

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY MAY 5, 2026
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BARKHAMSTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Meaghan Cook called the meeting to order at 7:42pm. Sherry Courtemanche was nominated by Deb Brydon and seconded by Ray Pech to continue as moderator and Holly Krouse nominated by Ray Pech and seconded by Francine Beland to continue as secretary. All were in favor. Matt Kelly moved to waive the reading of the call and it was seconded by Don Stein.

1. The first motion on the agenda was agreed to be moved to the end of the meeting at the request of First Selectman Meaghan Cook.
2. Motion made by John Lavieri and seconded by Francine Beland to consider and act on returning funds totaling \$23,040 to the Capital Reserve Fund from the following projects. All were in favor.

Town Hall and School Parking Lots	\$23,040
-----------------------------------	----------

3. Motion made by Ray Pech and seconded by John Lavieri to consider and act on a transfer of \$333,008 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. Point of order raised by the Board of Finance Chair, Rich Winn telling us that the actual total for that transfer has been adjusted by the Board of Finance to the amount of \$327,200. All were in favor and motion passed.
4. A motion was made by Keith Archer and seconded by Amanda North to consider and act on a report from the Board of Finance, including its estimates and expenditures and to adopt a budget for the Town of Barkhamsted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. Don Stein made a motion to request that the budget vote be held by paper ballot and it was seconded by Ray Pech. A raising of hands was called for and counted. More residents were in favor, and it was so moved to vote by paper ballot. The budget was then reviewed by residents in attendance and questions answered by the Board of Education Chairman, Rob Brainard, the Superintendent, Erika Sarchenko, and First Selectman Meaghan Cook. Concerns were raised in the elementary school budget about teachers' teaching times being stretched too thin by combining too many roles, the reasoning behind large salary increases, and lighting problems with Eversource. Discussion of the legal fees and increases costs of legal notices in newspapers were discussed on the town government budget portion along with clarification of what the dog fund line is for. Once there were no more questions, the residents lined up to receive paper ballots and the end result was the budget passed with 33 yes to 21 no votes. Budget passed as presented.
5. Motion by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Amanda North to allocate \$333,008 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the following projects. All were approved.

Town Projects:

Revaluation 26/27	\$ 10,000.00
Tax Sale 26/27	\$ 25,000.00
Plan of Conservation & Development	\$ 10,000.00
Replacement of 2011 Ford F550 Dump Truck	\$125,000.00
Grappling Hook for Excavator	\$ 15,000.00
Senior/Community Center HVAC	\$ 5,808.00
(additional funds request)	

Board of Education:

School Flooring	\$ 25,000.00
Building Management/Mech Sys	\$ 95,000.00
Lighting System Upgrade	\$ 22,200.00

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Attest:

Holly P. Krouse, CCTC
Town Clerk