



MINUTES TOWN FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monday – April 13, 2026

Hybrid

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Prior to calling the meeting to order, L. Cain, Chair, noted that the Finance Committee would be reviewing the budgets for the town and school, appreciating the extensive effort involved in the budgeting process. A revised maximum tax increase of 2% has been set, which contrasts with the previously discussed 0% target. This change requires a total savings of 3.65 million, split 60% for schools and 40% for the town, less than the 5.5 million needed for a 0% increase. He emphasized that even small savings are important. Upcoming meetings and budget details can be found on the town's website.

T. Hall, Town Manager noted that this meeting begins with a detailed budget review aimed at educating Committee about departmental intricacies. He encouraged the Committee to ask questions and utilize the expertise of the professional staff present. While there may be hints regarding budget direction, comprehensive explanations will be provided in future meetings, which are already being strategized by the Assistant Town Manager and Mr. Hall.

Item 1. Call to Order. L. Cain – Chair, official called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Item 2. Those Present. Finance Committee members present: Councilors Larry Cain - Chair, Jonathan Anderson and Karin Shupe. Others present: Thomas J. Hall, Town Manager, Liam Gallagher, Assistant Town Manager, Councilor Michelle Hayes, Norman Kildow, Finance Director and Town Staff.

Item 3. Department Budget Presentations:

Public Works:

The Public Works Department presented their budget for review and discussion. They also responded to questions from the Committee. No changes were directed at this time.

Community Services/Municipal Facilities:

The Community Services Department presented their budget and the Municipal Facilities budget for review and discussion. They also responded to questions from the Committee. No changes were directed at this time.

SEDCO:

SEDCO presented their budget for review and discussion. They also responded to questions from the Committee. No changes were directed at this time.

Library:

The Library presented their budget for review and discussion. They also responded to questions from the Committee. No changes were directed at this time.

IT Department:

The IT Department presented their budget for review and discussion. They also responded to questions from the Committee. No changes were directed at this time.

School Department:

The School Department presented their budget for review and discussion. They also responded to questions from the Committee. No changes were directed at this time.

Item 4. Public Comments.

- Jim Pritchard of Maple Avenue noted that in reviewing budget cuts, it is essential for the Committee to consider the long-term consequences of these decisions on future costs. Caution is advised when contracting out, particularly against selling equipment, as it may lead to negative impacts later on. Additionally, concerns were raised about the effectiveness of materials like sand and salt in residential areas and their potential impact on street maintenance and stormwater management, especially in poorly designed drainage systems. Lastly, valuable cost-saving suggestions may often come from lower-level staff who understand operational inefficiencies best.

Item 5. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yolande P. Justice

Clerk to the Council

[Not present at meeting, Transcribed by Video.]