

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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Board of Finance
Budget Hearing Minutes

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WATERFORD CT
2026 MAR - 6
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK
Monday, March 2, 2026
Town Hall Auditorium 7:00pm

Present: Chairman Glenn Patterson, Bill Sheehan, Michael Rocchetti, Robert Tuneski, Joseph Filippetti, Ann Peabody

Absent: Jerry Fischer

Elected: Rob Brule, First Selectman; Sue Driscoll, RTM Moderator

Staff: Kimberly Allen, Finance Director; Christine Johnson, Library Director; Marc Balestracci, Chief of Police, Lt. Nicole VanOverloop, Lt. David Ferland, Lt. Patrick Flanagan, Admin. Sgt. Michael Fedor, Diane Driscoll, Office Coordinator Police Department; Chris Haley, Director of Fire Services; Rebecca Hall, Admin Assistant Finance Office/BOF Recording Secretary

Other: Eileen Boyce, Co-secretary, Library Board of Trustees

1. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:
A quorum was established and a call to order was established at 7:00pm, March 2, 2026
2. Public comment:
 - a. Helen Kwasniewski of 227 Bloomingdale Rd, Quaker Hill spoke to the Board of Finance regarding her opinion on the budget.
 - (1) Taxes on Senior Citizens in Waterford are higher than the Social Security increase.
 - (2) The Board of Finance and other two boards have the responsibility to spend down the budget. There has been too much wasteful spending such as disposable assets. She hopes and prays that the Board votes in the best interest of the residents and not just by party lines. She reminded the Board that they are spending the taxpayers' dollars. She would like this to be the year that there is zero increase in the budget. Ms. Kwasniewski states that a good Department Head does more with less and a lazy Department Head keeps asking for more money.
 - (3) Quaker Hill Fire Department is understaffed and is not community friendly as it once was and that is a shame.
 - (4) The Library has a budget of just over \$1 million. The library employs 14 full time employees and 9 part time employees and they should not have any overtime. The library needs to schedule employees more efficiently.
 - (5) Police Department budget was 1.87 last year and is budgeting 1.47 this year. The department employs 52 full time staff, 17 CSO's, 5 support staff, one (1) custodian and two (2) animal control officers shared with East Lyme. This is a 24/7, 365 days a year service department. Kudos to the Chief. Ms. Kwasniewski wonders if the Chief is willing to give a class on how to keep your budget under 1.5.

An opening statement regarding the budget process was made by Glenn Patterson, Chairman.

Standing Motion: was made by Bill Sheehan and seconded by Joseph Filippetti to waive motions to consider the budget by series and tentatively act on the bottom line budget requests for FY26/27. Michael Rocchetti will make the motion on all budgets and Joseph Filippetti will second the motion.

Note: Inadvertently, no vote was taken on this motion, and the meeting ended before the mistake was realized. Per Robert's rules, if a procedural mistake happens, an objection must be made at the time the breach occurs. If the meeting moves on, the committee members have generally "waived" the right to object, and the action stands—even if it was technically incorrect under the rules. (Al assisted in researching this question)

Vote: Waived

Motion: Passed

3. Library Budget:

Motion by Michael Rocchetti and seconded by Joseph Filippetti to approve the Library budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of \$1,045,991 designated by the Series Subtotals above.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

4. Police Department Budget:

Motion by Michael Rocchetti and seconded by Joseph Filippetti to approve the Police Department budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of \$7,307,124 designated by the Series Subtotals above.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

5. Fire Services Budget:

Motion by Michael Rocchetti and seconded by Joseph Filippetti to approve the Fire Services budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of \$4,345,218 designated by the Series Subtotals above.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

6. Board of Finance Budget:

Motion by Bill Sheehan and seconded by Joseph Filippetti to approve the Board of Finance budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of \$86,406 designated by the Series Subtotals above.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

7. Contingency Budget:

Motion by Bill Sheehan and seconded by Robert Tuneski to approve the Board of Finance budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of \$285,000 designated by the Series Subtotals above.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

8. **Adjournment:**

Motion by Bill Sheehan and seconded by Robert Tuneski to adjourn the Budget Meeting of the Board of Finance at 9:17pm.

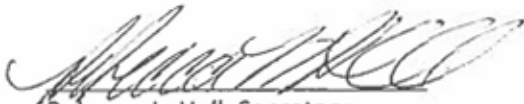
Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Sheehan, Clerk



Rebecca L. Hall, Secretary