



BOARD OF FINANCE

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

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BETHEL, CT.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm – In-person Meeting
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, MTG RM A, 1 School St., Bethel, CT

Present:

Chair Pat Cosentino, Karen Foster, Jessica Ferguson, James Keene, Cynthia McCorkindale, Nick Ellis, and Will Duff

Also in attendance were First Selectman Carter, Finance Director Brad Heering, and Assistant Finance Director Sebbie Preston

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Board of Finance Chair, Pat Cosentino, called the regular meeting to order at 7:03pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Consideration of approval of special joint meeting minutes from February 24, 2026:

Motion made by James Keene, and seconded by Jessica Ferguson, to approve the special joint meeting minutes from 2/24/2026, as written. Vote: Nick Ellis abstained; all the rest voted in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of an amount not to exceed \$10,000. from CNR for the replacement of a radiator for Engine 1 for SHFD:

Dave Bunting from Stony Hill Fire Department gave an overview of the request and the quotes received. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by James Keene, to approve an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from CNR for the replacement of a radiator for Engine 1 for SHFD. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

First Selectman Carter presents the FY 2026 - 2027 budget to the Board of Finance:

First Selectman Carter presented the budget to the Board of Finance noting any changes that were made by the Board of Selectmen. Discussion ensued.

FY 2026 – 2027 budget deliberations:

Account 70-450 Board of Education request: \$62,312,295

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$62,012,295

Board of Finance recommendation: \$62,112,295

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Karen Foster, to add back to account 70-450 \$100,000. for a new recommended amount of \$62,112,295. Discussion ensued. Vote: Pat Cosentino, Karen Foster, James Keene, and Jessica Ferguson in favor and Nick Ellis, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Will Duff opposed. Motion carries.

Account 70-460 Board of Education Maintenance request: \$696,769

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$528,744

Board of Finance recommendation: \$528,744

Motion made by Nick Ellis, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount for the 70-460 account of \$528,744. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 20-360 Police request: \$7,105,270

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$6,977,875

Board of Finance recommendation: \$6,977,875

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount for account 20-360 of 6,977,875. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 20-310 Bethel Fire Department request: \$231,867

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$215,420

Board of Finance recommendation: : \$215,420

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount for Account 20-310 of \$215,420. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 20-320 Stony Hill Fire Department request: \$238,850

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$226,350

Board of Finance recommendation: \$226,350

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended budget for Account 20-320 of \$226,350. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 60-435 Library request: \$1,044,337

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$1,044,337

Board of Finance recommendation: \$1,044,337

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by James Keene, accept the recommended amount of \$1,044,337 for Account 60-435. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-100 Selectmen request: \$336,115

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$336,115

Board of Finance recommendation: \$336,115

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the recommended amount of \$336,115. for Account 10-100. Discussion ensued. Vote: Will Duff opposed. all the rest voted in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-105 Economic Development: \$93,580

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$93,580

Board of Finance recommendation: \$93,580

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$93,580. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-110 Treasurer request: \$5,500

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$5,500

Board of Finance recommendation: \$5,500

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$5,500. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-120 Finance Director request: \$490,184

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$490,184

Board of Finance recommendation: \$490,184

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount of \$490,184. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-130 Town Clerk request: \$287,156

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$284,156

Board of Finance recommendation: \$284,156

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$284,156. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-140 Assessor request: \$292,862

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$292,862

Board of Finance recommendation: \$292,862

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$292,862. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-150 Tax Collector request: \$249,730

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$241,130

Board of Finance recommendation: \$241,130

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, accept the recommendation for the Tax Collector of \$241,130. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-160 Professional Services request: \$431,180

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$431,180

Board of Finance recommendation: \$431,180

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$431,180. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-170 Probate Court request: \$8,000

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$8,000

Board of Finance recommendation: \$8,000

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by James Keene, to accept the recommended amount of \$8,000. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-190 Information Technology request: \$417,972

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$417,972

Board of Finance recommendation: \$417,972

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount of \$417,972. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-210 Town Insurance request: \$1,334,816

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$1,320,520

Board of Finance recommendation: \$1,320,520

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$1,320,520. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-250 Planning and Zoning request: \$320,321

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$320,321

Board of Finance recommendation: \$320,321

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount of \$320,321. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-330 Registrar of Voters request: \$150,800

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$150,800

Board of Finance recommendation: \$150,800

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount of \$150,800. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Karen Foster, to increase the salary for each Registrar by \$1,000. for a total of a \$2,000. increase. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Nick Ellis, and seconded by Pat Cosentino, to go back to Account 10-100 to raise the First Selectman's salary by \$3,000. Discussion ensued. Vote: Pat Cosentino, Nick Ellis, and Cynthia McCorkindale voted in favor. Will Duff, James Keene, Jessica Ferguson, and Karen Foster voted against the motion. Motion failed.

Account 10-340 Boards and Commission request: \$55,600

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$55,600

Board of Finance recommendation: \$55,600

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the recommendation of \$55,600. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-380 Parks and Recreation request: \$2,265,418

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$2,265,418

Board of Finance recommendation: \$2,265,418

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommendation of \$2,265,418. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-390 Employee Benefits request: \$7,512,369

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$7,512,369

Board of Finance recommendation: \$7,512,369

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the recommended amount of \$7,512,369 for Employee Benefits. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-405 Intergovt Agency Subs request: \$681,043

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$681,043

Board of Finance recommendation: \$681,043

Motion made Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis to accept the recommended amount of \$681,043. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-410 Utilities Charges request: \$3,719,417

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$3,719,417

Board of Finance recommendation: \$3,719,417

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$3,719,417. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-420 Misc. Charges and Transfers request: \$1,303,574

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$1,303,574

Board of Finance recommendation: \$1,303,574

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Will Duff, accept the recommended amount for Misc. Charges and Transfers of \$1,303,574. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 10-430 Senior Center request: \$270,816

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$270,816

Board of Finance recommendation: \$270,816

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$270,816. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 20-180 Building and Inspection request: \$389,268

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$389,268

Board of Finance recommendation: \$389,268

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$389,268. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 20-290 Emergency Management request: \$47,350

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$47,350

Board of Finance recommendation: \$47,350

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the recommended amount of \$47,350. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 20-300 Fire Marshal request: \$168,500

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$168,500

Board of Finance recommendation: \$168,500

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the recommended amount of \$168,500. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 30-200 Social Services request: \$128,670

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$128,670

Board of Finance recommendation: \$128,670

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Karen Foster, to accept the recommended amount of \$128,670. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 30-350 Health Department request: \$550,894

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$550,894

Board of Finance recommendation: \$550,894

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$550,894 for Account 30-350. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 40-220 Fleet Maintenance request: \$471,326

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$471,326

Board of Finance recommendation: \$471,326

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount of \$471,326. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 40-230 Public Works request: \$493,514

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$493,514

Board of Finance recommendation: \$493,514

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to accept the recommended amount of \$493,514. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 40-240 Highway request: \$2,998,069

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$2,718,840

Board of Finance recommendation: \$2,718,840

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by James Keene, to accept the recommended amount for Account 40-240 of \$2,718,840. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 40-245 Transfer Station request: \$231,172

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$231,172

Board of Finance recommendation: \$231,172

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$231,172. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 40-260 Building Maintenance request: \$950,946

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$950,946

Board of Finance recommendation: \$950,946

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the recommended amount of \$950,946. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 40-270 Tree Warden request: \$172,500

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$172,500

Board of Finance recommendation: \$172,500

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Jessica Ferguson, to accept the recommended amount of \$172,500. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Account 50-440 Debt Service request: \$4,958,900

Board of Selectmen recommendation: \$4,958,900

Board of Finance recommendation: \$4,958,900

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis to accept the recommended amount of \$4,958,900. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Nick Ellis, and seconded by Pat Cosentino, to approve the Town Budget which includes Operating Budget, Debt Services, and the Board of Education Maintenance Budget in the amount of \$40,475,162. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by James Keene, to approve Total Town Budget plus the Board of Education budget for a total of \$102,587,457. Discussion ensued. Vote in favor: Pat Cosentino, Jessica Ferguson, Karen Foster, and James Keene. Vote against: Nick Ellis, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Will Duff. Motion carries.

Consideration of funding Tax Stabilization Fund:

Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by James Keene, to fund the Tax Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$500,00 from the fund balance as per the fund balance policy. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Nick Ellis, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to set the Public Hearing for the budget for March 24, 2026 at 7:00pm at Bethel High School Auditorium. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Finance Director's report:

Finance Director Brad Heering reviewed the report. Motion made by Pat Cosentino, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to accept the report as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Will Duff, and seconded by Pat Cosentino, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm.
Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Churchill

Mary Churchill
Recording Secretary