

Regular Meeting Board of Finance (BOF) May 12th 2026 Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Present: Kip Finch, Mark Johnson, Rob Schapp, Michael Gacek, Michael Swartzchild and Taylor Pottbecker. In addition, Tom Weik and Rick Nicoletti (Remote).

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Seat Alternates
3. New Board Member Alternative Discussion/Nomination
4. Budget Hearing Review
5. Selectman's Update
6. Approve Minutes
7. Public Comment
8. Adjourn

Motions:

- Motion by Rob Schapp to seat alternate Michael Schwarzchild for Scott Pottbecker, seconded by Mark Johnson and passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kip Finch to seat/nominate Taylor Pottbecker to the Board of Finance Alternative position, seconded by Rob Schapp and pass unanimously.
- Motion by Michael Gacek to approve the May 5th 2026 Board of Finance Meeting Minutes, seconded by Michael Swartzchild and passed unanimously.

There was one member of the public in attendance in person and one remote.

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 7:44 PM by Kip Finch, seconded by Michael Gacek and passed unanimously.

A summary of the meeting is below.

Budget Presentation Review:

- 2026–27 town budget set at \$10.41M, up \$205K (~2%) from \$10.2M the prior year; education represents 59% of total spending, with the school budget at ~\$44.5M — a \$1.8M increase driven by union-negotiated salaries and health insurance.
- Capital projects for 2026–27 total \$688K, covering fire engine, utility and dump trucks, road reclaim/pave work, municipal building maintenance, fire pond dredging, outdoor courts, transfer station south wall, regional debt payments, tractor boom, and West Morris Bridge Road.
- Maintaining the full capital project list — even unfunded items — is essential for grant eligibility, as some grants require projects to appear on the approved list.
- Revenue highlights: \$9M+ in taxes collected, grand list up \$203K, state funding up \$81K, and building permit revenue up \$30K; mill rate reflects a -0.02 change; \$500K fund balance transfer planned, down \$50K from last year.
- A four-year union contract starting July 1 was agreed at 2.75% increases for years 1–2 and 3% for years 3–4.

Other Items:

- \$8K approved for the town's 250th anniversary celebration (band, food, fireworks)
- Sandy Beach Commission is out of operating funds and may be unable to open; they requested \$14,300 vs. the \$10K budgeted, and the board is open to additional support with further discussion and coordination with Litchfield and the Commission.

Meeting Minutes were prepared by Michael Gacek.