



**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2025 MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, S. Anderson, J. Bickford, G. Mudge, J. Tarrant and alternates L. Battis, M. Klimkosky and R. Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by M. Sconyers.

M. Klimkosky was appointed to fill in for M. Kwast.

The January 14, 2025 minutes were approved on Motion of J. Tarrant, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

The Tax Collector's requests for reimbursements were approved on Motion of J. Tarrant, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman presented the Selectmen's proposed Budget for 2025-2026. The Grand List of 10/1/24 totals: \$366,409,204.00. Budget, Income and Budget Summary by Department handouts were provided.

The Budget Overview shows an estimated Mill Rate of 22.5.

The Regional 7 Budget for Norfolk is approximately: \$1,985,923.00. Botelle's budget reduced to approximately \$2,545,203. ECS funds are expected to be: \$53,444. The Total Educational Budget is approximately: \$4,450,000.

The proposed budget includes General Government Budget funding less revenue from the State of approximately \$362,392. LoCip funds can accumulate. The Town expects to receive approximately \$47,539 in LoCip funds. \$150,000 is allocated towards the Positive Fund Balance in this proposed budget.

The total to be raised by taxes is approximately \$8,250,000.

Included in the proposed budget is: cost of living wage increases for Town Hall employees of: 2.5%; and Public Works 4% by contract. One significant increase: Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield is up over 10%.

Public Works - Road Repair proposed projects include: Chip Sealing: Mill & Double Chip Seal (Doolittle Drive: North Colebrook to Wheeler; Doolittle Drive: Green Road to Shantry Road; Doolittle Drive: Shantry Road to North Colebrook; Chip Seal: Hillside Street); Paving (Laurel Way Extension); Spot Paving (Bald Mountain Road and sections of Winchester Road); Sidewalks (Station Place – At Royal Arcanum Building).

The First Selectman fielded questions from the Board. The status of the new fire house was raised: the committee is focused on reducing the budget to \$8,500,000. The design and drawings are 95% complete. Grant funding of approximately \$2,500,000 has been received towards this project. A Capital campaign is aiming to raise \$2,000,000. Federal funds were previously approved in the amount of \$1,250,000, which funds are currently on hold. Next year's budget includes interest on the initial bond while construction is taking place. A longer discussion needs to take place regarding long-term debt, and paying off debt and where the Town would like to be in the future. The two South Norfolk Road bridges are being paid in full by the State and Federal governments, but still no firm response on a temporary bridge. The second Mountain Road bridge is a federal bridge, and the state and federal government are most likely picking up the full cost. Regarding the River Place bridge: there was an 80/20 split with the Town responsible for 20%. After engineer and construction company delays, the State has committed to paying anything over the original estimate for the bridge plus engineering costs.

First Selectman M. Riiska welcomes anyone to call and/or contact him with any questions.

The Treasurer reported the Town is right where it is supposed to be. A question was raised regarding the remaining funds in the Farmer's Market account and utilizing the balance towards the community garden at the school. M. Sconyers would like to hear from both entities: the PTO and Farmer's Market.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

There was no public comment.

On Motion of J. Tarrant,, second by G. Mudge and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary