



Board of Finance- Regular Meeting- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 11th, 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 5:33 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 Council:* Christopher Duhamel, Alexandra Healy, Rose VanDover, And Dylan LaPietra, *School Committee:* Angela Goethals

- 2. Approval of Minutes** - there were no minutes to approve

- 3. Review and Continued Discussion Concerning:**

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

Ms. Hassell opened discussion by presenting her findings of the Build America Bond, from the March 10th budget discussion. The board continued discussion of the general government budget, focusing on expenditures by department. Several questions were raised regarding specific expenditures, including pension contributions, Town subsidies, bonds, Police Body Camera grant funding, life insurance, tax collection fees, worker's compensation, Police K-9's, and salary adjustments, among other expenditures. Mr. Lacey and Ms. Hassell addressed these questions and provided further clarification.

Mr. Lacey explained that the budget allocations are based on funding trends, with a comparison of past expenditures and year-to-date amounts. It was noted by Mr. Lacey that if certain funds are not spent, the amount allocated for the following year may be reduced. Additionally, Mr. Lacey informed the board that the increase in expenditure compared to prior years are based on several factors, including salary adjustments, new positions, contract negotiations, and health insurance premium increases, among others.

The areas where the budget is proposed to decrease include election expenses, as it is a non-election year, retiree life insurance, and fuel costs. It was also noted by Mr. Lacey that, unless a time limit is identified, any unused funds are returned to the General Fund.

Questions were raised regarding the State Library Aid, and the school's 33% RIDE/Paygo reimbursement interest. Ms. Hassell will provide more information on these items at the March 13th meeting.

- 4. Discussion, review, and/or potential actions and/or vote(s) concerning:**
 - a. Form Tentative School Budget F/Y 2025/2026** – there was no discussion
 - b. Form Tentative General Government Budget 2025/2026** – there was no discussion

- 5. Public Comment** - no members of the public were present to provide comment

- 6. 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

- 7. Adjournment-** Mr. Lynner *adjourned* the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting- Thursday, March 13th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Chloe Chenot on 3/13/2025