

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, April 2, 2025
4:30 PM Town Hall



Present: Matthew Riiska, Henry Tirrell, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard
and Ruth Melville

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

M. Riiska asked to amend the agenda to include:

- The recommendation from the State of CT Office of Policy Management regarding the 2024 Motor Vehicle Supplemental Grand List. The Town of Norfolk Tax Collector also supports this recommendation.
- Budget discussion

MOTION S. Evans to include these items on the agenda. Second H. Tirrell.
Carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2025

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting as presented.
Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

*Appointments: Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland/Wetlands Watercourse Agency
Economic Development Committee*

M. Riiska recommended the following appointments:

- Bart Wenrich as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission with his term to expire 11/16/27
- Theodore Otto as an alternate to the Inland/Wetlands Agency with the term to expire 12/31/26
- Cheryl Heller & Jennifer Almquist to the Economic Development Committee with the terms to expire 12/31/27

MOTION S. Evans to appoint the above listed individuals with terms as stated. Second H. Tirrell.
Carried unanimously.

Sale of Property in Colebrook (near Norfolk landfill) to the Old Newgate Coon Club Inc.

M. Riiska reported that the Old Newgate Coon Club is interested in purchasing, from the Town of Norfolk, the 31.5 acres in Colebrook that abuts our Transfer Station and is behind Masser Park in Colebrook. We are currently paying taxes on this property and any sale will need to be voted on at a town meeting. M. Riiska will find out what they are willing to pay for the property versus what we can do to change the tax assessment if we decide not to sell.

2024 Motor Vehicle Supplemental Grand List

- Tax Collector – The State of CT is allowing the municipalities to choose various options for how motor vehicles are to be assessed. We choose the 90% assessment using the manufacturer's suggested retail price as of 10/1/24. Office of Policy & Management has given us billing options going forward. The Norfolk Tax Collector is recommending the 3rd option which splits the year (see attached explanation).
MOTION S. Evans to bill according to Option #3. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Selectman's Report

- The Town of Norfolk currently has a contract with MIRA for municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal, but they will be shutting down their plant in Hartford. We will have two options for our waste disposal (not including recyclables):
The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOC) has been in discussion with MIRA and the State of CT about purchasing the MIRA plant in Torrington OR USA Hauling would take our solid waste to Winsted to be hauled to PA. M. Riiska should have more information at our next meeting.
- Smith Road Bridge – M. Riiska still working with the State of CT DEEP trying to get a temporary bridge.
- Mountain Road – Back in 2022 when the waterline was being worked on by a construction company for Aquarion they damaged a culvert pipe resulting in an insert being installed into the damaged pipe. The Town received a letter yesterday from the State of CT DEEP stating that the insert is in violation of DEEP regulations. M. Riiska will respond with our plans to fix the issue, or a monetary penalty will be enforced.
- River Place Bridge – The bridge will be completed by 4/30/25 at which point they will clean up and landscape the area. The Town owns a piece of property which will be made into a small gravel parking lot to keep cars from parking on Blackberry Street.
- Route 44 Wall Project – M. Riiska has a meeting with the project manager tomorrow and will bring up the subject of paving the one lane road in the construction area.

Budget

- M. Riiska distributed a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 25/26. This has been a difficult budget to work on, having been a revaluation year. The grand list increased by 28.83%. Salary increases for Town Hall employees will be 2.5% and the mill rate 22.61. Botelle School budget is down \$103,883 and Regional School #7 is down \$179,052.
- Capitol Reserves - \$150,000 was put back in Capitol Reserves to build this account back up in the event the Town needs to purchase a new truck.
- Firehouse – M. Riiska spoke with investment advisor from Phoenix Advisors regarding the funding of the firehouse. We have a commitment from the State of CT of \$2.5 million dollars. Also, we have \$2.5 million in our Capital Campaign that the Firehouse Committee has been working on. We should be getting our STEAP Grant of \$500,000

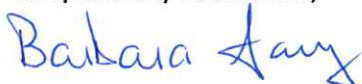
Budget (continued)

from the State of CT and M. Riiska has been in discussions with Senator Blumenthal's office and Congresswoman Haye's office to reapply for the discretionary spending which was previously approved for \$1.25 million. If all of this comes to fruition, we should only need to borrow \$1.75 million. We will pay approximately 3.75% interest and no higher than 4%. M. Riiska put \$75,000 in the FY 25/26 budget for interest payments.

- Firehouse Committee – Informational meetings to be held Saturday, April 19th at the Hub and Tuesday, April 22nd at Botelle School.
- South Norfolk bridges & Mountain Road bridge – Next fiscal year (FY 26/27) we will need a floating line of credit while bridges are being built until the State of CT reimburses us.
- Budget was reviewed and will be presented to the Board of Finance on Tuesday, April 8th.

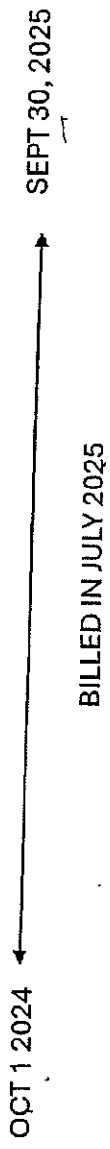
MOTION S. Evans to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. 2nd H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



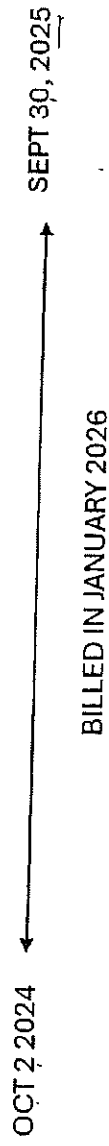
Barbara Gomez, Secretary

REGULAR MOTOR VEHICLE LIST - (SAME / NOT AFFECTED)

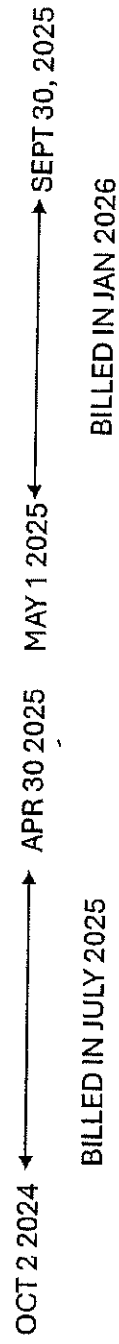


NOW

SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE LIST



NEW RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL BILLING



BILLED IN JAN 2026

MOTOR VEHICLE ASSESSMENT CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

Pursuant to Public Act 22-118 and June Special Session Public Act 24-1, municipal Assessors will be valuing registered/non-registered passenger motor vehicles differently than they have in the past.

Effective with the October 1, 2024 Grand List, Assessors will utilize the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of your vehicle and apply the statutory depreciation schedule to calculate the depreciated value of your vehicle.

The depreciated value will then be multiplied by the statewide assessment ratio of 70%, producing the assessed value of your vehicle for taxation.

The assessed value of your vehicle will automatically decrease according to the depreciation schedule. Your vehicle will be assessed at no less than \$500 for taxation purposes at any time.

Example based on a 2020 Honda Accord LX (estimate only)**OLD VALUATION METHOD**

100% average retail price/clean retail value = \$20,325 (JD Power Clean Retail)
\$20,325 x 70% Assessment Ratio = \$14,227.50
\$14,227.50 x 32.46 motor vehicle mill rate = **\$461.83 tax bill**

NEW VALUATION METHOD

MSRP \$24,020 X 65% depreciation from schedule = \$15,613
\$15,613 x 70% Assessment Ratio = \$10,929.10
\$10,929.10 x 32.46 motor vehicle mill rate = **\$354.76 tax bill**

New Personal Use Exemptions pursuant to Section 12-81 (82) of the CT General Statutes

- Any snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or residential utility trailer, provided such property is exclusively for personal use is exempt for assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024.
- A utility trailer is defined under Section 14-1 as a trailer designed and used to transport personal property, materials or equipment, whether or not permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer.
- While still required to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles, these types of vehicles will be treated as personal possessions and no longer subject to local property taxation.

Board of Assessment Appeals pursuant to Section 12-117a of the CT General Statutes:

- Motor vehicles are assessed based on MSRP without factors such as high mileage, salvage vehicles, and rebuilt titles.
- The only grounds for appeal for a taxpayer is if the Assessor did not base the assessment from the vehicle's MSRP.
- Vehicle owners may appeal the MSRP determination to the Board of Assessment Appeals at their next successive meeting.

Depreciation Schedule pursuant to Section 12-63 of the CT General Statutes:

Age of Vehicle	Percentage of MSRP
Up to year one	Eighty-five per cent
Year two	Eighty per cent
Year three	Seventy-five per cent
Year four	Seventy per cent
Year five	Sixty-five per cent
Year six	Sixty per cent
Year seven	Fifty-five per cent
Year eight	Fifty per cent
Year nine	Forty-five per cent
Year ten	Forty per cent
Year eleven	Thirty-five per cent
Year twelve	Thirty per cent
Year thirteen	Twenty-five per cent
Year fourteen	Twenty per cent
Years fifteen to nineteen	Fifteen per cent
Years twenty and beyond	Not less than \$500

provided no motor vehicle shall be assessed at an amount less than five hundred dollars

For additional information contact your municipal Assessor's office.