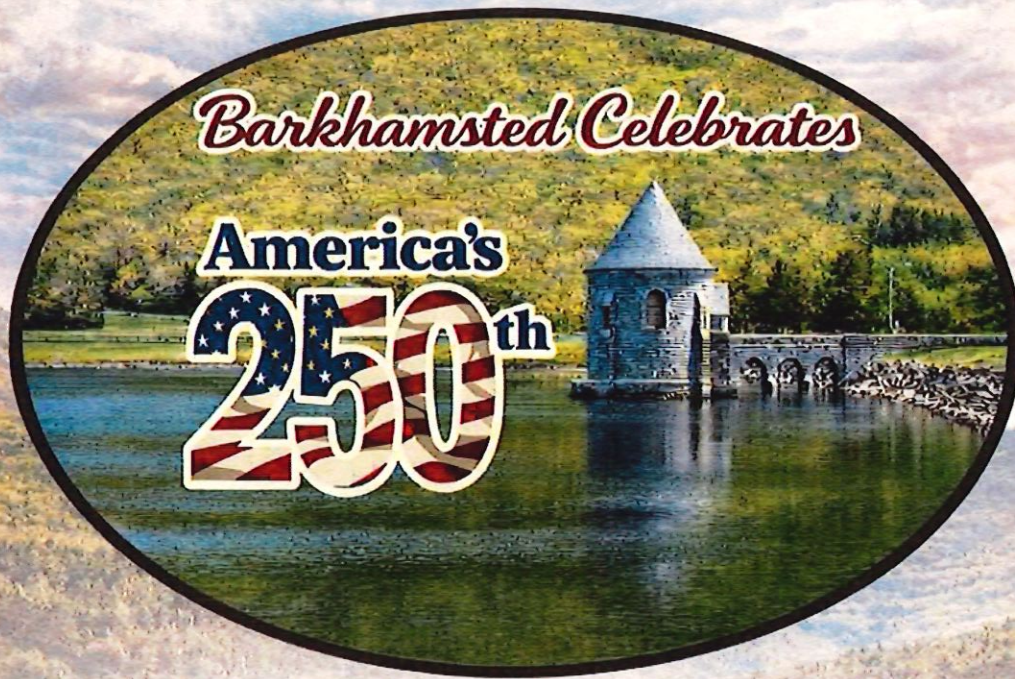


BARKHAMSTED

Annual Report

2024–2025



Notice of Public Meetings

Annual Budget Hearing

Thursday, April 9, 2026 • 7:00 PM

Annual Town Meeting / Annual Budget Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 • 7:00 PM



Barkhamsted, Connecticut Celebrates 250 Years of Independence

This summer, the Town of Barkhamsted is hosting a vibrant and heartfelt celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, marking a quarter-millennium since the momentous event in 1776 that forged the United States of America. Incorporated just a few years after the Revolution in 1779, Barkhamsted's rich history is coming alive with a series of events that blend patriotic tradition with the town's heritage and rural charm.

At the heart of Barkhamsted's 250th festivities are community gatherings that invite residents and visitors to reflect on local and national history. Activities planned by the America 250 committee include historical presentations, a poster contest, creative chair auction, June 6th family picnic, with period games, to be topped off with a drone light display after dark, the annual Fourth of July parade, the dedication of a tree, and even a garden contest themed in a pallet of red-white-and-blue. All of these events are designed to honor the spirit of independence while strengthening our community bonds.

As both a scenic treasure and a historic cornerstone, the Barkhamsted Reservoir and its enchanting gatehouse are fittingly featured on the cover. Created during the construction of the Saville Dam in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the reservoir reshaped the town's landscape. Its creation came at the sacrifice of the Barkhamsted Hollow community, which was flooded to make way for the project. Rising from the water's edge, the stone gatehouse, often described as castle-like, is well known among photographers and history lovers for its picturesque design and striking setting against the rolling hills and treasured forests. Over time, the gatehouse has become a cherished symbol of Barkhamsted.

As Barkhamsted's 250th Independence celebrations unfold, the community is embracing both its historic roots and its future with pride. From the well-worn timbers of Old Riverton Inn to the graceful lines of the reservoir's gatehouse, this small town offers a picturesque reminder that America's story lives in the everyday places where people have gathered, worked, and celebrated for generations.

Another focal point of Barkhamsted's historical identity is [Squires Tavern](#), a remarkable relic from the early years of the nation. Built around 1795–1796, this Federal era structure was originally a farmhouse and operated as a tavern and social center along the Farmington River Turnpike in the early 19th century. Owned for many years by Bela Squire and later by local farming families, the tavern was a hub for travelers and townspeople alike, a place to eat, gather news, and share stories in the young republic.



Photo Courtesy of the Barkhamsted Historical Society

After decades of varied use, from farmstead to ranger housing for People's State Forest, Squires Tavern might have faded into history if not for the tireless efforts of the Barkhamsted Historical Society. In 2001 the town secured a lease from the state, and since then volunteers and preservationists have meticulously restored the building to serve as a museum and headquarters for the society. Here, visitors can see artifacts and exhibits that connect to Barkhamsted's early life and remains a place to gather and share stories.

First Selectman's Highlights 2024 - 2025

Meaghan H. Cook, First Selectman

The Board of Finance approved the FY 25/26 General Government budget and other associated funds at their special meeting on April 8, 2025. The final budget was approved at a town meeting held on May 6, 2025. The approved total expenditures were \$14,252,183 for Fiscal Year 2025/2026, for an increase of 0.90%. This compares to the inflation rate measured by the consumer price index for the Northeast in June 2025 which was 3.0%.

Included in this total were \$2,620,480 for General Government, \$129,456 for Debt Service, \$10,877,343 for education (the combination of Northwestern Regional High School #7 and The Barkhamsted School), \$87,118 for the Regional Refuse District #1, and \$54,086 for the combination of the Dog, Recreation and Senior and Community Center funds. An appropriation of \$483,700 was approved for the Capital Reserve Fund. This appropriation funds various projects, including replacement of the 2006 International truck, Old Town Garage updates, new HVAC at the Senior/Community Center, Town Hall upgrades, an Air Quality Study and Window Replacement Evaluation at the Barkhamsted Elementary School.

The Town mill rate had a decrease from 24.34 to 23.94.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the General Fund expenses were under budget by \$25,557. Additional revenues received by the Town exceeded the budget by \$590,275 which included tax revenue of \$251,405 over the budgeted amount, fee revenues of \$137,259 over the budgeted amount and investment earnings of \$199,604 over the budgeted amount. This resulted in total positive variance to the Town of \$615,832, vs the budgeted utilization of fund balance of \$400,000. This resulted in a net increase of \$215,832 to the general fund balance.

The Town's governmental funds, reported on a current financial resources basis, combined ending fund balance is \$3,658,697 an increase of \$247,462 for the year. The General Fund balance was \$3,032,869, of which \$100,000 was assigned to the subsequent year's expenditures.

At the end of the current fiscal year unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$2,932,869 or 20.6% of the subsequent year's budgeted general fund expenditures and transfers vs. 17.1% in the prior year.

Town of Barkhamsted Government Overview

Barkhamsted Town Hall

67 Ripley Hill Road, Barkhamsted, CT 06063

The following officials have offices at the Town Hall. Unless otherwise noted, the office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, closed on Friday.

First Selectman Meaghan Cook (D) (860) 379-8285 01/01/26 – 12/31/27

Town Clerk Holly Krouse (R) (860) 379-8665 01/01/26 - 12/31/29

Town Treasurer Don Stein (D) (860) 379-8619 01/01/26 - 12/31/27

Tax Collector Teresa T. Collins (D) (860) 738-4762 01/01/24 - 12/31/27

Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Closed Mondays

Registrars of Voters Lila Tuxbury (R) (860) 738-4695 02/18/25 – 01/04/29

Karen A. Martin (D) (860) 738-4695 01/6/25 – 01/4/29

Tuesdays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM or as needed

Assessor Carmen Smith (860) 379-3600

Building Inspector Jeff Neumann (860) 379-7946

Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 to 4:30

Emergency Management James Shanley (860) 379-8285

Resident State Trooper Derek Kareta (860) 379-8782

Zoning Officer Debra Brydon (860) 379-1314

Other Positions:

Recreation Director Donna Carney-Bastrzycki (860) 379-2895 Hours by appointment

Fire District Richard T. Winn, President (860) 738-9254

Tree Warden Debbie Brydon (860) 379-1314

Municipal Agent for the Elderly Anita Deschenes- Desmond (860) 379-9396

Animal Control Officer Jen Kershaw (860) 978-1876

Governmental Agencies

Education

Barkhamsted Elementary School (K-6)

65 Ripley Hill Road, Barkhamsted, CT 06063

Robert Brainard, Chairman, Board of Education (860) 738-4016

Erika Sacharko, Superintendent (860) 738-4016

Danielle Radke, Principal (860) 379-2729

Northwestern Regional School District #7 (7-12)

Battistoni Drive, Winsted, CT 06098

Molly Sexton Read, Chairman, Board of Education (860) 379-1084

Steve LePage, Superintendent (860) 379-1084

Gary Franklin, High School Principal (860) 379-8525

Andrew Bakulski, Middle School Principal (860) 379-7243

Fire Protection

James Lagassie, Fire Marshal (860) 936-8006

Richard Winn, Deputy (860) 309-4375

Barkhamsted East VFD, Steve Elovirta, Chief (860) 379-6598

Pleasant Valley VFD, James Shanley, Chief (860) 379-0026

Riverton VFD, Tyler O'Neil, Chief (860) 379-7473

Judge of Probate, Torrington City Hall (860) 489-2215

James Steck, Judge of Probate

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM, and Friday 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Public Works Department & Town Garage (860) 379-1888

Richard Novak, Highway Department Supervisor

Elected Boards and Commissions

Board of Selectmen: This board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM in the Town Hall. The Board is responsible for the management of town government with the First Selectman responsible for day-to-day management.

Meaghan Cook (D), Raymond P. Pech (D), Mark Mahoney (R)

Board of Finance: This six-member board, plus two alternates, is responsible for overseeing the development of the town budgets, setting the mill rate and overseeing the town finances. The members serve staggered six-year terms. Board meetings are held in the Town Hall at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month, or as noted on the agenda.

Richard T. Winn (R) Chair, Matthew J. Kelly (D), Salvatore Tartaglione (R), David R. Moulton (R), Scott Thomas (R), Christopher Buck(D)

Alternate Juan Jarmillo (D), Alternate Mark Hemenway (R)

Board of Education: This seven-member board is responsible for the local elementary school. Board members serve staggered four-year terms. The Board meets in the Elementary School on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Robert H. Brainard, III (R) Chair, Caitlin Chabot (D), Leigh Connole (D), Jaclyn Dombrowski (D), Timothy Garand (D), Amanda North (R), Marykate Terzini (R)

Regional School District #7 Board Of Education: Each of the member towns (Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford and Norfolk) has two members on the board that oversees our public high school, Northwestern Regional School District #7 in Winchester. The Board meets at the High School on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 PM.

Mary C (Mimi) Duran (R), Molly Sexton Read (D), Chair

Planning & Zoning Commission: The Commission upholds and updates the zoning regulations and provides services to the community relative to zoning issues. The Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

James H. Hart, Chair (R), Christina Lavieri (R), Frank J. Kaczinski, Jr. (D), Johnny Polderman (R)

Thomas E. Andersen (R), Alternate Robert Pulford (D), Alternate Rejean Labrie (D), Alternate Paul Duran (R)

Zoning Board of Appeals: The ZBA accepts and rules on applications for variances to the zoning regulations. The Board also hears cases in which an applicant wishes to appeal a decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. This board meets the first Wednesday of the month, as needed.

William H. LeGeyt, Jr., Chair (R), Daniel F. Lamont (R), Christopher S. Tooker (R)

R. Bruce Weller (D), Dan Pinton (D), Alternate Katie Cox (D), Alternate Philip Walker (D)

Elected Boards and Commissions Continued

Board of Assessment Appeals: This board is an appeals body for taxpayers who believe that the town assessor erred in the valuation of their properties or erroneously denied them exemptions.

Bruce Weller (D), Michael Stewart (R), Nora Bishop (D), Alternate Francine Beland (D), Alternate Robert H. Brainard III (R)

APPOINTED COMMISSIONS

Conservation Commission: This board is strictly an advisory board to land use commissions. The Board meets on the last Monday of the month at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Members serve for two years.

Virginia S. Apple, Chair, Ryan Colleoni, Joan Noblet, Jeanine Reinier, Judy Doyle, Dawn Anstett, Frank Sherwood-St. John

Inlands Wetlands Commission: The Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Linda L. Ganem, Chair, Christopher S. Tooker, H. Jonathan Simon, Ian Osborn, Linda Ciborowski, Jerry Maher, Jr., Martha Sullivan, Alternate Mike Deroehn, Alternate Jeffrey Mazzetta

Economic Development Commission: The Board meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Chair Robert Pulford, Mark A. Mahoney, Linda Ganem, Todd Winkler, Don Stein, Shannon Chatfield

Recreation Commission: The Board provides extra-curricular activities for all age groups as well as a summer camp for kids. The Board meets at 7:00 PM on the third Monday of the month at the Community Room (Town Garage).

Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, Recreation Director, Peter M. Bakker, Jr., Chair Jon Sweeton, Paul Hanson, Janiece Delvechio, Pamela Welles, Nora Bishop,

Regional Refuse Disposal District #1: The Refuse District handles the disposal of solid waste produced by the member towns. The nine-member board sets policy for the District. The Board meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Barkhamsted has two representatives.

Peter M. Bakker, Jr., Matt Carl

Stanclift Cove Authority: The six-member Authority is a joint commission between Barkhamsted and New Hartford and manages the Stanclift Cove beach and waterfront, including setting users fees, hiring employees and performing needed maintenance.

Melissa Roy, Chair, Brian Grant, Caitlin Chabot

Other Commissions

Justices of The Peace

Pamela T. Brunell, Elizabeth Buck, Debra P. Brydon, Teresa T. Collins, Michael Deroehn, Kim A. Elovirta, James H. Hart, Lisa H. Hudkins, Matthew J. Kelly, David Krayeski, Jennifer Labrie, Susan Marie Larson, Cara L. Nguyen, Raymond P. Pech, Donald S. Stein, Martha J. Sullivan, Betty Ann A. Sweeney, Carol A. Wallace, Stephen R. Tuxbury, Michael Stewart

Notaries Public

Thomas E. Andersen, Brenda D. Bakker, Amanda G. Balaski, Jonas Bean, David A. Bettigole, Debra P. Brydon, Samantha R. Carter, Laurie Conklin, Barbara S. Cooper, Christina DiMauro, Jeannine Frink, Shawna Godenzi, Deborah Granquist, Terry L. Hall, Anna Claire Holland, Lisa M. Jacobs, Karen L. Jarvis, Eunice Johnson, Kevin Kinsley, Holly P. Krouse, Susan M. Larson, Adrienne Lavalle, John D. Leonard, Erinne Markwas, Stacey J. Marsh, Jason Daniel Martin, Dawn E. Merli, Bethany L. Monda, Spencer Monroe, Donna Michelle Murphy, Walter C. Nicksa Jr., Laurel Oswell, Cindy M. Papageorge, Raine A. Pedersen, Dan Pinton, Suzanne Pombar, Cecilia Raimundi, Alison A. Roy, Doreen A. Roy, Dean A. Sheehan, Jayne A. Sholtis, Stefani Rae Sholtis, Kelly L Slater, John F. Tancredi, Patricia Tuller, Jason Morgan Vincent, Elaine B. West, Stephanie Wise

TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2025

	Governmental Activities
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 364,157
Investments	3,283,929
Receivables:	
Property Taxes	885,588
Accounts Receivable	95,965
Accrued interest and fees on property tax	666,246
Due From Other Governments	171,671
Capital Assets not being depreciated	143,047
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation	7,530,581
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	13,141,184
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Accounts and Other Payables	36,195
Due to Fiduciary Funds	85,728
Accrued Compensated Absences, due within one year	49,401
Due to State	2,403
Deferred Grant Revenue	183,357
Noncurrent Liabilities Bonds Payable:	
Due within one year	105,000
Due in more than one year	685,000
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	1,147,084
<u>NET POSITION</u>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	6,740,581
Unrestricted	5,253,519
<u>TOTAL NET POSITION</u>	\$ 11,994,100

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Program Revenues				Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
<u>Governmental Activities</u>					
General government	\$ (1,526,138)	\$ 245,832	\$ 18,101	\$ 171,671	\$ (1,090,534)
Health and welfare	(416,732)	77,019	3,549	-	(336,164)
Public works	(1,098,841)	-	195,106	-	(903,735)
Education	(5,643,084)	-	2,263,182	-	(3,379,902)
Region education	(6,098,334)	-	-	-	(6,098,334)
Miscellaneous	(176,798)	40,032	15,954	-	(120,812)
Capital outlay	(37,796)	-	-	22,545	(15,251)
Debt service	(30,041)	-	-	-	(30,041)
<u>Total Governmental Activities</u>	<u>(15,027,764)</u>	<u>362,883</u>	<u>2,495,892</u>	<u>194,216</u>	<u>(11,974,773)</u>
<u>Total Primary Government</u>	<u>\$ (15,027,764)</u>	<u>\$ 362,883</u>	<u>\$ 2,495,892</u>	<u>\$ 194,216</u>	<u>(11,974,773)</u>
<u>General Revenues:</u>					
Property taxes					12,222,711
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					71,685
Unrestricted investment earnings					223,107
<u>Total General Revenues</u>					<u>12,517,503</u>
<u>Change in net position</u>					542,730
<u>Net position beginning of year</u>					<u>11,451,370</u>
<u>Net position end of year</u>					<u>\$ 11,994,100</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

	General Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Town Special Grant Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 307,148	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,009	\$ 364,157
Investments	2,924,739	127,868	112,765	118,557	3,283,929
Receivables:					
Property taxes	885,588	-	-	-	885,588
Accounts receivable	53,085	-	-	42,880	95,965
Due from other funds	210,188	62,289	1,882	327,948	602,307
Due from other governments	-	171,671	-	-	171,671
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	4,380,748	361,828	114,647	546,394	5,403,617
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>					
<u>LIABILITIES</u>					
Accounts and other payables	35,102	-	-	1,093	36,195
Due to other funds	477,847	171,671	-	38,517	688,035
Due to state	-	-	-	2,403	2,403
Deferred grant revenue	-	-	73,278	110,079	183,357
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	512,949	171,671	73,278	152,092	909,990
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>					
Unavailable Revenue - property taxes	834,930	-	-	-	834,930
<u>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>	834,930	-	-	-	834,930
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>					
Assigned	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Committed	-	190,157	-	235,153	425,310
Restricted	-	-	-	159,149	159,149
Unassigned	2,932,869	-	41,369	-	2,974,238
<u>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</u>	3,032,869	190,157	41,369	394,302	3,658,697
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES</u>	\$ 4,380,748	\$ 361,828	\$ 114,647	\$ 546,394	\$ 5,403,617

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	General Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Town Special Grant Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<u>Revenues:</u>					
Sales and Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,706	\$ 42,706
Property Taxes	12,201,626	-	-	-	12,201,626
Other Governmental Revenues	2,133,418	171,671	19,503	337,287	2,661,879
Other Local Revenues	316,003	-	-	-	316,003
Interest, Dividends and Gains	204,604	5,925	5,719	6,859	223,107
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	4,174	4,174
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>14,855,651</u>	<u>177,596</u>	<u>25,222</u>	<u>391,026</u>	<u>15,449,495</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>					
General Government	1,476,139	-	-	19,605	1,495,744
Health and Welfare	364,127	-	3,549	49,056	416,732
Public Works	680,479	-	-	176,175	856,654
Education	5,266,218	-	-	101,535	5,367,753
Region Education	6,098,334	-	-	-	6,098,334
Recreation	3,500	-	15,954	-	19,454
Miscellaneous	90,309	-	-	67,035	157,344
Capital Outlay	-	537,432	-	22,545	559,977
Debt Service	230,041	-	-	-	230,041
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>14,209,147</u>	<u>537,432</u>	<u>19,503</u>	<u>435,951</u>	<u>15,202,033</u>
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	646,504	(359,836)	5,719	(44,925)	247,462
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</u>					
Transfers In	-	390,200	-	40,472	430,672
Transfers Out	(430,672)	-	-	-	(430,672)
<u>Total Other Financing sources (Uses):</u>	<u>(430,672)</u>	<u>390,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,472</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	215,832	30,364	5,719	(4,453)	247,462
Fund Balances (Deficit) Beginning of Year	2,817,037	159,793	35,650	398,755	3,411,235
<u>Fund Balances (Deficit), End of Year</u>	<u>\$ 3,032,869</u>	<u>\$ 190,157</u>	<u>\$ 41,369</u>	<u>\$ 394,302</u>	<u>\$ 3,658,697</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements