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By Michele Urch at 8:00 am, Apr 24, 2026



Town of Suffield
Board of Finance (BOF)
FY 2026-2027 Budget Public Hearing Minutes
Suffield Middle School Auditorium – 350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – 7 pm

Members Present: Tom Frenaye, Michael Haines, Eric Harrington, Brian Kost **Members Absent:** Chris Childs, Mark Sinopoli **Alternates Present:** Brad Belcher, Candace Forsman **Alternates Absent:** Glen Garrity

Also Present: Finance Director Amanda Moore, First Selectman Colin Moll, Superintendent Matthew Dunbar, Business Manager Eric Remington, and Board of Education Chair Maureen Sattan

First Selectman Moll called the Budget Public Hearing to order at 7:00 pm. First Selectman Moll introduced Board of Finance Chair Eric Harrington, Board of Finance Members Vice Chair Brian Kost, Tom Frenaye, Michael Haines, Brad Belcher, and Candace Forsman, Finance Director Amanda Moore, Business Manager Eric Remington, Board of Education Chair Maureen Sattan, and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar. First Selectman Moll invited the Board of Finance Chair Eric Harrington to present the budget and noted that the Town will vote on the FY 2026-2027 budget at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

Budget Presentation:

Mr. Harrington provided an overview of the proposed FY 2026-27 Town budget and noted the public hearing is being recorded and will be available on the Town website. The General Government and Board of Education budgets are up 3.83% and 3.96%, respectively, and the overall expense budget is up 1.45%. The overall General Government budget expenditures are Payroll & Benefits at 66%, Trash Burning and Utilities at 15%, and all remaining budget items at 19%. Chair Harrington's presentation included details of the budget, as well as the Town's balance sheet. He noted that while the Town's balance sheet is very strong, there are some headwinds that the Board of Finance considered when determining the mill rate, including flat-to-declining State grants, Grand List growth lower than CPI-U, uncertain interest rates, market volatility, unfunded State mandates (e.g., Special Education), rising health care costs, and some upcoming large capital projects. The proposed mill rate will be increased from 23.41 to 24.10, or 2.96%.

First Selectman Moll presented the Budget Drivers for Town Departments.

Superintendent Dunbar introduced the Board of Education Chair Ms. Sattan, who stated that the proposed Board of Education budget for FY 2026-2027 is \$43,692,148, reflecting an increase of \$1,666,220, or 3.96%, over FY 2025-2026. Salaries, general transportation, and healthcare costs are line items increasing with this proposed budget. There was an overall review provided, including Superintendent Dunbar and Business Manager Remington speaking of historical and projected enrollment changes, special education out placements, transportation, staffing reductions, certified teachers versus student enrollment, and Suffield per pupil rank trend and DRG.

Citizen Questions/Comments:

Ray Dalrymple, 23 Michael Lane, commended the presenters for a job well done.

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Victoria Copes, 223 Hickory Street, agreed with Mr. Dalrymple and commended on the Board of Finance a job well done with keeping the mill rate low. Ms. Copes thanked First Selectman Moll and the Board of Selectmen for the help with the current budget. She asked about the special education outplacements and the program to retain more of those students in Suffield, how the costs will be tracked, how success or failure of the program will be defined, and when that determination will be made.

Jim Irwin, 58 Marbern Drive, stated that the budget presentation was difficult to follow and asked if the slides used for the presentation could be made available to the public at future public hearings.

Robin Shlosser, 148 N Stone Street, stated that she would like a printout of the slides used for the presentation available to the public at future public hearings.

Robert Borg, 1310 Mountain Road, asked how many students are out of district.

Don Miner, 1855 Mapleton Avenue, stated that he is impressed with the number of people involved in the budget making process and thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

Given there were no more questions or comments, First Selectman Moll reminded everyone that the Town Meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 and the Budget Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

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