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**Town of Suffield**  
Board of Finance (BOF)  
Town Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT

Monday, March 23, 2026 – 7:00 pm Budget Review Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Tom Frenaye, Michael Haines, Eric Harrington, Brian Kost, and Mark Sinopoli

**Members Absent:** Chris Childs **Alternates Present:** Brad Belcher, Candace Forman, and Glen Garrity

**Alternates Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Finance Director Amanda Moore and First Selectman Colin Moll

1. Chair Harrington called the budget review meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Chair Harrington conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Citizen comment/Correspondence – None. **Mr. Haines made a motion to give Mr. Childs voting rights to Mr. Garrity. Mr. Frenaye seconded. All in favor; motion passed 5:0.**
4. Budget Review
  - a. Grand List Review – Assessor Lisa Trase spoke regarding the 2025 grand list. Overall, the net taxable grand list will be \$2,068,212,408, a 1.07% increase from the current year. The increase for real estate, personal property, and automobiles is 0.64%, 3.28%, and 4.37%, respectively. The overall increase of 1.07% is slightly lower than recent historical average of about 1.20%. Ms. Trase explained in detail the drivers of the change in valuation. The lower real estate growth is driven by fewer housing development and the impact of new state mandates. The higher personal property growth is driven by additional CT Water Company assets, solar panels on Spencer Street, partially offset by the impact of new state mandates. The higher automobile growth is driven in part by an increase in the number of vehicles.
  - b. Assessor – Lisa Trase presented the proposed budget of \$198,257, which is an increase of \$5,815 or 3.0%, over the current year budget due to payroll increases.
  - c. Tax Collector – Jill Schechtman presented the proposed budget of \$182,693, which is a decrease of \$5,142 or -2.7%, over the current year budget. There was a discussion with Ms. Schechtman and the Board regarding properties on the Suspense List and collection of unpaid taxes.
  - d. Town Clerk – Michele Urch presented the proposed budget of \$188,815, which is an increase of \$2,094 or 1.1%.
  - e. ACCE (Advisory Commission on Capital Expenditures) – Chairman Brad Belcher presented recommended ACCE expenditures of \$3,450,030. Mr. Belcher explained each of the approximately three dozen items comprising the list and answered questions from the board members. The largest individual item on the list is Pavement Management at \$1,200,000. Also of note, there is \$265,000 of pre-referendum Facility Master Plan Implementation costs. Mr. Belcher also provided a list of completed projects with money remaining of \$732,969 that can be swept back into the General Fund or used to fund new projects

*These minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.*

4. Budget Review

e. ACCE (Advisory Commission on Capital Expenditures) - CONTINUED

- i. Proposed Capital Fund sweep transfers – Mr. Belcher presented a list of eight projects totaling \$396,470 to consider funding using the \$732,969 above. The items on the list were individually discussed. It was the consensus that most of the projects should go through the normal ACCE process. However, two projects were deemed more critical and should be funded now. **Mr. Kost made a motion to approve the transfer of \$90,500 from SMS Gym Floor Replacement to fund \$33,000 for Phone/Radio Recording System Upgrade and \$57,500 for Highway Street Sweeper year 1 of 5. Mr. Haines seconded. All in favor; motion passed 6:0.**

5. **Mr. Kost made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Haines seconded. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary