

**Town of Barkhamsted  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday February 17, 2025 7:00 pm  
Barkhamsted Town Hall**

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_Richard Winn\_\_\_\_\_called the meeting to order at \_\_7:00pm\_\_ Present were:

Christopher Buck	Present
Matthew Kelly	Present
David Moulton	Present
Salvatore Tartaglione	Absent
Scott Thomas	Present
Richard Winn	Present

Juan Jaramillo (alt)	Present
Mark Hemenway (alt)	Present 7:02

<b>Also Present</b>	
First Selectman Meaghan Cook	Present
Superintendent Erica Sacharko	Present
Robert Brainard	Chair Board of Education
Terri Collins	Tax Collector
Rich Novac	Road Crew Foreman
Jackie Dombrowski, Caitlin Chabot	
Nora Bishop, Tim Garand, Amanda North	
Leigh Canole, Danielle Radke	
Debbie Brydon, Holly Krouse	
Lila Tuxbury,	

**Motion to seat** Mark Hemenway for Sal Tartaglione

By Rich Winn Seconded by Dave Moulton

Vote: Unanimous Yea

**Review of General Government, Capital and Board of Education expenditures to-date**

Board Member Chris Buck provided additional and updated financial information Regarding the First Selectman’s pay. (attached) when asked about amending the motion, Chairman Winn explained the motion needs to be raised by the initial sponsor of the motion (made on Jan 20).

Mark Hemenway said we will revisit this with the next budget, Dave Moulton also referred to the Mr. Hemenway’s statement. Chairman Winn called for an end to the discussion.

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Board of Education budget review led by Superintendent Erica Sacharko

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Current status of overages; Special Education line will be approximately \$215,000 over, the burner on one of the three boilers failed with bills soon to come in, the lighting loan that was thought to be covered by the solar is over \$20,000 annually for this and the next 4 years, finally, the heating oil line is over by approximately \$20,000. The school has already instituted a budget freeze and is hopeful to cover all expenses less Special Education.

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Motion to refer to the Board of Selectmen to hold a public meeting to cover the Special Education shortfall within the Board of Education Budget.

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By Dave Moulton Seconded by Mark Hemenway

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Vote: Unanimous Yea

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Discussion of FY 26/27 budgets, including General Government, Education, Capital and Revenue Sheet (note: correction on agenda item year changed)

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Board of Education (proposed working document)

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Matthew Kelly asked if the lighting project could be moved into a capital project as it fits within the guidelines

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Mark Hemenway asked if the Boiler repairs (two additional burners) could also be moved into Capital projects as these also fit within guidelines

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Reviewed the rest of the draft budget with the Superintendent and BOE Chair

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Robert Brainard

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Chairman Winn is putting together the Revenue Sheet for next month, noting the Grand List is up 2.08%

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General Government (proposed working document)

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Motion to change the Selectman's Salary line item from \$78,735 down to \$75,900 in the proposed 26/27 budget

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By Dave Moulton Seconded by Scott Thomas

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Vote: Dave Moulton & Scott Thomas Yea / Mark Hemenway, Chris Buck,

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Matthew Kelly & Rich Winn Nea Motion Failed

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Date: January 5, 2026  
To: Barkhamsted Board of Selectman  
From: Jim Hart, Park Rd., Barkhamsted  
Re: First Selectman Salary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hart". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

I am writing this letter to request that when the board constructs the FY 26/27 general government budget, that the First Selectman's salary be reestablished at the full time salary level that it was at the time of Don Stein's retirement. This salary level should include the appropriate increases for the past two years and whatever the increase for general government employee's is proposed for FY 26/27.

Despite the high level of respect I have for Nick Lukiwsky. I feel that trying to make this job part time is not in the best interests of the Town of Barkhamsted. When I assumed the office in 1980 and until I left in 1985, I worked a full time. I generally logged in between 40 to 60 hours per week. I know that the job has gotten considerably more demanding on the administrative side with State and Federal requirements since that time period. My opponent in 1985 asserted that it was part time and she was going to cut the salary and save money. What actually happened is she cut the salary, but worked full-time, which she could do because of her independent wealth. This issue should not be a partisan one. I believe it is settled business and urge the board to take the action I have recommended. The voters will reaffirm this every two years.

cc. Board of Finance

**Ray Pech**

**From:**lotusboy48@hotmail.com

**To:**richard.t.winn@snet.net,Matthew Kelly,Dave Moulton - Board of Finance (drmoulton4@gmail.com),Christopher Buck,legendsbnb@hotmail.comand 3 more...

Mon, Feb 16 at 3:50 PM

**TO: Members of the Barkhamsted Board of Finance**

**FROM: Ray Pech, Selectman**

**Date: February 16, 2026**

I have been informed that, at your last meeting on January 20, 2026, there was a discussion of what was intended by the Motion of the Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen of December 9, 2025, which was passed unanimously. Specifically, the intent of the phrase “pursuant to past practice” was questioned.

As the sponsor of the BoS Motion, I wish to make clear the intent of that phrase. For many years, going back several election cycles, the starting salary of the First Selectman taking office on January 1 was set at the same salary as the First Selectman whose term ended a day earlier - December 31. This was true whether or not the First Selectman was an incumbent or newly elected. Most recently, when Nick Lukiwsky was elected as First Selectman in November of 2023, he was initially budgeted to start at the same salary as Don Stein, who left office in December of 2023. This is confirmed by the monthly updates for the FY 2024 General Fund budget. Don’s monthly salary for December 2023 was \$6,184.58. Nick’s budgeted salary for his first two months in office was also \$6,184.58.

Then, following discussions between Nick and the BoF, Nick offered to reduce his salary to reflect his part-time work commitment. The BoS accepted the offer, and the decision was made to reduce his salary, to properly reflect his decision to work part-time.

Fast forward to November 2025, when Meaghan Cook was elected First Selectman. As Meaghan is working full-time, to continue her at the budgeted part-time salary for the remainder of this fiscal year would make no sense and would be patently unfair.

Given this, my Motion was simply intended to set Meaghan’s starting salary at the amount it would be if Nick had been earning the full-time salary at the end of his term, which would have been \$6,561.25 per month (annualized \$78,735).