



Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts

Finance Committee

**Minutes of February 19, 2025, Finance Committee
Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.**

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members Present: Tony Sanches, Aneta Lombardi, Susan Boyea, Mike Kelliher, Mike Kelly, Chad Mullin
Members Absent: Dolly Cincone, Matias Goncalves

6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sanches introduced new member, Chad Mullin, Ludlow resident for 27 years, former School Committee member for 12 years. He works as an operations manager at Trinity Health of New England.

OLD BUSINESS

- FY 2026 Budget Calendar

Next FinCom meeting will be on February 25th at 6:00 p.m. at Harris Brook for a joint meeting with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. March 4th is the BOS meeting where the Town Administrator presents the proposed FY26 budget. March 18th is the BOS meeting to vote on the FY26 capital plan. FinCom meets on the 19th.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review FY 2025 Expenditures

Mr. Kelliher is confused as to how not closing out FY24 is impacting FY25. He would like some clarification at the next meeting that Marc is in. A message from Ms. Allen said the negative encumbrances reflected in the FY25 report are due to FY24 still being open. Once FY24 is closed the actual encumbrances will be carried over and the negative balances for FY25 will be offset accordingly. Because FY24 has not been closed out that means free cash has not been certified. Capital is ready to make recommendations but without FY24 being closed we don't know what the free cash is going to be. There were a couple over extended accounts, police training for example. At the last meeting it was discussed the health insurance impact to the budget is 15-18% increase. Also, the retirement assessment is budgeted at 8%. The Board of Selectmen is working on an overtime policy. They are inviting Chief Valadas to their March 4th meeting to discuss it.

- FY 2026 Budget Discussion




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Mr. Sanches stated we are \$1,010,151 negative right now. That's with the 15% increase in insurance, 8% on the retirement and \$200 trash fee and raises at 2% across the board. The schools are at 2%. Mr. Kelliher stated there is some money set aside in the budget for re-do of the town website and that may have to be deferred, or other items like that. \$100,000 is put aside for the next 10 years to replace the new turf at the high school but that is coming out of free cash. Free cash is estimated at about 3 million and capital is estimated about 2.5-2.6. HVAC units at the middle school this year and next year at the high school. The trash budget is 2.1 million and that is offset with the trash fee. The trash contract signed was for 7,300 households but it looks like collection is for 6,500 households and that needs to be clarified. Mr. Strange is looking into that. Mr. Kelliher stated another option is that a lot of other towns have dropped it as a municipal service. Mr. Sanches said the DPW mentioned that if everyone bought in the fee would be \$250-\$260. The town is running very lean. Mr. Kelliher asked for a list of currently unfilled but budgeted positions.

Motion made by Ms. Lombardi to approve minutes from January 15th as written. **Mr. Kelliher second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0-1.**

Motion made by Mr. Kelliher to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. **Ms. Boyea second. All in favor. Motion passed 6-0.**



Mike Lombardi

Susanne M. Boyea

