

## Board of Finance Special Meeting

February 12, 2026 8:00 PM

Meeting Held Virtually

Board of Finance Chairman Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm. Attendees were BOF members Christopher Bryant, Annalise Ferrara, Daniel Gershburg, Jeffrey Goldstein, Alex Staehely, Finance Director Rick Darling, TOW Administrator Karl Kilduff, WPS Director of Finance and Operations Phil Cross. Excused absence noted for Jim Aselta.

**Presentation and discussion regarding the fiscal year 2024-25 audit.** David Flint, TOW auditor partner from Clifton Larson & Allen reported on the FY 24-25 audit. Mr. Flint reviewed the executive summary, financial highlights, federal and state single audit summary, governance communications and upcoming accounting standards. Financial statements were given a clean unmodified opinion for federal and state single audits, no findings were reported. Financial statement highlights were reviewed, property tax collections were 99.27% for FY 25, general fund unassigned fund balance 23.4% of the 2026 budget, MERS pension liability and OPEB reviewed. Governance communication summary was reviewed with two new accounting standards discussed for GASB and Statement 103 changes to the financial reporting model improvements which will require minor changes to the town's financial statements. No management letter was received. Ms. Ferrara asked if CLA checked for compliance with Town Charter provisions related to transfers. Mr. Flint replied that CLA did not as it is not part of their standard protocol.

**Discussion regarding the Board of Education financial update. Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations; Deborah Low, Chairperson for the BOE.** Mr. Cross discussed deficits forecasted for the year impacting FY26-27. Accounts were discussed which will reduce the projected deficit and expenditures will continue to be closely monitored. Savings in salary accounts and FML savings were reviewed. Negative impacts reviewed in health insurance. Changes in SPED department discussed with changes in student needs and anticipated less spending. Mr. Imber noted there is still a projected deficit of approximately \$81k for the year and wanted to know if there are opportunities for further improvement.

**Discussion/Decision regarding the approval of wage account transfers to recognize the settling of all union contracts for fiscal year 2025-26. Rick Darling, Finance Director.** Mr. Darling discussed the request for line item transfers from the Wage Contingency in the Administration and Finance budget to individual department wage accounts due to union contracts that have been settled. Mr. Darling discussed the transfer to individual departments to be approved in the amount of \$200,626 budgeted. The \$19,000 surplus to remain in the Administration budget (surplus due to some turnover in public works/vacancies). Mr. Darling discussed that the surplus in the forecast may be used to fill potential deficits in other areas. Mr. Staehely suggests that the surplus should go to the general fund. Mr. Bryant asked for clarification as to why the transfers are done mid-year. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the transfers from the wage contingency in the Administration & Finance budget (\$220,626) to the town department wage accounts, motion made by Mr. Bryant seconded by Mr. Goldstein, all in favor. Motion carries unanimously.

**Discussion/Decision regarding capital project account transfers in the amount of \$36,100 to cover costs associated with the FY 2026 Underground Storage Fuel Tank Replacement. Larry Roberts, DPW Director; Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator.** Mr. Kilduff discussed a request for supplemental funding for transferring the underground storage tanks at public works and the transfer station. Current tanks have reached the end of useful life. Following a review of multiple bids received, additional funding is requested to complete the engineering to design and permit the project. Mr. Kilduff requested available funds totaling \$36,100 from the following: FY26 Mason Dump with Sander, FY26 Generator Replacement for Ravenwood Water System, FY26 Assessor Vehicle

Replacement and FY26 Plow Truck. Amount requested has been approved by the BOS. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the transfer of an aggregate total of \$36,100 to supplement the previously approved \$50,000 amount in the Pump Replacement Engineering Project. Motion made by Mr. Gershburg, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

**Discussion regarding the Town financial update. Rick Darling, Finance Director.** Mr. Darling updated the General fund year end highlights for FY 25-26. Highlights discussed in tax revenue forecasted \$364,000 higher than budget due to senior tax abatements and deferments and tax collections are strong. Investment income projected \$137k higher due to short term yield remaining above assumptions before recently declining, as well as anticipated unrealized gains in fixed income portfolios. Town Clerk fees strong through the first 6-7 mos. The town will receive an additional \$84k in the town aid road fund. Projected expenditures in health insurance projected deficit \$46.k, due to a slight increase in subscribers as well as health reimbursement arrangement (HSA). Electricity has a deficit \$34k due to FY26 budget based on an assumed reduction in electricity costs with the implementation of the solar panel project at DPW – the project is now delayed and expected to be completed and approved by Eversource toward the end of this fiscal year. Legal is forecasted at a deficit due to ongoing cases for the cell tower and tax appeals, land use, charter revision legal fees. Public works deficits in OT and double-time, due to ongoing weekend snow storms, but experiencing surpluses in other accounts.

Mr. Imber discussed health insurance, electricity variances and legal variances. Mr. Staehely commented that the BOF should be thoughtful on how the surplus is being used.

**Discussion regarding a January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on budget tracking and transfers. Mike Imber, Chairman, BOF.** A January 20, 2026 meeting was held with First Selectwoman Sam Nestor, TOW Administrator Karl Kilduff, TOW Finance Director Rick Darling, Berchem Moses Attorney's Ira Bloom and Nick Bamonte. Meeting was held with BOF members Mike Imber, Jim Aseta and Annalise Ferrara. Ms. Ferrara summarized the purpose of the meeting was to determine whether appropriations over \$5,000 that are made by the First Selectwoman need approval by the BOS and BOF as well as transfers that are made after the end of the fiscal year if they are in compliance with the Town Charter and CT State Statute. Ms. Ferrara did not believe the question was answered and no reason was given to being in compliance. Mr. Imber noted that Berchem Moses continues to stand by their opinion and that the town continues to comply with the Charter and the methodologies are sound. Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Bryant stated that the town attorney is representing the town from a legal perspective and is following guidelines. Mr. Imber clarified that the town attorney's opinion is in compliance with the Charter.

**Discussion/decision regarding approval of the special meeting minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup>, and the public comment meeting of February 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the January 8, 2026 Special meeting minutes and the February 3, 2026 BOF public comment meeting minutes, motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Bryant. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Final commentary made by Mr. Imber regarding a BOE meeting on February 23, 2026 from SLAM regarding school infrastructure and at the next BOF meeting the Board will listen to the FY27 presentation. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to adjourn, motion made by Mr. Gershburg, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. Meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary