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TOWN OF LUDLOW

## ***Town of Ludlow Finance Committee***

Minutes of December 18, 2024, Finance Committee  
Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Tony Sanches, Michael Kelley, Mike Kelliher, and Susanne Boyea and Aneta Lombardi

Members Absent: Dolly Cincone & Matais Goncalves

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First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sanches: So, Mr. Strange, we are going to start off with 2026 budget calendar review. We are on target with the calendar, and then the budget process. Will got right into that then. We had some additional meetings this week. Capital met on Monday. We had tax classification last night and trash discussion last night. So, Mr. Strange is going to bring us up to date.

Mr. Strange presented an overview of Capital Improvement Planning Committee requests. Last year's Free Cash was certified and utilized. The estimated Free Cash for Fiscal 26 is \$3 million.

Requests Include:

- General Government:
  - ▶ Finance Committee Reserve - \$100,000
  - ▶ Stabilization - \$300,000
  - ▶ Building Infrastructure Article - \$100,000
  - ▶ Bills Article –\$15,000
  - ▶ OPEB - \$200,000 (and a \$100,000 line item)
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- \*Of Note Police overtime was removed\*
- BOS
  - ▶ Turf Replacement at LHS - \$100,000
  - ▶ Town Hall Elevator - \$93,371
- DPW
  - ▶ F350 Pick-up Truck w/ plow - \$60,975
  - F350 Pick-up Truck w/ plow & utility pkg.- \$79,727
  - F-150 Pick-up Truck w/ plow - \$53,118
  - Bob Cat track loader – \$96,977

(Capital requested that the DPW come back in to give more information regarding their request.)

- Fire Department
  - ▶ Lucas Device – Automated Chest Compression Devices - \$20,000
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  - ▶ Fire Engine – \$244,888 annually for 5 years - It will not be delivered until 2028
- Library
  - ▶ 26 New computers with licenses - \$24,884 – (needs more info from CMD)
- Police Department
  - ▶ Cruiser - \$77,500
  - ▶ Cruiser - \$77,500
  - ▶ Chevy Tahoe for the Detective Bureau - \$67,654
  - ▶ Vehicle for the Animal Control Officer - \$53,309
- School
  - ▶ Baird Backup power unit for IT - \$24,000
  - ▶ LHS Backup Power unit for IT - \$56,000
  - ▶ East Street - Technology Classroom Upgrades - \$24,000
  - ▶ Baird – Technology Classroom Upgrades - \$24,000
  - ▶ LHS – Technology Classroom Upgrades - \$24,000
  - ▶ LHS Fire Panel Replacement - \$175,000
  - ▶ Baird – 1A Cafeteria - Rooftop HVAC Unit (Heat Only) - \$101,000
  - ▶ Baird – 1B Cafeteria – Rooftop HVAC Unit (Heat Only) - \$101,000
- Golf
  - ▶ Groundsmaster Rough Mower - \$101,927


A total of \$2.6 million was requested.

Mr. Strange presented the level 1 budget summary for 2026, current tax rate is \$18.09, the new tax rate will be \$17.18. Values went up on average 7%. The Board stayed with no residential exemption, no small commercial exemption and no split tax rate. The assumptions that we made here are to include a \$300 trash fee to bridge the revenue gap to lower the deficit we had after level 1. There's a 4% increase for the schools. The towns' increase is a little bit north of 4%. We are assuming an 8% increase in employee benefits, which equates to around \$850,000 increase in dollars. We're assuming a 6% increase in retirement benefits based upon information from the board and also historical trends. We included a 3% non-union COLA and a 3% for all unions who are currently in negotiations.

**Moved by Mr. Kelliher to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kelley. Vote 5-0. All in favor.**

  
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Chairman

  
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Maria Xonobova

  
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Mark Law

  
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Susan M. Boyce

  
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