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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT: Chairman Kelly Mallozzi, Vice Chairman Tom Broderick, Jason Marsh Matt Dunn, Ann Sather, Brian Walsh, Christine El Eris, Alternate Mike Buswell, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Katske, Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, Town Council Chairman Ashley Gaudiano

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DISCUSSION ITEM: Siena Research Institute Draft Senior & Community Center Survey Questionnaire

Chairman Gaudiano explained the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the direction and feedback on a survey regarding the senior/community center. The current senior center is over 100 years old, and the committee aims to be financially responsible in deciding its future.

The Public Works Committee discussed the draft survey on the future of the senior/community center, emphasizing the need for clear, unbiased questions. Key points included the importance of understanding community preferences, the potential cost of a new facility, that the referendum threshold is adjusted for inflation to $18 million, and the need to differentiate between a senior center and a community center. Concerns were raised about the clarity and/or bias of the questions, the inclusion of all voting districts, and the need for a business model.

The committee discussed and agreed to the following:

- Chairman Gaudiano would send the committee's feedback to Siena Institute for further input before finalizing and deploying the survey.
- Schedule and organize a special Public Works Committee within the next few weeks to review and finalize the revised draft survey.
- Request Sienna to revise the survey draft to simplify language, remove biased phrasing, separate 'don't know' and 'refuse' response options, consider moving question #14, the core preference question, to the front and provide guidance on wording, e.g., use 'new facility' terminology as opposed to 'senior and/or community center' for the remainder of the survey.
- Collect bullet-pointed written feedback from committee members. Committee members to email their points and consolidate them for Sienna. These submissions were requested within the next 1–2 days.
- Confirm with Sienna that they will deliver the full survey dataset and backup files, produce a summary presentation of results, and make the results publicly available.
- Ask Sienna to add a 'did not vote in November 2025' option to the referendum/voting question and explore ways to capture respondent voting district or polling place information (or an alternative location identifier) for crosstab analysis.
- It was noted public comment is typically not allowed at the committee level but could be sent via email.
- The committee discussed the challenges of providing accurate cost estimates for different locations.
- Ask the Finance Director to calculate inflation-adjusted cost estimates for the new facility (update the $27M/$20M figures to current dollars) and provide the calculation results to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Sather and seconded by Broderick the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk