

Received 5/4/26
3:36 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET MEETING
6:30 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
DURHAM TOWN HALL 3rd FLOOR AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eye6IQk-dGX1t7qA-mWrxYL2RgjBXkoLzGCuEPqfuLCTDUgjkP-wnkoGBEALtMiP.5MRUp1UHVJq5MBJ_?startTime=1777415730000

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Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Called to order at 6:35pm

Roll call

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

Absent:

Staff: Beth Moncata: Finance Director

Others in attendance: other members of the public

2. FY26-27 Budget Workshop

a. MOTION BY JIM MARTINELLI SECONDED BY MOLLY NOLAN TO TAKE \$2,700 FROM \$5,000 ALLOCATED TOWARDS FARMERS MARKET TO FUND DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES AND PUT THE REMAINING \$2,300 IN RESERVE

i. It was noted that the status of the Farmers' Market is uncertain and funds were allocated in case someone takes on the Market Master position. Discussed whether Town is legally required to fund DMYFS and what qualifies as "fully funded"

ii. Discussed history of DMYFS budget; Town previously matched state grant funds with the understanding that the state grant was temporary and the organization would seek out other funding. Briefly discussed new assessment and grand list growth. Nancy Cuomo indicated he reached out to the Assessor's Office and received information which states there are 46 new businesses and therefore \$358,000 in additional revenue. William Castro expressed concern that Middlefield may cut DMYFS putting funding pressure on Durham.

iii. ALL OPPOSED MOTION FAILED.

b. Questions and Answers

- i. Why is the Board funding capital instead of putting money in reserve for future projects?
 1. Projects planned for FY26-27 are funded directly out of capital. It was noted that Capital is more flexible for funding. Noted firehouse expansion was not funded due to lack of project plans. Reserves down \$226,000 and capital is up \$362,000
- ii. Mil Rate
 1. Current property mil rate is 37.39, proposed budget lowers to 28.15. Expecting mil rate of 26.7 post re-val. Proposed mil rate is equivalent to raise the same amount of taxes as was done in the current fiscal year. Phil Muzio reviewed calculations done and indicated that since the grand list went up \$250,000, which is 33% of the total grand list, the decrease in the mil rate should be 33% of the existing mil rate
- iii. Will salaries be broken down?
 1. On ClearGov, all department heads salaries are broken down
- iv. Will IT Department and Finance Department be broken down?
 1. On ClearGov, lines will be broken down
- v. What is the Public Works Sweeper Expenditure of \$6,500
 1. Repairs, parts, and routine maintenance
- vi. What is the PublicWorks Road Foreman breakdown?
 1. Salary position, included in the union contract. Noted hourly salary broken out for winter storms
- vii. Where is Deerfield Farm Barn Revenue?
 1. Included in local income/rental income
- viii. Parmelee Bridge Funding
 1. Noted that funding was removed aside from \$75,000 in engineering
- ix. Compensation Review Personnel Policy Board
 1. Numbers came from Board of Selectmen who decided to reduce line item
- x. Salaries
 1. Noted salary decisions are from Board of Selectmen and union negotiations
- xi. Difference between bank investment revenues, earnings, and interest

1. Eileen Buckheit explained that funds go into Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) Accounts
- xii. How much and for how long is the town planning to bond
 1. Board of Finance has only had very general conversations about which projects might be good candidates for bonding and the general bonding process. Generally considering long term bonding over 20-30 years
- xiii. First Selectman Salary compared to Middletown
 1. Noted salary decisions determined by Board of Selectmen. Discussed that Durham has less additional staff compared to Middletown but a smaller population.
- xiv. Noted that additional questions on salary and hours will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen, and questions specific to public works will be forwarded to the Road Foreman
- xv. Reviewed Announcement from Governor Lamont which states the State is increasing school funding by \$170 million with an additional \$100 million in municipal aid from the state's affordability fund. Noted that the BOF and BOS sent a letter to the state requesting that the Educational Cost Sharing formula be reviewed
- xvi. Noted that Board of Assessment Appeals may make minor changes to the Grand List.
- xvii. Briefly discussed budget books and transition to new software. Eileen Buckheit noted that the charter requires the budget books, but Charter Revision is working on changes to the process. It was suggested that the mil rate be printed in the beginning of the book rather than the end
- xviii. MOTION BY WILLIAM CASTRO, SECONDED BY PHIL MUZIO TO TAKE TO TOWN MEETING A TOTAL TOWN BUDGET OF \$8,999,685 LESS STATE AND LOCAL REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,764,341 FOR A NET TOWN BUDGET OF \$5,235,344. ALL AYE, MOTION PASSED

3. Adjournment

- a. Annual Budget Meeting May 11th

The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Charest