



**MARION SELECT BOARD  
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

RCVD MARION TOWN CLERK  
2025 FEB 19 PM2:12

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

**Marion Police Department Conference Room, 550 Mill Street, Marion, MA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Randy L. Parker  
John W. Hoagland  
Norman A. Hills

**ALSO PRESENT:** Geoffrey Gorman, Town Administrator; Heather O'Brien, Finance Director; Donna Hemphill, Executive Assistant; Meg & Barry Steinberg, 64 Holmes Street; J Meere, 44 Olde Knoll Road; Sam Bishop, The Wanderer; T.J. Walker, 639 Point Road; Other attendees not signed in or illegible.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Mr. Parker announced that the meeting would be video recorded and posted by ORCTV. A list of the items reviewed will be attached to these minutes.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2026** – Mr. Hoagland moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hills seconded. VOTE 3-0-0
2. **Discussion Regarding Dog Complaint** – The Board received a complaint about a dog that was not in compliance with a previous order. Mr. Hills noted that the photographs were inconclusive and if this were the same dog, that order was lifted in September. No action was taken.
3. **Discussion Regarding Island Wharf** – Comments that Mr. Hills and Mr. Hoagland shared in October were reviewed. Mr. Hills believes that the Select Board should be responsible for Island Wharf and not the Marine Resources Commission (MRC). He noted that the area is green space and, in his opinion, there should be no parking on the lawn, and the 1901 deed prohibits use for commercial properties. Mr. Hills said that he understands the need for parking and believes there are other alternatives. He would like a decision by spring. Mr. Hoagland believes that the Town needs to be flexible with parking on summer weekends. The MRC is seeking further guidance on how to proceed. There was a discussion about proper guidance. Mr. Parker suggested sharing the comments that were provided by Mr. Hills and Mr. Hoagland with the MRC and ask them to respond.

Mr. Gorman said that there are some concerns about the current location of the kayak racks at Silvershell Beach. They had been moved there during the construction of the Harbormaster Building. Resident J Meere said that the area where kayakers must walk into the water is dangerous and asked if the racks could be moved. There was a brief discussion about a possible new location for the kayak racks. Mr. Gorman will check into this and report back to the Board.

4. **Discussion Regarding Affordable Housing Unit Provision – Bylaw 230-8.12** – Mr. Hills said that this provision was discussed at the last Codification Committee meeting. This provision should be adjusted every year but was last done in 2021. Mr. Hills noted that the adjustment must be made this year.
5. **Approval of Revised Music Hall Regulations and Fees** – Mr. Hoagland moved to approve the Music Hall Regulations and Fees as presented. Mr. Hills seconded. VOTE 3-0-0
6. **Discussion Regarding Fortune Teller License Process and Fees** – Recently, a request for a Fortune Teller license was received. The Town does not currently have such license and would have to create one. There was discussion about the requirements which could include Marion residency and having a store front. Mr. Parker suggested asking the potential licensee to attend the next meeting for a more detailed discussion.
7. **Request from Department of Public Works Director Jody Dickerson to Exceed Snow Removal Related Expenditures (Budget Line)** – Mr. Parker read aloud Mr. Dickerson’s letter. Mr. Hills moved to approve the request. Mr. Hoagland seconded. VOTE 3-0-0
8. **Fiscal Year 2025 End of Year Financial Presentation – Finance Director Heather O’Brien** – Mrs. O’Brien removed the Fiscal Year 2025 Year End Report which included the breakdown of Fiscal Year 2024 vs. Fiscal Year 2025. Encumbrances, Water & Sewer Enterprises and current debt were discussed. Mrs. O’Brien continued to review the debt service as projected from 2026 to 2051. Once the report is completed, it will be added to the Town’s website.
9. **Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Discussion – Finance Director Heather O’Brien** – Mr. Gorman reviewed the Preliminary Budget PowerPoint which included the budget as requested by the Department Heads. He also reviewed the Executive Summary. The Town faces general and health insurance premium increases. Mrs. O’Brien reviewed revenue and free cash and said that the Town continues to be conservative and has maintained the AAA+ Bond Rating. Mr. Gorman noted that one item that will need to be funded at Town Meeting is the phosphorus mitigation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mrs. O’Brien said that the Town has applied for approximately \$6M in grants and \$3.5M of that amount is for a potential grant for water main work on Route 6. Property taxes make up 79% of the projected revenue. Mrs. O’Brien said that the schools make up 46% of the total budget. T.J. Walker asked about the possibility of Old Rochester Regional accepting students from Acushnet. Mr. Gorman explained that a meeting will be to be scheduled between School Committee, Finance Committee and the Select Board.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. **Department of Public Works Building Open House – February 13, 2026 at 1pm** – Mr. Gorman reminded everyone that the Open House and Ribbon Cutting will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026 at 1pm at the new Operations Building at 60 Benson Brook Road. The public is welcome.
2. **Old Rochester Regional (ORR) School District Health Care & School Choice** – Mr. Gorman said that December 2025, the Superintendent was notified by their health care broker, that they are significantly in the red (\$4.5M). School Committee and Superintendent have been working on determining how it happened and how to remedy it. The Marion share would be a third of a third. Mr. Gorman said that ORR had a meeting with Mayflower, which is another healthcare company to determine if Old Rochester Regional School District will join Mayflower. As for school choice, Mr. Gorman said that verbal discussions are happening but he didn't have further information to share.
3. **Potential Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles** – A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2026 at 6:45pm at the Sippican School Multipurpose Room. Special Legislation is need for the Shared Use Path land swap as was discussed at the last meeting and a second article will be for Special Legislation for an additional all alcohol license for J SULL Wine.
4. **Location Change for Town Stickers** – Beach/Parking Stickers, Transfer Station Stickers, Guest Passes and Shellfish Licenses are now being sold at the Town Clerk's Office at the Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road.
5. **Harbormaster Building Lift Update** – Mr. Gorman said that it had been repaired but it is now broken again. There is an issue with the door. He said that the contractor has been contacted and he will be meeting with the Building Commissioner and Facilities Director soon. Mr. Hoagland recommended the lift be replaced.
6. **Water Meter Conversion Update** – Mr. Gorman explained that there are approximately 35 water meter conversions that need to be completed but residents have not responded to the Town to schedule the conversions. This results in estimated water bills and additional Town time. When the meter is finally converted, some actual bills have been much higher than estimates. The contact information has been updated, and the residents will be contacted again. The next step will be to shut off water service. The intention is to never estimate more than one billing cycle going forward.

Mr. Gorman explained that Nomination Papers for the May 16, 2026 election are now available at the Town Clerk's Office.

There is an open seat on the Planning Board. Applications for a temporary appointment (March 2, 2026 May 15, 2026) will be accepted until February 17, 2026.

Mr. Parker thanked the Department of Public Works on a job well done during the most recent storm.

The Town House construction continues on track. Sheetrocking is now taking place and the stairs on Main Street are almost completed.

At 7:32pm, Mr. Hills moved to adjourn. Mr. Hoagland seconded. VOTE 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman A. Hills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Norman A. Hills, Clerk

Date approved: February 18, 2026

**MARION SELECT BOARD  
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DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – February 3, 2026**

1. Minutes from January 21, 2026
2. Discussion Regarding Dog Complaint
3. Discussion Regarding Island Wharf
4. Discussion Regarding Affordable Housing Unit Provision – Bylaw 230-8.12
5. Approval of Revised Music Hall Regulations and Fees
6. Discussion Regarding Fortune Teller License Process and Fees
7. Request from Department of Public Works Director Jody Dickerson to Exceed Snow Removal Related Expenditures
8. Fiscal Year 2025 End of Year Financial Presentation – Finance Director Heather O’Brien
9. Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Discussion – Finance Director Heather O’Brien
10. Memo from John Hoagland Regarding Short Title Tax Receivables
11. Email from Chris Collings Regarding Arne Excavation Work on River Road
12. Letter from Historical Commission Regarding Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Application to Prepare Historic Preservation Plan
13. Wetlands Protection Act Abutter Notification – 22 Cranberry Highway, Rochester
14. Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School District Committee Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2025
15. Notice of Decision from Zoning Board of Appeals – Map 23, Lot 9 (Briggs Terrace & Front Street)
16. Stormwater Management Rules and Regulations
17. Excess and Deficiency – Upper Cape Cod
18. Email from Arch McMichael Regarding Harbormaster Building
19. Email from Rep. Mark Sylvia Regarding Fiscal Year 2027 Budget
20. Email from John Kelly, Jr. Regarding Marion Walking Path
21. Email from Fios TV Regarding Annual Complaint Filing