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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts Finance Committee

Minutes of December 17, 2025
Meeting Began at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Susanne Boyea, Mike Kelliher, Chad Mullin, and Tony Sanches

Also Present: Marc Strange, Town Administrator, Cheryl Allen, Town Accountant (Remote)

Members Absent: Michael Kelley, Aneta Lombardi, Bill Nicoll

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

OLD BUSINESS

- Committee to review current YTD Munis Expenditures

Ms. Allen stated that FY25 has not been closed out yet.

NEW BUSINESS

- Committee to discuss summary of Department and School Budget Meetings

Ms. Boyea stated that on December 3rd Bill Nicoll and herself met with the School Committee about their current budget. In February there will be a joint meeting regarding the new budget.

Mr. Kelliher stated that the budget will be tight this year. He did state that the Fire Department is trying to pay some new EMT's from the Ambulance funds. All the other departments are trying to stay within their budget.

Mr. Mullin explained that they met with LPD, LCTV, Assessors, Planner, Health and the Senior Center. LCTV is not a carry on the town. He thanked Mr. Strange and Ms. Allen for trying to help the department heads with their budget.

Mr. Strange stated that the Select Board encouraged Chief Pease to come in front of the Finance Committee regarding new positions.

- Committee to review Level I Budget

Mr. Kelliher stated that they will have to present what the budget will look like with and without the override. He also suggested that there is a hiring freeze now. He would also like to know where the Veterans services are going as far as what towns the Veterans are from. He also stated that Harris Brook should be receiving about \$500,000 in grants back to the town over the next few months.

Mr. Sanches asked about the accounting services for \$105,000?

Mr. Strange stated that it is for the accounting audit which is done every year and it is not in the accounting budget, where it should be.

Mr. Strange stated that the paper checks for the employees should be ending in January and then they will bring the schools on board. They would also like to go to ACH payments for vendors as well. ITP will help with this as well. Their services are \$50,000 per year.

Ms. Allen stated that a lot of employees have rights in MUNIS that they shouldn't have and ITP will help straighten that out.

- Committee to approve and sign minutes of November 19, 2025

Moved by Mr. Kelliher to approve and sign meeting minutes of November 19, 2025, seconded by Ms. Boyea. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

- Committee to approve and Chairman to sign the Bi-Annual Payroll for the Finance Committee Secretary.

Moved by Mr. Mullin to approve and Chairman to sign the Bi-Annual Payroll for the Finance Committee Secretary, seconded by Ms. Boyea. Vote 4-0. All in Favor.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Ms. Boyea suggested that the committee should have liaisons to go to every department.

Mr. Mullin suggested they lay everything out for the public so they have complete transparency and can make their own informed decision.

Mr. Sanches stated that it looks like there are only two options, either the override or cuts.

Mr. Kelliher stated that there are other options but nothing that they would recommend.

Mr. Sanches asked what the rules are for stabilization and free cash?

Mr. Strange stated that there is a financial policy in place to target 3-5% of the operating budget for free cash and 5-7% for the stabilization fund.

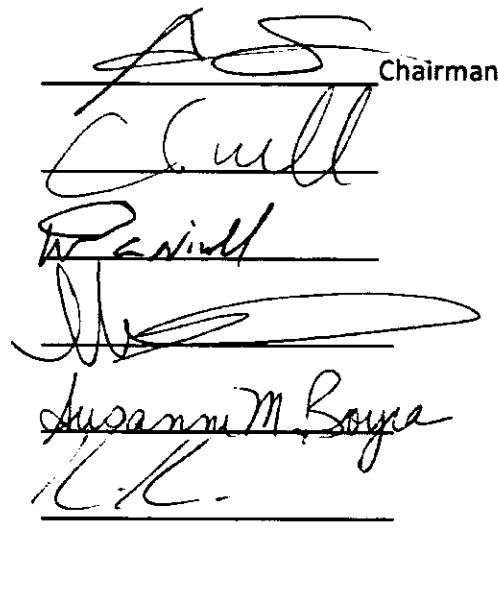
Mr. Kelliher stated that the stabilization fund will affect their bond rating.

Mr. Strange stated that both free cash and stabilization funds affect the bond rating.

Mr. Kelliher explained that the best thing to do is present everything to the public and let them decide.

Mr. Sanches will invite the Fire Chief to come to the January 21st meeting, and he asked Mr. Strange if he could give the committee as much information as he can at that meeting about the budget.

Moved by Mr. Mullin to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Boyea. Vote 4-0. All in favor.



AS Chairman
C. Mullin
D. Penwell
Susan M. Boyea
L.L.

Ludlow Finance Committee