

January 8, 2026, 6:00 pm, Somerset Town Hall,

Selectmen's Office, 140 Wood St., Somerset, MA 02726 and 6:00 pm at the Somerset Public Library  
(Cucinotta Community Room) 1464 County Street, Somerset, MA 02726

The meeting was called to order in open session at 5:30 pm at the Somerset Town Hall Selectmen's Office, 140 Wood Street, Somerset, MA 02726. Present were Selectman Chair Smith, Selectman Souza, Selectman Costa, and Town Administrator Mark Ullucci.

Immediately thereafter Selectman Souza motioned that the Board enter into executive session at 5:31 pm:

- A. Pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, section 21 – (a) (7) Approve Executive Session Minutes of December 4, 2025, and December 17, 2025

That motion was seconded by Selectman Costa and unanimously approved by a roll call vote of Selectmen 3-0. Selectman Smith – aye, Selectman Souza – Aye and Selectman Costa – aye.

The meeting was called to order in open session at 6:02 pm in the Community Room, Somerset Public Library 1464 County Street, Somerset, MA 02726. Present were Selectman Chair Smith, Selectman Souza, Selectman Costa and Town Administrator Mark Ullucci.

**ANNOUNCE THAT MEETING IS BEING RECORDED:** Selectman Smith announced the meeting is being recorded.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Citizens Input (Limited to Agenda Items as Dated Above):**

Elizabeth Paskowski of 347 North Street states that she hopes there will be clarification regarding Article 3, a KP Law bill before Town meeting. She also questioned why the Water and Sewer Commissioners went from 4 articles down to 3 articles. Selectman Smith responded that it is their prerogative and that she would need to ask them.

**Licenses:**

**Public Hearing –** A motion to open a public hearing to discuss and act on an application filed by ATM Brothers doing business as Somerset Country Store 1804 County Street in Somerset, MA for change of Manager from Banshi Patel to Smit Patel was made by Selectman Souza at 6:05pm, was seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye. Attorney Sydney Prokos represented ATM Brothers doing business as Somerset Country Store, she is requesting approval of a change of manager. The Board had no concerns and there was no public input. A motion to approve the application filed by ATM Brothers doing business as Somerset Country Store, 1804 County Street in Somerset, MA for change of manager from Banshi Patel to Smit Patel was made by Selectman Costa, seconded by Selectman Souza and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Smith- Aye, and Selectman Costa Aye.

Supporting Documents- copy of application

Discuss & act on application filed by South Coast Hospitality LLC doing business as Fairfield Inn & Suites for a Common Victualler License- The Board looked over the application and had no questions. Selectman Costa states he was disappointed that there was no one there to represent them. Mr. Ullucci states that the application is for continental breakfast and they were unaware that a license was needed so when they

were informed, they wanted to check off that box. There were no objections from the Board. A motion to give South Coast Hospitality LLC doing business as Fairfield Inn and Suites a Common Victualler License was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents- Copy of application

Discuss & act on application of Three Dad's Auto Sales Inc. (Leanne Bosse) for a Class II Auto Dealers License, at the premises located at 4052 County Street, in Somerset, MA- Selectman Smith states at the last meeting the Board asked for additional paperwork. He read a letter from Deputy Chief Jason Phillips dated January 6, 2026, regarding the amended site plan. He went over the paperwork that was included in the application. Selectman Costa states he appreciates the applicant submitting the necessary documents. There were some behind the scenes things that he was made aware of and asked Mr. Ullucci to brief the Board before any decisions are made. Mr. Ullucci states there was some confusion that the applicant's ex-husband came to Town Hall and said he was going to renew the original application we had there. He was advised to submit the paperwork, which he has not. After closing today, he left a voicemail at Town Hall stating that he was 40% the owner of the previous business and he referenced Mr. Branco who was the original owner who sold the property back in July. Ms. Bosse states he has been turned away in court three times with a bogus notarized letter. There is an active restraining order that she will renew again this year. He has an ankle monitor and is not allowed at 4052 County Street or the high school. Selectman Smith states that this is a new legal entity, the application before us is a new business with a lease agreement with the owner of the property. He does not have a problem moving forward, Selectman Souza agrees. As the Board of Selectmen this is a new application and new license, everything has been provided that was asked. Selectman Costa states he is not unsympathetic to the situation, he does not feel comfortable putting his stamp of approval on this. There is way to much going on here. After more discussion from the Board, a motion to approve the application of Three Dad's Auto Sales Inc. (Leanne Bosse) for a Class II Auto Dealers License, at the premises located at 4052 County Street, in Somerset, MA with subject to new site plans submitted on January 6, 2026. That motion was seconded by Selectman Smith and approved by Selectmen 2-1. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Smith- Aye and Selectman Costa- Nay.

Supporting Documents- copy of license application and lease agreement, email from Town Administrator dated December 24, 2025, letter from James Branco dated December 17, 2025, email from Police Chief Tedford dated December 19, 2025, email from Building Inspector James Aguiar dated January 7, 2026, and email from Deputy Chief Jason Phillips dated January 8, 2026.

Discuss & act on application filed by Rally Motors LLC (Richard Lewis) for a Class II Auto Dealers License at the premises located at 1905 Wilbur Avenue, in Somerset, MA- Selectman Smith read a letter Deputy Chief Jason Phillips dated January 6, 2026. He reviewed the rest of the paperwork. Selectman Costa had a question on the automotive service and repair agreement and if it was adequate being this is the first time seeing one of these. The applicant states that it is a mechanic that he has been using and he is very well known. He could have the car towed to him if there is any warranty issue. There will not be any repairs done on site. The Board had no other question. A motion to approve the application filed by Rally Motors LLC (Richard Lewis) for a Class II Auto Dealers License at the premises located at 1905 Wilbur Avenue, in Somerset, MA was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Smith- Aye and Selectman Costa- Aye.

Supporting Documents- Copy of Application, email correspondence from Deputy Chief Jason Phillips and Building Inspector James Aguiar dated January 6, 2026, email from Police Chief Tedford dated December 8, 2025, and email from Deputy Chief Jason Phillips dated January 8, 2026.

A motion to close the public hearing at 6:33 pm was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Costa.

**Public Hearing:**

A motion to open the public hearing at 6:34 pm to discuss & act on petition filed by Massachusetts Company doing business as National Grid for permission to install 1 JO pole, on Buffinton Street and County Street was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Costa. Aarron Roy represented National Grid, he explained the purpose of the pole and its exact location. He answered the questions the Board had, there were no citizen's questions or comments. A motion to close the public hearing at 6:40pm for National Grid was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Costa. A motion to approve the petition filed by Massachusetts Company doing business as National Grid for permission to install 1 JO pole, on Buffinton Street and County was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents- copy of abutters notice, copy of National Grid petition sketch, petition for joint or identical pole locations and order for joint or identical pole locations.

**Board of Health Hearing:** Discuss & act on hearing request by Country Farms 994 County Street, Somerset, MA – Non- Compliance Hearing: Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Violation under 105 CMR 665.00 selling tobacco products to a person under the minimum legal sales age- A motion to open the hearing request by Country Farms 994 County Street, Somerset, MA – Non- Compliance Hearing: Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Violation under 105 CMR 665.00 selling tobacco products to a person under the minimum legal sales age was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Smith and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza-Aye, Selectman Smith- Aye and Selectman Costa- Aye. Selectman Costa swore in the tobacco control coordinator, Jennifer Do-Teixeira. She states that on November 20, 2025, the establishment sold a tobacco purchase of cigars to a minor. This is their second violation; it is up to the Board of Selectmen to issue a suspension. She stated the owner reached out to her and she recommended some information on training through MA.Gov and they updated the identification scanning with no way to override the system. Selectman Costa swore in MD Hossain, the owner of Country Farms. He asked Mr. Hossain how there have been two violations in a short amount of time? Mr. Hossain responded that it was the same employee that made both violations, he has had both employees do training and is requiring them to scan identifications. He states that he has known the employee for a long time and that he made a mistake. Selectman Smith states he does not see this as a mistake; it is a blatant disregard for the law. Mr. Hossain asked the Board to consider giving less than a seven-day suspension. Selectman Costa swore in Mamur Rahman from 360 Degree Training. He states that Mr. Hossain reached out to him to implement the scan system. There was a lengthy discussion regarding how the scan system works. Selectman Smith states he would like Mr. Rahman to let the Board know if Country Farms ends their contract with him. Selectman Souza asked Ms. Do-Teixeira what she thought of the system, she responded that she feels it will work. The Board asked if there was any input from the public. Denise Jordan of 159 Main Street questioned what happens with the data that is scanned into the system. She was told that minimal information is saved and verified. A motion to close the public hearing at 7:16pm was made by Selectman Smith, seconded by Selectman Souza and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Smith- Aye, Selectman Souza- Aye and Selectman Costa- Aye. The Board discussed their thoughts on the suspension, and they agreed on a two-day suspension. A motion based on the hearing by Country Farms 994 County Street, Somerset, Massachusetts Non- Compliance Hearing: Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Violation under 105 CMR 665.00 selling tobacco products to a person under the minimum legal sales age in addition to the \$2,000.00 fine that has already been paid that there be a two-day suspension of selling tobacco within the next thirty days was made by Selectman Smith, seconded by Selectman Souza and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye. Selectman Costa suggested that the Board of Health Agent, Timothy Turner, contact the owner and let Mr. Ullucci know when the suspension has taken place.

Supporting Documents- Copy of request for appeal for recent violation and copy of correction/cease and desist order

A motion to recess at 7:26 pm for five minutes was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye.

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting:** PROPOSED VOTE: To waive the reading of November 25, 2025, and December 4, 2025, meeting of the Board of Selectmen and approve as circulated, if ready- A motion to waive the reading of November 25, 2025, and December 4, 2025, meeting of the Board of Selectmen and approve as circulated was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents: Draft copy of November 25, 2025, and December 4, 2025, meeting minutes

**New Business:**

Discuss & act on Town Meeting Warrant articles and assignment of articles with the Town Moderator Lucia Casey and Town Clerk Caitlin Hadala- Lucia Casey states she is looking to assign articles and quantum of votes. Selectman Smith states four articles are for the Board of Selectman, assigned the articles as follows: Selectman Smith will do Article 1 and 11, Selectman Souza will do Article 4 and Selectman Costa will do Article 9. Ms. Casey states that Articles 1,2 and 3 are 9/10's vote and Article 10 is 2/3's vote. Caitlin Hadala announced a reminder that the meeting starts at 10:00 AM, doors open at 9:00 AM at the High School. Paul Cogley asked if it was possible to move an Article before the School's request and Ms. Casey responded that it would have to be done on the floor with a positive vote. He also stated that he would like to have posterboards up in the foyer. He was told that he could and that he could also give out hand-outs by the front door. Selectman Souza thanked Madam Moderator for her service; he truly appreciates what she has done for this community.

Supporting Documents- Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Discuss & act on vote if necessary option for early voting for the 2026 Annual Town Election, in accordance with the Votes Act of 2022, effective January 23, 2023- Caitlin Hadala, Town Clerk, states her Board recommends in person early voting for April 6, April 7, and April 8. Selectman Smith states that he is not sure it's worth the time and effort of your employees with less voter turnout. Ms. Hadala states in 2024 there were 146 voters and last year there were 343 voters who came out for early voting the three days. She said people like it and she advises to keep it. She reminded the Board that if they vote to opt out of early voting the Board will have to have a public hearing and vote on it. Selectman Souza states it is a good opportunity for seniors, people like voting in person versus mail in voting. Selectman Costa states he is not in favor of early voting or mail-in voting. There are more safety guards in place on election day. He would like to see things the way they were before Covid. Ms. Hadala explained the difference between early voting and absentee voting. She also explained to the Board the process of ballot handling. Selectman Smith will send an email to get data results from Ms. Hadala and put this on a future agenda.

Supporting Documents- Early voting recommendations for Annual Town Election 2026 from Caitlin Hadala dated December 12, 2025

Discuss & act on vote to authorize the Police Chief to assign Police details for the 2026 calendar year elections- A motion to accept the Clerk's recommendation for number of Police for the 2026 calendar year

elections as she requested was made by Selectman Costa, seconded by Selectman Souza and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye, and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents- Recommendations for Annual Town Elections 2026 dated December 12, 2025 from Caitlin Hadala

Discuss & act on appointment of Town Planner Amy Messier to the Economic Development Committee for an unexpired term- A motion to appoint Town Planner Amy Messier to the Economic Development Committee for an unexpired term was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye, and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents- None

Acknowledge resignation letter of Somerset Veterans Advisory Board member Bruce Aldrich- Selectman Smith read an email from George Andes regarding the resignation of Mr. Aldrich. Mr. Andes states that there are three openings on the Veteran's Advisory Board. He has someone from the Marine Core League that has shown interest. Josh will reach out and send an application. You do not need to be a Veteran to be on the Board, they are looking for an individual versed in the Veteran community to give advice and support to the Veteran Services Officer.

Supporting Documents- Copy of email from George Andes dated January 4, 2026

Announce vacancy on Somerset Veterans Advisory Board. Discuss & act on deadline for Talent Bank Applications- Selectman Smith states there are three open positions, the suggested deadline is January 22, 2026. A motion to set the deadline for talent bank applications to January 22, 2026, was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye, and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents- None

Discuss & act on appointment of Barbara Shott to the Cultural Council for term ending June 30, 2032- A motion to appoint Barbara Shott to the Cultural Council for term ending June 30, 2032, was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Smith and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Smith- Aye, and Selectman Costa- Aye.

Supporting Documents- email from Scott Barnett dated January 30, 2025, Talent Bank Application

Discuss & act on vote to extend Shared Service Agreements with the Town of Swansea Town Nurse, until June 30, 2027 Animal Control, until June 30, 2027- Mr. Ullucci states the Swansea Board has approved the agreements, this is the last year we can extend these agreements as written. Selectman Smith states that sharing services saves money and they are always able to meet the obligation. A motion we vote to extend shared services agreements with the Town of Swansea Town Nurse, until June 30, 2027, Animal Control, until June 30, 2027, was made by Selectman Costa, seconded by Selectman Souza and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye, and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Supporting Documents- Letter from Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator in Swansea dated December 17, 2025, Copy of the motion from Swansea Board of Selectmen's meeting held on December 16, 2025

Discuss & act on Board of Selectmen's License renewal process, late fees- A motion to set a \$25.00 per day late fee for failure to renew license was made by Selectman Costa, seconded by Selectman Smith and approved by Selectman 2-1. Selectman Costa- Aye, Selectman Smith- Aye and Selectman Souza- Nay.

Supporting Documents- None

Discuss & act on vote pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53A to accept the following donations on behalf of the Somerset Police Department and authorized deposit into the Police General Donation account # 29-3580-210

- From AVII LLC one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)
- From Somerset Federal Union five hundred dollars (\$500.00)
- EM RAAD Inc. Doing Business as Somerset Gas one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)

A motion to accept donations was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye, and Selectman Smith- Aye. Selectman Costa questioned if AVII LLC has already donated since he has been on the Board, his concern is if they did it could be a potential conflict of interest. Selectman Smith asked Mr. Ullucci to have the finance director check to see if we received a prior donation.

Supporting Documents- Donation Acceptance/Expenditure Forms

### **Other / Updates**

Selectman Costa discussed July 4<sup>th</sup> being the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, there are a lot of different organizations planning to commemorate. He would like to come together as a Town to conduct one big, beautiful celebration. He encourages members of the community to reach out to the Administration office if interested in volunteering. Selectman Souza agrees we need to do something to showcase our community and country. He asked Selectman Smith to put it on the next agenda to form a committee.

Selectman Smith read an article from the Somerset Sentinel regarding the Community Preservation Act project reconstruction of Somerset Baseball League field. He states he feels it should be on the Towns capital plan. We should be maintaining assets we have in place. Community Preservation Act should pay to fix those field, the Town has to maintain the fields. Selectman Souza said the reason it was brought up was because it should be looked into getting percentage of it reimbursed from the state because the school has been utilizing the fields. Mr. Ullucci spoke with Dr. Schoonover yesterday looking at what the Town can do to clean it up. Selectman Smith doesn't want to tax the residents again, he asked if Bristol Agricultural High School is able to do it. Selectman Costa explains how the lip occurs.

Selectman Costa commented on the incident that happened in Minneapolis. He feels it's important here on the local level they reiterate and remind people to stay calm and there are always options and ways to protect yourself that don't require you to take matters into your own hands. It is never a good idea to interfere with law enforcement officers.

### **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

Selectman Smith read a letter from Brian Bentley Director of Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School; he will leave it in the Board of Selectman's office if the other Board members would like to look at it. Mr. Ullucci did get to speak with Mr. Bentley and went over figures that they discussed.

### **Town Administrator Updates:**

Mr. Ullucci states Special Town Meeting signs are up and notices went out. The two digital Navigators are doing a phenomenal job. Taxpayers are not funding this position, Mr. Peirce worked to get grant money for it.

**Reminders-** None

**Citizens Input**

Elizabeth Paskowski asked how many members there are on the Veterans Advisory Board. Selectman Smith responded that there are 7 or 8 members. She read part of George Austin's article regarding the Water and Sewer Commissioners; she states they did not meet with Wright-Pierce. She met with Paul Ferland today, he didn't know commissioners had made up their mind. She thinks it is awful they didn't let them know. She asked if the Board of Selectmen was going to meet with the Water and Sewer Commissioners. Selectman Smith said it is the Water and Sewer Commissioners project not the Board of Selectmen's project and they already made their decision on which way they are going.

A motion to adjourn at 9:03pm was made by Selectman Souza, seconded by Selectman Costa and approved by a roll call vote. Selectman Souza- Aye, Selectman Costa- Aye and Selectman Smith- Aye.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Dasilva

Approved: February 26, 2026