SCARBOROUGH, MAINE INC. 1658

MINUTES
TOWN FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday – April 30, 2026
Hybrid
5:00 P.M.

Item 1. Call to Order. L. Cain – Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.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, Norman Kildow, Finance Director, Diane Nadeau, School Superintendent, Kate Bolton, Director of Business & Finance and Shannon Lindstrom, Chair of the Board of Education.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes: February 12, 2026, April 13, 2026 and April 14, 2026. Motion by J. Anderson, seconded by K. Shupe, to move approval of the February 12, 2026, April 13, 2026 and April 14, 2026, as written.

Vote: 3 Yeas. Motion Carried.

Item 4. Discussion and action on potential adjustments to the FY2027 Municipal/School Budgets.

- The Finance Committee met to evaluate adjustments to the FY27 municipal and school budgets, targeting a maximum 2% tax rate increase. The Town Manager suggested $1.12 million in expense reductions and potential additional jail funding. School discussions prioritized minimizing student impact while generating savings of $1.3 million through staff reallocations. Budget cuts could lead to the elimination of essential positions and services across various departments. Notably, a proposed tax rate increase, now projected at 2.91%, could be reduced to 2% with an additional $830,000 in cuts. There were concerns about relying on fund balances and managing potential involuntary staff transfers. The phasing of a new math curriculum was also deliberated, with emphasis on public feedback regarding budget cuts and educational impacts. Finally, the Committee planned to gather public input before final budget recommendations on May 14th.

Item 5. Public Comments.

- Tim Lambert of Iris Drive, raised concerns during a public session about town services and school proposals, highlighting the detrimental effects of deferred maintenance on community facilities. He suggested adopting cost-effective police vehicles and questioned the need for a new long-range planner. Lambert advocated for improved online services and reduced beach pass fees, supported the Blue Point Principal role for fostering student leadership, and critiqued changes to the math curriculum and a mandated cell phone ban, proposing exceptions for beneficial situations. He also called for enhanced foreign language programs and noted the absence of structured activities in afterschool programs, while questioning the number of additional teacher workdays in Scarborough compared to other towns.

- Richard Hayes of Martin Avenue inquired about upcoming meetings referenced in a town newsletter. While some details, including the first meeting on Monday at Pleasant Hill School at 6:30 p.m., are available, there is uncertainty regarding when the May schedule will be published. Councilor Hayes offered to discuss this further with Mr. Martin after the meeting.

Item 6. Adjourn. Motion by J. Anderson, seconded by K. Shupe, to move approval to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting.

Vote: 3 Yeas. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande P. Justice
Clerk to the Council
[Not present at meeting; translated by Video]