



**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Chairman Announcements
4. Citizen's Forum
5. School Superintendent Paul Vieira / Douglas Public Schools Grade Reconfiguration Study Discussion
6. DLS Report for Town of Douglas Operating Position Discussion
7. BOS Policies & Procedures 2nd Read
8. Review & Sign STM Warrant – Possible Votes
9. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
10. Town Administrator's Report
 - Retiree Health Insurance Renewal Discussion
11. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
12. Executive Session
 - a. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. **Potential Litigation – MSHG** (*preserves the option to go into Executive Session to discuss, no votes needed*)
13. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

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Meeting ID: 895 4338 6830

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Meeting ID: 895 4338 6830

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89543386830>

For information about the Zoom platform, including how-to videos and forms for requesting a Zoom meeting:
<https://douglas-ma.gov/530/Remote-Meetings>

Board of Selectmen Agenda
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
7:00 PM

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

Absent: Mike Fitzpatrick

1. Call to Order – Les Stevens called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. (0:10 TS) Pledge of Allegiance
3. (0:35 TS) Chairman Announcements - NONE
4. (0:40 TS) Citizen's Forum – Resident Lori Colbert spoke about the Right to Farm informational meeting she had at the Adult Social Center last week, and talked about some of the concerns residents had.
5. (7:15 TS) School Superintendent Paul Vieira / Douglas Public Schools Grade Reconfiguration
Paul Vieira, School Superintendent and Diana Landry, Business Operations Manager discussed that they are looking at a grade reconfiguration, and spoke about what it would like it, and why they are investigating it. They are currently doing an exploratory study for this, and thoughts are to move the 1st grade out of the primary school and into the elementary school, move the 5th grade from the elementary school to the middle school and move the 8th grade from the middle school to the high school. The reasoning for this is the need at the primary school to increase the preschool classrooms, their early intervention numbers are increasing and went over the numbers for the need and also the desire for preschool availability. They talked about the move of 8th grade to the high school and that when researching other schools that have done this it has decreased the percentage of students going into 9th have stayed in the towns public system rather than attending a technical school. Dr. Vieira went over some of the questions and concerns from the public that they are researching and finding answers to in the process. Dr. Vieira also stated that they are looking into doing a dual enrollment for students with Annamaria College. He also talked about the Blackstone Valley Technical lottery system that they are moving to and explained the lottery process and what is required from students that are applying. The Select Board and Dr. Vieira had a lengthy discussion about the BVT lottery and the Douglas Public Schools in regards to the lottery and the effect it will have on the school.

6. (39:50 TS) DLS Report for Town of Douglas Operating Position Discussion
Les Stevens stated that he pulled some other towns' information and provided them in the packets. Hopedale, Rutland, Dudley and Leicester that are similar sized towns comparable to Douglas. They discussed some of the differences between the towns and the Free Cash amounts and other account values.
7. (44:10 TS) BOS Policies & Procedures 2nd Read – Passed over
8. (44:15 TS) Review & Sign STM Warrant – Possible Votes
TA Wojcik stated that they pulled some articles that are not ready, as follows:
 - Article 14 – Land Donation / B Street
 - Cannabis Bylaw – It will go on the Spring town meeting warrant.TA Wojcik went over the process of town meeting, and the reason for the arrangement of the articles regarding the bylaws for town meeting.
(51:15 TS) Motion to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
TA Wojcik read Article 1, section 9 of the Douglas General Bylaws regarding the reconsideration of any matter at Town Meeting.
9. (53:00 TS) Meeting Minutes: September 2, 2025 & September 16, 2025 – Possible Votes
(53:50 TS) Motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 2, 2025, as written, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
(54:35 TS) Motion to approve the September 16, 2025, meeting minutes as written, made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
10. (54:45 TS) Town Administrator's Report
 - Retiree Health Insurance Renewal Discussion
TA Wojcik stated that the retiree health insurance for the town renews in January. The town offers a Medicare Advantage Plan through Aetna. TA Wojcik talked about the changes in Washington being made to the Medicare plans that will affect the amount paid by the members. The rate the town is looking at this year is \$551.64 per member per month, which is a 68.2% increase, but it is however, competitive with other group benefit rates being charged around the Commonwealth. He also went over the details of the policy and what changes he is looking at the future.
 - The town took the initiative to force the issue of the replacement of the dry stack stone culvert on Depot Street because the contractors were not addressing it that was bid for \$70k. They should still be on schedule for paving in the spring.
 - Certified free cash is around 3.5 million rounding, and reminded the Board that Town Meeting approved \$875k for the purchase of real estate that the town is not going to purchase, so none of the \$875k was spent. The other thing that did not happen was the release of the overlay, so the town is holding over \$400k in because the Cubes at Gilboa challenged their valuation. TA Wojcik stated that

APPROVED
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the towns valuation is on the low side and he doesn't think that the Cubes appeal will be approved.

- Executive session can be passed over tonight.
- The budget process is moving forward and he is holding a small shortfall currently. He is hoping to get something that is balanced to this Board and the Finance Committee by January 1st.
- Next Wednesday bids are due for 11 Gleason Court and TA Wojcik would like to get the bid packets ready for the Select Boards review for the first meeting in November. TA Wojcik stated that as long as the price is over the floor price, his recommendation is to accept the price for the proposal you feel works best in that location/environment. A couple of members have requested to schedule a walk through of 11 Gleason Court. Lisa Freeman will arrange this with Adam Furno.

11. (1:21:45 TS) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting. NONE

12. Executive Session – Passed over

13. (1:23:40 TS) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephenie Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephenie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary