

Norwich Ice Arena Authority

Special Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026

1. Call to Order – Determination of a quorum: Chairman Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 7:05pm, noting it was being recorded. Present were Chairman Mark Bettencourt, Joann Beguhl, Gary Makowicki, and Mark Sicuso. Also present were Lisa Fedick and Shannon Fitzgerald from NRGIA and Deputy Comptroller Orla McKiernan.
2. Acceptance of Minutes from Previous meetings: A motion to accept the 9/3/2025 meeting minutes as presented was made by Gary Makowicki, seconded by Mark Sicuso and passed by a roll call vote 4-0.
3. Correspondence: It was noted that the committee had received the financial report from the finance office and it is attached. Joann Beguhl noted that it looked great.
4. Public Comment - None heard

New Business

5. Reports to be received by the committee. –

Shannon Fitzgerald reported on activities at the rink. The 25-26 hockey season is ongoing; the Norwich Hockey Club is in its fourth season. They rented the gym and turned it into a locker room and added a girls team this season. The Sea Captains are in their 5th season. The Eagles have ice for a good amount of their games and practices. They also rent ice in the summer to get ready for their season. The Seahawk Youth Hockey Organization will run through April 1st this year. Adult Hockey leagues are in the middle of their fall/winter season. Once timing on a shutdown is settled, we'll get started on spring power skating and hockey clinics. Regarding figure skating, we hold exhibitions every year in October, December and April. April is usually our competition prep. Our annual Tournament of Roses competition is being held May 2nd and 3rd this year. We're still running the New York Rangers learn to play program fall, winter and spring. The Learn to skate and the Future Stars Program are running year around and continue to grow.

Maintenance plans include deep cleaning, painting and items outside. The pump motor on the Zamboni was replaced. We have monthly chiller preventative maintenance. The next is scheduled for tomorrow. The lobby heat went down the other day, and Public Works Director Brian Long sent NPU over and they repaired it, getting it back up and running within a few hours. We've noticed a decline in the amount of hot water we're getting so we are having those on demand units serviced, hopefully next week.

6. Discussion on rink roof repair / schedule update, if any. DC McKiernan reported that Brian Long, Purchasing Agent Bob Castronova and an engineer met at the rink earlier this month and assessed the roof work and cooling tower issue. They may be able to do the work without taking the tower off the roof. They will be using a state vendor for the contract with BMP

Construction. Lisa Fedick was there and stated we are anticipating the shutdown of the ice running mid-May to June to do the project.

7. Adjournment. There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Gary Makowicki, seconded by Mark Sicuso and passed by roll call vote 4-0, at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Bettencourt
Chairman