

Received 5/4/2026  
2:40 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING  
7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2026  
DURHAM TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER GYM AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM  
TELECONFERENCE

Zoom Recording

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3zNfyDkLKhxngGrO4Qn9iR\\_c3ZbFB0vf83kBPRoL0jODy9uUfodVRR4tpVdhplw.Owo9gM8axD8dmCwR?startTime=1776985209000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3zNfyDkLKhxngGrO4Qn9iR_c3ZbFB0vf83kBPRoL0jODy9uUfodVRR4tpVdhplw.Owo9gM8axD8dmCwR?startTime=1776985209000)

Passcode: zkZ\$d2nn

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Brendan Rea, First Selectman

Roll call

Board of Finance: William Castro, Phil Muzio, Eileen Buckheit, Molly Nolan, Nancy Cuomo, Jim Martinelli

Board of Selectmen: Brendan Rea, Rob Chadd, Thomas Hennick

Staff: Beth Moncata: Finance Director, Jason Beaudoin

Others in attendance: staff and members of the public

2. FY26-27 Budget Presentation

- a. The Board of Finance presented their proposed FY26-27 budget. Noted new software for creation and presentation of the budget
- b. 6.8% total increase in budget. 3.7% increase in Town Operating and 23% increase in Capital. Briefly reviewed grand list changes. Mil rate for proposed budget is 28.15, compared to 37.39 in prior fiscal year

3. Public Comment and Q&A

- a. Noted email for additional questions at [bofchairperson@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:bofchairperson@townofdurhamct.org)
- b. Chuck Stengel asked why reserve amount decreased from \$661,000 to \$523,000. Board explained that reserve was used to fund capital projects and they will be exploring alternate funding options such as bonding. Also questioned why grand list increased but mil rate decreased
- c. Roger Kleman noted that document has no revenue section, only Expenditure titles. Asked what ABH stood for. Board replied "Annual Budget Hearing." Requested breakdown of the First Selectman's office budget and salaries. Requested breakdown of IT budget, Public Works, and other salary lines. Expressed disappointment at reduction in Compensation Review Board budget. Asked why Highway Sweeping is included when

the town owns two sweepers. Asked about the condition of the Parmelee Hill Road Bridge, expressed concern about allocating \$75,000 for engineering.

- d. Jade Adelberg, licensed professional counselor and Director of Prevention Programs at DMYFS, made a public comment in support of funding DMYFS. Also noted she has over 40 letters also expressing support. Briefly explained DMYFS programs and noted that the programs do not duplicate any other town provided services. Noted budget for similar programs in other towns with similar populations. Indicated she would send positive impact reports to any attendant who asked. Invited attendees to Expressions of Healing Event
- e. Lynn Hettrick expressed support for DMYFS, citing their programs and the impact they have had on her family and community
- f. Janice Keeman made a public comment in support of DMYFS budget, citing experience working at Middlesex Hospital and programs DMYFS offers
- g. Katie Huges-Nelson expressed support for DMYFS budget and noted several programs she found impactful
- h. Richard Parmelee expressed support for the Fire Company, stated that the facilities manager is not needed for the Fire House project, it can be handled by the Trustees. Stated that demolition of Main Street property is under the building specialist. Suggested sanitarian be present for septic tank fill in. Noted that First Selectman's salary in Durham is \$179 less than salary in Middletown and discussed discrepancy of population and responsibilities. Expressed that the town is not acting as an equal opportunity employer. Suggested salaries be broken down for the public to view. Also noted that Shady Lane, Seward Road, and David Road were not listed on Road list. Expressed that the budget should be presented by section and the details reviewed
- i. Alyssa Constantino, DMYFS Board of Directors member, made a comment in support of the DMYFS program and the organization's impact on the community
- j. Mariah Roy expressed support for DMYFS budget and their programming which invests in prevention and the community
- k. John Szewczyk requested an explanation on the difference between bank interest earnings and investment income and asked for the interest rate on bank interest earnings. Expressed support for funding the Allyn Brook Park bathrooms. Noted previous experience with ClearGov budgeting software and expressed support for its use. Stated that elected officials are likely underpaid, but the salary should not change during their term
- l. Janet Morganti expressed support for DMYFS. Suggested using \$5,000 allocated towards Farmers' Market for DMYFS
- m. Carol Kleeman expressed concern for bonding and concern about what will be done if a major issue damages a town building or fire truck. Asked for clarification on amount and time period for potential bond. Noted that prices will continue to increase
- n. Eileen Buckheit noted that reserves are not being reduced to 0, reserve funds will be used for emergencies

- o. Roger Kleeman noted that Guardrails has been reduced from \$46,000 to \$24,000 with many areas in town still needing protection. John Jenkins noted that he requested the reduction because the project is nearly completed and future guardrail would have to be engineered. Roger Kleeman suggested more funds be put in reserve towards guardrails and suggested a photo log be made of the roads throughout town. Expressed that engineering should go out to bid. Noted Dog Warden funds listed are incorrect.
- p. Rick Parmelee expressed opposition to bonding, noted Town's obligation to maintain town roads. Asked what means the town has to check on employees and the times they report to work. Expressed opposition to working from home.
- q. Everly and Reagan Roy (Mariah Roy's daughters) made public comment in support of funding DMYFS, noted life skills learned from DMYFS programming and how they have connected with other community members
- r. Eileen Buckheit reiterated that the email [bofchairperson@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:bofchairperson@townofdurhamct.org) is available for residents to send further questions and comments. The Board will discuss feedback at its Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Charest