

Received 4/8/26
10:03 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

BOARD OF FINANCE BOARD OF SELECTMEN JOINT BUDGET HEARING
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2026
DURHAM TOWN HALL 3rd FLOOR AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Gnc-L1wjPigQbjNWFtrt-b3frbUtzxIlwAAXHGzsmzCN_7KV_Zk-Ef4pu-1VH.3noiktUU9uUStm1d?startTime=1770939146000

Passcode: td*89TC*

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Called to order at 6:30pm, noted that the BOS and BOF agreed to alternate chairs for joint meetings. Eileen Buckheit will serve as chair for this meeting

Roll call

BOF: William Castro, Jim Martinelli, Phil Muzio, Nancy Cuomo, Eileen Buckheit, Molly Nolan

BOS: Brendan Rea; First Selectman, Rob Chadd; Selectman, Tom Hennick; Selectman

Absent: Molly Nolan

Staff: Beth Moncata: Finance Director; John Jenkins: Public Works; Jack Trifilo: Emergency Management; Terry Wall: Fire Chief, TJ Finley: Assistant Fire Chief; Kristen Kleeman: Fire Trustees, Jonathan Luysterborghs: Fire Trustees

Others in attendance:

2. Fiscal Year 26-27 Budget Hearings (tentative meeting times)

a. Public Works:

i. Operating

1. \$38,000 actual compared to \$26,000 projected. Significant increases due to storm-related overtime and other unforeseen events. Noted that Snow overtime is a different line item from regular overtime.
2. Sidewalk repairs increased to \$15,000 due to planned addition of sidewalks on North end of Town
3. Guardrails reduced to \$24,000, then increased due to recent repair on Old Cemetery Road
4. Catch Basins: \$4,000 increase for cleaning

5. Winter Salt and Calcium increased to \$120,000. Current expenditure is at \$134,000 for this season. Noted salt shortage. John Jenkins suggested purchasing as much as possible before prices increase
6. Boards discussed reevaluating budgeting practices for overtime and to account for historical data to project future expenses.
7. Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance offset by the removal of hand tools allocation

ii. Capital

1. Vehicle Replacement Plan increased from \$200,000 estimated to \$478,000 actual. Discussed replacing several vehicles, some vehicles are used by multiple departments throughout the week
2. Discussed enforcing ordinance for snow removal on sidewalks. Brendan Rea suggested rewriting ordinance to increase fee or provide language on enforcement
3. \$400,000 for containment tank, John Jenkins explained that the new DEEP regulations require catch basin cleaning and that all debris be put under cover and tested, plus all runoff from the bleaching goes into the holding tanks

b. Emergency Management

i. Operating

1. Active 911 will be removed next year and replaced with new software
2. Rent increase
3. Subscriptions, increase of \$750 annually to add frequency to Valley Shore
4. Will need to purchase Power Distribution Units to modify donated medical tent from National Guard. Tent will be stored at the fair. Boards discussed budgeting for future use of the tent in case of emergency situations or large scale events

c. Volunteer Fire Company

i. Operating

1. Clerical Staff: added 10 hours per week to assist with handling emails and admin work
2. Professional Consulting Services: added to assist with writing grants, 2-year program, was in last year's budget. Currently pursuing grant for PPE and structured firefighting gear, replacement of brush truck, audiovisual equipment upgrade, and air pack replacement

3. Training: several members currently going through training including EMT training
4. Safety Products: Increase in EpiPens and other items due to price increases
5. Uniforms and Protective Clothing: increased due to price increases, quoted approx. \$5,400 a person
6. Vehicle Maintenance and Parts: Increase due to price increases
7. Department Supplies and Equipment: Currently at 104% of budget of \$14,000. Noted that EpiPens need to be replaced annually

ii. Capital

1. Fire Apparatus Replacement: cost of replacing trucks has increased significantly, newer trucks cost estimate increased from \$650,000 to up to \$1.3 million. 1997 Truck is up for replacement.
2. Town Engineer suggested environmental study on donated fire pond on Airline Road
3. Discussed process for ordering and paying for the truck replacement. Discussed timeline for allocating in reserve versus bonding or grant funding. Debated the merits of purchasing a new engine versus refurbishing an older one, considered high cost of refurbishment and benefits of modern safety features. Discussed selling older apparatus, noted that it would likely not be sold for a high price.
4. Air packs and turnout gear: Considered whether to purchase new gear immediately or wait for grant funding. 10 packs are not compatible with the balance of the other packs, seeking grant funding to replace. \$154,000 for air packs, \$262,000 total
5. New Line: Extrication equipment: Used to remove doors, Jaws of Life etc. Looking to phase out hydraulic tools and switch to electric. \$50,000 per year over the next few years.
6. Discussed rapid increase in equipment costs, increase of over \$500,000 in 12 months.

d. Fire Company Trustees

i. Capital

1. Painting of Bays and Interior: Have not gone out to bid yet, estimating \$25,000. Interior quote (not including bay) increased from \$6,600 to \$23,418. \$20,000 in current funding, allocated \$4,000 last year. Requesting \$4,000 for 2027 but planning to complete work by June 30, 2026
2. Garage Doors: at end of life \$25,000 over next two years

3. Firehouse Two bay Expansion: Kristen Kleeman explained that the apparatus is increasing in size and more equipment and apparatus is needed for calls. Noted that this plan will be included in the Plan of Conservation and Development and has been discussed for several years but not consistently funded. Rob Chadd noted that the plans were previously drawn up. Discussed at length the timeline and requirements for planning and going out to bid
4. Fallen pole needs to be repaired, was delayed due to fair. Prices of materials are increasing, quote went from \$21,000 to \$33,000. Includes pole and two lights. Kristen Kleeman suggested funding poles immediately at \$3,000 to \$4,000 apiece before the price of aluminum increases again. Beth Moncata indicated she would ask the Facilities Manager for advice. Kristen Kleeman indicated she would send the quotes and plans to community center
5. Firehouse Roof: estimated \$200,000 based on verbal quotes from roofers based on square footage and pitch. Discussed solar panels and potential for having solar vendor remove and replace the panels after the roof replacement. Phil Muzio suggested delaying the roof replacement and doing the expansion and roof at the same time. Nancy Cuomo suggested evaluating the roof to determine need for immediate repairs

3. Miscellaneous Discussion

- a. Briefly discussed the RSD13 budget and the overall increases in Operating. Discussed attending Board of Ed Budget hearing

4. Adjournment

- a. MOTION BY EILEEN BUCKHEIT, SECONDED BY SEVERAL TO ADJOURN. ALL AYE, MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Charest