FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
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Town of Waterford

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Board of Finance
Budget Hearing Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Town Hall Auditorium 7:00pm

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

Elected: Rob Brule, First Selectman; Susan Driscoll, RTM Moderator; Paul Goldstein, District 3 RTM

Staff: Kimberly Allen, Finance Director; Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works; Sandra Kenniston, Public Works Office Coordinator; Chris Haley, Director of Fire Services; Tom Giard, Superintendent of Schools; Joseph Mancini, Director of Finance/Operations; David Ferland, Lieutenant, Police Department; Jill Stevens, Director of Utilities; Rebecca Hall, Admin Assistant Finance Office/BOF Recording Secretary

1. **Establishment of a quorum and call to order:**
   A quorum was established and a call to order was established at 7:01 pm, March 18, 2026.

2. **Public comment:** none

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

Standing Motion: was made by Joseph Filippetti and **seconded** by Bill Sheehan to consider the budget requests without individual motions for each series and department to expedite the meeting. Robert Tuneski will make motion on all budgets and Jerry Fischer will second the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

3. **Building Maintenance Budget:**

Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Jerry Fischer to approve the Building Maintenance budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of **$1,217,876.**

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

4. **Public Works Budget:**

Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Jerry Fischer to approve the Public Works budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of **$5,312,218.**

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

5. Capital Improvements:

(2:07:13)**Motion** by Glenn Patterson and **seconded** by Joseph Filippetti to reduce the Department of Public Works' FY26/27 Capital Improvements budget (Request for Concrete Curb Replacement) by **$100,000.**

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

(2:14:06)Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Ann Peabody to cut the Recreation & Parks' FY26/27 Capital Improvements budget (request) **line #20537-57854 (Waterford Beach Concert Improvements)** for the amphitheater in the amount of **$30,000.**

Vote: 4-3-0 **No: Fischer, Tuneski, Rocchetti** **Motion: Passed**

(2:21:30)Motion by Glenn Patterson and **seconded** by Joseph Filippetti to cut **$200,000** from the Department of Public Works' FY26/27 Capital Improvements budget request for **Mago Point Sidewalks.**

Vote: 1-6-0 **No: Fischer, Tuneski, Peabody, Rocchetti, Filippetti** **Motion: Failed**

(2:46:07)Motion by Michael Rocchetti and **seconded** by Robert Tuneski to remove the Access Points & Switches and the Elementary Playground Surfaces request from the Board of Education's FY26/27 Capital Improvements budget.

Vote: 2-5-0 **No: Fischer, Sheehan, Peabody, Patterson, Filippetti** **Motion: Failed**

(2:47:12)Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Jerry Fischer to approve the revised Capital Improvements budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of **$3,539,490.**

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Joseph Filippetti to change the order of the agenda to move on to Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures.

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

6. **Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund:**

Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Jerry Fischer to approve the Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of **$816,971.**

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

7. Debt Service:

Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Jerry Fischer to approve the Debt Service budget request for FY26/27 in the total amount of **$7,922,996.**

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

8. Adjournment:

Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Joseph Filippetti to adjourn the Budget Meeting of the Board of Finance at 9:59pm.

Vote: 7-0-0 **Motion: Passed**

Respectfully submitted

Bill Sheehan, Clerk

Rebecca L. Hall, Secretary

Statement by First Selectman Rob Brule prior to Capital Improvement Plan Budget Request

March 18, 2026

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Finance,

Before I begin my presentation of the Capital Improvement Plan, I want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous amount of time, effort, and coordination that has gone into this process.

Finance Director Kim Allen has done an outstanding job leading this effort, and I am equally grateful to our Department Heads, as well as our Boards and Commissions, for their thoughtful planning, collaboration, and commitment to putting forward responsible and well-vetted capital requests.

When I first took office in 2019, one of my primary focuses was addressing a significant backlog of previously approved capital projects. I am proud of the progress we have made together, not only completing 157 capital projects, but doing so in a way that has been fiscally responsible, approved by all three boards and aligned with the direction provided by this Board.

To put that progress into context, we strategically utilized the General Fund balance over several years to complete critical capital projects. Specifically, $1.8 million was used in FY22, $4 million in FY23, $5 million in FY24, and $4 million in FY25—for a total of $14.8 million invested into our community's infrastructure and assets. This deliberate approach allowed us to both address long-standing obligations and responsibly "spend down" the General Fund balance in accordance with your policy target of 13–15% of collected revenues.

You will also see that FY23 reflected a peak year, with $4.1 million committed. In the years that followed, FY24, FY25, and FY26, that number declined to a range between approximately $1.8 million and $2.2 million annually. That reduction reflects the three heaviest years of additional appropriations and use of the General Fund as we worked through those previously approved capital projects.

Importantly, every capital request brought forward during this past 5 years has gone through the full and transparent approval process, beginning with the Board of Selectmen, followed by this Board of Finance, and ultimately the RTM. That level of scrutiny and collaboration has ensured that each investment reflects both need of the community and accountability by elected officials.

I truly appreciate the partnership and support of this Board throughout that process, and I look forward to continuing that same level of transparency and collaboration as I present this year's Capital Improvement Plan.

Thank you.

CC: BOS, BOF, RTM