearing its end. Mr. Wojcik went over the process for adding a sprinkler system to the second floor, and the stages of the remainder of the project and order of operations going into the spring.
 - TA Wojcik handed out and over a workbook to show the budget forecast for FY27 as requested by some BOS members. The town health insurance account has a 12% increase. Douglas Public Schools are at a 4% increase. Blackstone Valley Tech is at a 4.5% increase. School bus transportation is at a 5% increase. New growth is set at around \$300k (which is aggressive), and at this time if this was the budget the town would be in the hole \$408,361. Mr. Wojcik is going to focus on these bigger assumptions to see if there is anything that can done to adjust those numbers. For example, the school bus transportation was to stay the same with no increase because last year it was a 23% increase, and if they can get health insurance increase down to an 8% then the deficit number would be under \$200k (about \$184k) which is a more realistic workable number to get the budget balanced. The revenues are at \$36.8 million for the FY 26 budget and out of that amount they raise from the levy \$23 million. The board members discussed and asked their budget questions
 - They discussed and updated the economic development status for the warehouse status of a tenant and holding CRG to the traffic agreement.

- TA Wojcik talked about the health insurance group and leaving it and did his research and showed the healthcare inflation trend and talked about what that looks like for the town.
- They discussed tariffs and how they will eventually affect the town, for example with vehicles and ambulance equipment, etc.
- The new requirements that are coming from the federal level and state level for moving towards electric push.

13. (1:17:00 TS) Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Ross Smith wanted to highlight and thank Mr. Jackman for confirming that he is willing to donate the property off B Street for the Riverwalk project. Les Stevens would like to put on a future agenda the 250th anniversary of the town to discuss it for next year and toss around ideas for an event. Matt Wojcik stated that on Friday he received notice from the superintendent of schools of the first round of reviews from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the accelerated repair program and Douglas is still in the running and went over the next steps for the town to provide, and going to town meeting to see what the towns responsibility for the primary school roof project.

14. Executive Session

(1:24:20 TS) Motion to enter into executive session for the discussion of interest in real property for 16-18 Riedell Road and reconvene into open session for the sole purpose of adjournment, made by Ross Smith, seconded by Tim Bonin. Roll call vote - Ross Smith, Les Stevens and Tim Bonin all in favor.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Smith made a motion at 8:50pm to leave executive session and return to regular session for the sole purpose of adjournment, Mr. Bonin seconded the motion, all in favor. Roll call vote Smith – aye, Stevens – aye, Bonin - aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary