



Board of Finance- Regular Meeting- Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10th, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Town Manager's Conference Room

Town Hall - 45 Broad Street - 2nd Floor

Westerly, RI 02891

- 1. Call to Order** - Mr. Lynner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Finance Members Present: Stephen Lynner, Paula Brouillette, Thomas Powers, Daniel J. Vellucci II

Town Staff Present: *Town Manager:* Shawn Lacey, *Director of Finance:* Sara Hassell, *Minute Taker:* Chloe Chenot

Also Present: *Town Councilors:* Rose VanDover and Dylan LaPietra

- 2. Approval of Minutes -**

The board reviewed and discussed the minutes from the March 3rd, 2025, and March 4th, 2025 meetings. Mr. Powers informed the board that there was an error of the date recorded in the March 3rd minutes, and that it should be corrected from: “*Monday, March 4th*”, to “*Tuesday, March 4th*”. Additionally, Mr. Powers noted that he was absent from the March 4th meeting, and this should be reflected in the minutes. There were no other proposed revisions to the minutes. Ms. Brouillette ***motioned*** to approve the minutes as amended, and the motion was ***seconded*** by Mr. Lynner. The board was ***all in favor, and the minutes passed unanimously*** as amended.

- 3. Review and Discussion Concerning -**

- a. Tentative General Government Budget F/Y 2025-2026**

The board reviewed the budget book for the Fiscal Year 2026 Town General Government tentative budget. Mr. Lacey began discussion by providing an overview of the proposed \$104,687,472 budget. Mr. Lacey continued by detailing the various forms of revenue that directly impact the budget. These revenue sources included: the ice rink, licenses and permitting, the State and Town beaches, tax collection, recording fees, and

the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal reimbursements, among others. Mr. Lacey and Ms. Hassell addressed questions posed during discussion, and explained the expenditures for each budget line item requested. Inquiries were made regarding: mooring permits, motor vehicles and property taxes, short term rentals, vin checks, pension contributions, IRS credits, and grant funding, among other topics. Overall, there is a 2.6% increase in revenue.

An inquiry was made regarding the details of the Build America Bond. It was agreed that Ms. Hassell would look further into this item and present her findings at the next scheduled meeting for March 11th.

The board briefly discussed the proposed FY 2026 school budget. Mr. LaPietra expressed that he believes the school budget should be level funded. Several factors influencing the school budget were highlighted, including high per pupil expenditures, out of district tuition costs, and the variety of vocational programs offered. Since the Westerly school district has the highest per-pupil expenditures in the state, Ms. Brouillette recommended further clarification be provided on the proposed school budget. This would allow the Finance Board to make a more informed decision regarding specific cuts and allocations, as noted by Ms. Brouillette.

It was discussed by the board that the focus of the March 11th meeting would be the budget's expenditures.

4. **Public Comments** - no members of the public were present to provide comment
5. **Finance Issues and other matters**
 - a. **Town Manager Comments** - there was no discussion
 - b. **Finance Director Comments** - there was no discussion
 - c. **BOF Chairman Comments** - there was no discussion
6. **Adjournment-** Mr. Powers *motioned* to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Lynner *seconded* the motion. The board was *all in favor*, and the *motion carried unanimously*

Next regularly scheduled meeting- Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 , at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Chloe Chenot on 3/13/2025