

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

WLC-Cafeteria
DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, October 19, 2026

Committee Membership: Phil Brooks (Acting Chair), Bridget Mooney (Secretary), Craig Alley, Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Kate McClure, Bob Newton, Bob Silva

Present: Brooks, McClure, Mooney, Newton, Silva

Absent: Alley, Boissonnault, vacant Wilton seat

Acting Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:05

The meeting was recorded.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

Bob Newton asks how the agenda was changed at the last minute. Phil Brooks explained that they just changed the order of things and then went on to say the agenda would need to be changed again as the candidate for the open Lyndeborough position would be late to the meeting.

Budget Committee Vacancy:

There followed a discussion as to who could vote for the Lyndeborough position. It was determined that it is an "at-large" position so everyone on the committee from both Lyndeborough and Wilton can vote.

Kate McClure makes a motion to have Adam Lavalie fill the position vacated by Alyssa Lavoie. Bridget Mooney seconds the motion. Phil Brooks speaks to Adam Lavalie qualifications. Bob Newton suggests waiting to vote on this nomination until Adam Lavalie can speak to his reason for wanted to fill this position. Kate McClure withdraws her motion.

Rules of Procedure:

Phil Brooks reminded us that Brianne Lavalie would ask the advise of the School Board on seeking legal council on the regulations put forth in the proposed Rules of Procedure.

Bob Newton spoke with the Lyndeborough town Administrator and learned that the NHMA does not address school related matters.

Brianne Lavalie presented the request to the School Board and the School Board sent it back to the Budget Committee asking if the Committee really thought this was so important to have lawyers look at it.



Phil Brooks feels we can treat the Rules of Procedure as a tool to refer to for guidance without adopting them as a policy.

Kate McClure agrees it's nice to have the statutes all in one spot for reference but to not to make it policy and points out that law would supersede it.

Bob Silva questions whether the 2024 procedures were adopted as policy.

Bob Newton was going to make a motion to abandon the Rules of Procedures because he feels its inappropriate to the business of the committee. Bob Newton believes the Rules of Procedure has sections that violate the members first amendment rights. He agrees to adopt it as a reference tool but feels to adopt it as a set of rules that govern members behavior would be putting the committee at legal risk. He goes on to say he's upset that the Chair of the School Board misinterpreted our request for School Board assistance as requesting legal advice and claims that that was not what the budget Committee voted on and that it should never have been brought up that way.

Kate McClure brings up the issue of free speech at Budget Committee meetings and explains that state law and U.S. Supreme Court law does allow the Chair to regulate the speech of board members and to remove a member who does not comply. Kate McClure referenced the court case *State v Dominic, 376 A.2d 124 117NH 573 (1977)* *reasonable regulation of speech does not violate freedom of expression and chairman had the authority to order the defendant (an elected official) from the room when he refused to come to order*. Kate McClure handed out the court findings to Bob Newton, with copies for the rest of the committee coming soon.

Kate McClure makes a motions to adopt the Rules of Procedures as a tool for guidance to the committee. Bob Silva seconds the motion. Bob Newton requests that the word Guidance be replaced with the word Reference. The motion is read aloud: that the Rules of Procedures be used as a tool for reference to the Budget Committee. All ayes. The motion passes.

The Budget:

Phil Brooks explains that the budget is the thing we should be spending our time on. He says that since Alyssa Lavoie became Chair of the Budget Committee she essentially did all the work herself with some input from the committee. Phil Brooks says that he, as a relatively new member, has a lot to learn about RSA's and acronyms he doesn't feel he's qualified to tackle the budget. He's been spending a lot of time going over the materials that Alyssa Lavoie left for the committee to address. He requests that someone volunteer to meet with the Administration to discuss these materials and to figure out what the Committee is supposed to do. Kate McClure and Bridget Mooney volunteer to do this. Phil Brooks will contact the Administration to arrange the meeting. Phil Brooks then asks if someone would analyze the AI analysis (Draft 1 Review – AI analysis October 2) of the most recent budget supplied by Alyssa Lavoie. Bob Newton agrees to do this. The Committee will discuss this at the next meeting – November 9.

Committee Reports:

School Board – Kate McClure – mentions the Facilities committee's discussion about the oil drum which is estimated to cost \$200,000 thousand to replace. The School Board discussed how to fund the replacement and a school board member wondered if they could use unspent funds for this purpose. Phil Brooks asks if the School Board decided to fund the replacement. Bob Newton offers that he watched the meeting online and explained that there is a chat feature. Bob Newton says that the former Chair of the Budget Committee and former facilities manager of the WLC schools, Bill Ryan, was on the chat and that Bill Ryan remembers that the oil tank was replaced with a double wall oil tank around the year 2000, so, if this is accurate, the stated age of the tank is incorrect. This information should be verified. Phil Brooks asks Kate McClure as school board liaison to look into this.

Budget Committee Vacancy:

Adam Lavallee arrives at the meeting. Phil Brooks explains that we put off voting in the vacant position until Adam Lavallee arrives. Adam Lavallee explains why he is interested in filling the vacant position saying he doesn't want Lyndeborough to be underrepresented on the Budget Committee. He has experience having been on the Budget Committee previously for six years where he and the committee worked hard to build a good working relationship with the Administration, where previously there had been no interaction. As a Lyndeborough taxpayer, he wants a solid, sensible budget, and feels it is important that everyone understands what it is we're asking them for and why. Its time to get going with the budget building and Adam Lavallee would be happy to help. Bob Newton states that he believes that the numbers alone don't tell the story and the real story is in the management decisions that go into the cost structure and staffing levels and in order to explain a prudent budget we need to understand the story behind the numbers and wonders if in Adam Lavallee's previous time on the board this was something he was able to get. Adam Lavallee says he thinks we can get it, but we have to be careful as it is not within the purview of the Budget Committee to take on the management of the spending of the money; that is the purview of the school board. Adam Lavallee goes on to more fully explain the role of the Budget Committee in the budget making process.

Kate McClure motions to nominate Adam Lavallee to the Lyndeborough at-large position that is currently vacant. Bob Silva seconds the motion. All ayes. The motion passes.

Election of Chair:

Kate McClure motions to nominate Adam Lavallee to Chair the Budget Committee. Bridget Mooney seconds the motion.

Bob Newton asks if Phil Brooks wants to continue on as Chair. Phil Brooks says he's ready to fully commit to assisting in any way he can, but that he doesn't yet feel qualified to chair the committee. Bob Newton empathizes his admiration for Adam Lavallee, but thinks no one with strong opinions should chair the committee and therefore believes Phil Brooks would be a better choice for Chair. Phil Brooks says he will not accept the position. After more discussion about sharing the workload and what work needs addressing Kate McClure called the question for the vote.

All ayes. The motion passes.

Public Comments:

Jonathan Vanderhoof – *Lyndeborough* – he's noticed a lot of procedure on who can talk and who can't and he cautions the committee to not limit speech, to have a good debate and to always try to reach consensus. He advises against a single budget member meeting with Administration; there should be two. He's not been able to find version 1 of the budget and would like that and other documents being discussed by the Budget Committee to be available to the public. He says there are mechanisms in place to raise monies if need be for the 200,000K tank replacement.

Adam Lavallee – *Lyndeborough*- Wonders what is this tank? (Bob Newton give a brief summary)

Dennis Golding – *Wilton* – good work tonight. Congratulates Adam. Looking forward to the committee getting on to the budget. Agrees that one person should not be doing the work of the committee and that everyone on the committee should express their own view; both boards need to work together. As far as the tank goes, it was checked and there is no leak and the information they were given is that the tank is over thirty eight years old and that the shelf life is thirty years. He didn't see Mr. Ryan's comment about the tank, but will have the Administration look into it.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes:

Bob Newton would like to alter lines 119-120 of the 10/05/26 Budget Committee minutes as it is his opinion that the wording of the motion is incorrect. Bridget Mooney says the wording in the minutes is exactly as spoken at the meeting (verified by notes taken and by re-listening to the meeting online). Bob Newton says that if that's the case he wants to add to the minutes that no one on the Budget Committee requested paid legal counsel. Kate McClure points out that minutes can not be altered to include thoughts not stated at the meeting. However Bob Newton's concern will now be reflected in these current minutes. Kate McClure states that it was Peter Weaver who spoke about legal costs per hour. Bob Newton wants motions to be read back to the Committee before a vote is taken so it's clear to everyone.

Bob Newton motions to approve the 10/05/2026 Budget Committee minutes.
Bob Silva seconds the motion. All ayes. The motion passes.

Budget Committee Comments:

Bob Silva asks about the Nov. 9th meeting. It was supposed to be held if the vote on HB1300, Question 2 result was Yes, but the Budget Committee has decided to hold the meeting regardless of the outcome of the vote.

Bob Newton gives a speech stating he's glad tonight's meeting went smoothly and notes that it's approximately six months ago that we began to meet as a Budget Committee for this season. I don't think there's been as much as sixty minutes spent talking about the budget in all that time. We've had a lot of acrimony about our internal procedures and I only want to look forward. And looking forward I want to say that on this committee we have eight, hopefully someday nine people, who are all intelligent, experienced and well meaning members of the community who joined this committee for the best interests of our families, children, and taxpayers. I hope that we will continue to engage in open, possibly spirited discussions, but I am confident that every one of us has the ability to put our personal and

political differences aside and agree to work together for the best interests of our community. I pledge to do that. I think its what I've been doing. As a famous victim of a riot in Los Angles once said about thirty years ago "can't we all just get along". I think its really important this year that the school budget be framed in such a way that the schools can operate successfully, effectively, and prudently, since that is our legal mission as a budget committee, to provide not merely an adequate education as the state statute says, but an excellent education for every child in our communities.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is on November 9th at 7:00 in the WLC Library.

Bob Newton makes the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Bob Silva seconds the motion.

All ayes.

The meeting adjourns at 8:33pm