

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting
April 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm
Meeting held remotely**

Chair Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. In attendance were Board of Finance members Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Chris Bryant, Vice Chair Jeffrey Farr, Daniel Gershburg, Jeffrey Goldstein, First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Karl Kilduff, and Town Finance Director Rick Darling. The meeting was held via Zoom and the recording will be posted on the Town website.

- 1. Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Board of Education's operating budget for FY2025-2026:** Mr. Imber displayed a Budget History spreadsheet prepared by Rick Darling. Discussion took place regarding the Board of Education's proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Imber spoke about the March 27, 2025 memo from Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations for Weston Public Schools reducing the school budget by \$52,750. Further discussion took place regarding the Board of Education operating budget. A spreadsheet prepared by Theresa Brasco titled "17 year Budget, Actual and Budget to Prior Year's Actual" was displayed and discussed. Jeff Farr proposed reducing the Board of Education operating budget by up to \$400,000, Rone Baldwin proposed a reduction of \$200,000, discussion took place. **Rone Baldwin made a motion to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$200,000, seconded by Theresa Brasco. Motion did not pass.**

Michael Imber made a motion to adopt the various changes in the March 27, 2025 memo to the Board of Finance from Mr. Cross with a net effect of reducing the Board of Education operating budget by \$52,750, seconded by Rone Baldwin. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Town operating budget for FY2025-2026:** Discussion took place regarding the Board of Selectmen's proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2026. Discussion took place with Karl Kilduff regarding the requested position of facilities maintainer and also the budgets for the Tax Collector, Assessor, and Georgetown Fire District. **Jeff Farr made a motion to eliminate the requested increase of \$122,400 for salary and benefits of a facilities maintainer, seconded by Theresa Brasco.** Mr. Bryant stated that the position was offset by contractual services in the amount of \$45,000. **Motion was modified to reduce the town operating budget by \$77,400. Motion did not pass.**
- 3. Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Capital Budget for FY2025-2026:** Discussion took place regarding the school capital budget. Mr. Bryant discussed a request prepared by Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations for Weston Public School which proposed changes to the North House hvac request from the full amount of \$675,000 to \$142,000, for design, engineering, and other costs, it was noted that \$88,000 in capital reserve will be utilized. Also added in the capital request were high school locker room hvac of \$190,000, cafeteria table replacements for \$40,000, district-wide furniture purchase for \$50,000, field site work for \$16,000, resulting in a net reduction of \$237,000.

Discussion took place regarding Town's capital budget request. The Town request of \$350,000 for replacement of garage doors at the Department of Public Works was reduced by \$62,500 as a result of lower cost estimates received by the Town. Discussion took place with Karl Kilduff regarding the rooftop solar at Lachat Town Farm, the request for preliminary engineering for grant work, town building repairs for the Town Hall Annex and Jarvis House, and fire apparatus replacement reserve fund.

Rone Baldwin spoke about utilization of the unassigned fund balance to off-set a revenue reduction and discussed eliminating the utilization of \$300,000 as proposed or using as a capital offset.

Theresa Brasco made a motion to remove the appropriation for grant engineering for the amount of \$50,000, seconded by Jeff Farr. Motion did not pass

Jeff Farr made a motion to remove the \$60,00 request for solar panels at Lachat Town Farm. Motion was not seconded, motion does not carry.

Mike Imber made a motion to remove \$62,500 as a reduction for the DPW garage doors, seconded by Jeff Farr. Motion passed unanimously.

Rone Baldwin made a motion to eliminate the \$300,000 fund balance offset, seconded by Jeff Farr. Motion did not pass.

Rone Baldwin made a motion to eliminate the \$300,000 fund balance offset in revenue and use it to offset the capital budget, seconded by Chris Bryant. Motion passed unanimously.

Chris Bryant made a motion to remove \$675,000 for the North House hvac project and replace with \$142,000 for initial designs, seconded by Rone Baldwin. Motion passed unanimously.

Chris Bryant made a motion to add to the capital budget the high school locker room hvac project for \$190,000, WIS cafeteria table replacement for \$40,000, district wide furniture for \$50,000, and Revson Field work for \$16,000 for a total of \$296,000, seconded by Daniel Gershburg. Each item was individually voted on and each passed unanimously.

Mr. Imber displayed a spreadsheet showing the net effect of all proposed changes. Votes on the individual motions were taken and are listed above.

4. Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Debt Service budget for FY2025-2026: Chris Bryant made a motion to approve the debt service budget as presented at \$494,475, seconded by Daniel Gershburg. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Imber made a motion that the Board of Finance adopt a Town operating budget for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of \$16,436,317, seconded by Daniel Gershburg. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Imber made a motion that the Board of Finance adopt a budget for the Board of Education's operating budget for fiscal year 2026 for the amount of \$61,098,689, seconded by Jeffrey Goldstein. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Imber made a motion that the Board of Finance adopt a total capital budget for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of \$3,259,098, seconded by Chris Bryant. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Imber made a motion that the Board of Finance adopt a debt service budget for fiscal year 2026 for the amount of \$494,475, seconded by Daniel Gershburg. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on the approved changes, the net budget is \$76,869,913, yielding a mill rate of 23.9, a 1.83% increase over FY25.

5. Discussion/Decision regarding the approval of minutes from the March 13th and March 19th meetings: Jeff Goldstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the March 19th Board of Finance meeting, seconded by Chris Bryant. Motion passed unanimously. Daniel Gershburg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the March 13th Board of Finance meeting, seconded by Jeffrey Goldstein. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeffrey Goldstein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Bryant. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Darcy Hawes

Minutes approved May 8, 2025