

LAW & LEGAL

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Zahren Building in the Special Education Co-op Room. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Ryan Litchfield, Roger Ward, Riley Smith and Terry Thompson. Other persons in attendance were Ric Smart, Deborah Cousins, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Eric Blakeley, County Clerk Jeremy Benson and Deputy Clerk Kyah Beck. Members absent was Travis Hiel and Clayton Cook.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve August 3, 2026 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Litchfield to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update

Report received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

No report.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

Ric Smart gave the report. 10 Veterans were given assistance in August. Total assistance amounted to \$2,614.00.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Nick Petitgout gave the report.

Assessor's Office Update

Assessor Deborah Cousins gave the report.

Discuss Colchester Solar Energy Facility Permit Application & Public Hearing

Eric Blakeley brought a site location map showing where the solar project will be located. All ordinance requirements have been met. The next step is to hold a public hearing to discuss the project. No approval can be granted until the public hearing takes place. This Board agenda item will be pulled.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Smith moved with a second by Member Thompson to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other Items as Needed

Joe Erlandson, Rick Walker, and Ken Durkin have been working with Matt Kwacala on revising the battery storage ordinance.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

Several members of the public came to voice their concerns about the proposed solar site in Colchester. Jennifer Dailey will be located next to the site. There have already been previous issues with flooding in her area, and she is concerned that her property will be affected further. Eric Blakeley stated that the owner of the solar farm would be responsible for doing their best to construct the site in a way that would not contribute to additional flooding. Jennifer had several other concerns, including the ecological impact, economic impact on neighboring properties, noise pollution, and potential damage to local roads. Lori Chaplin asked questions regarding the location and property owner.

County Board Chair Comments

Eric Blakeley would like to hold the public hearing on the solar project until Rick Walker returns from vacation. Eric stated that it would be beneficial for Rick to be present to answer questions.

Adjourn

Member Thompson moved with a second by Member Ward to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.