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Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts
Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes of March 19, 2026
Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tony Sanches, Susan Boyea, Michael Kelley, Mike Kelliher, and Chad Mullin

Also Present: Cheryl Allen, Finance Director (Remote)

Members Absent: Aneta Lombardi and Bill Nicoll

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

OLD BUSINESS

Committee to review current fiscal YTD Municipal Expenditures:

Mr. Sanches asked if Marc applied for a grant for the Mass Munifin expenses?

Ms. Allen wasn't sure but will check with Marc.

Mr. Kelliher stated that the departments should be around 67% expended and some are already over 70%. These aren't a problem now, but they could be in the future.

Ms. Allen stated that 70% is usually average going into the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Mr. Kelliher stated that the report is from the end of February so there will be a little more than a quarter left.

Mr. Mullin does not want to go into the June meeting with a ton of transfers.

Mr. Kelliher stated that streets and traffic lights are 77% expended last year and there was a large transfer done last year. They may need to increase the budget for next year.

Ms. Allen explained that the budget will depend on the provider and what they are charging. However, looking at the budget for Streetlights, it does look like they will be okay.

Mr. Mullin asked why the 'working out of grade's line item is 230% spent already.

Ms. Allen explained that working out of grade is for employees that work for a higher grade. There is \$59,000 for the next 3 months so it should be okay.

Mr. Mullin asked what the \$11,000 was for in the Hubbard Library repair and maintenance line item?

Ms. Allen would have to confirm with Melissa and then follow up with the committee.

Mr. Mullin was looking for something out of the norm there.

NEW BUSINESS

FY27 Level 2 Review and Discussion:

Mr. Mullin asked what 'other temporary salaries' are for under the Clerks department?

Ms. Boyea stated that it is probably for poll workers.

Mr. Kelliher would like to know more about the Recreation Director's position. He also asked what the P & R stabilization fund transfer article for town meeting is for?

Ms. Allen stated that it is probably something that was already approved by the board to be transferred from the general fund to the stabilization fund.

Mr. Kelliher asked if some of the recurring capital like the trash bins could be paid off instead of putting the money into the stabilization fund?

Mr. Sanches stated that the issue was brought up in Capital and it is a great idea. He also stated that the budget shows a positive of \$195,000 and the Pond Committee came into one of the Select Board's meetings and requested \$30,000 for their budget for FY27 because last year they utilized 40R and did not have their own budget. Th other issue we may have is the snow and ice budget, which is over.

Mr. Kelliher stated the snow, and ice deficit will come out of free cash.

Mr. Sanches is very pleased that the town is still in the positive compared to the 2 ½ that was being proposed.

Mr. Mullin asked Ms. Allen why the police software and scheduling line item increased from \$27,000 to \$41,000.

Ms. Allen stated they are replacing 12 computers and that is why the budget has increased.

Mr. Mullin would like the entire packet posted with the agenda moving forward.

Mr. Sanches stated that there are certain criteria that need to be met in order to be brought to Capital. The in-depth line items have been requested several times and Cheryl did give the Police Department, Fire Department and the DPW and didn't see anything that stuck out to him. At the public hearing, you need to review level two and capital and be able to answer any questions regarding the budget. Mr. Sanches stated that the Capital Improvement for FY27 has been submitted. Free cash is estimated at \$6.5 million, with \$3 million carried from the year before. However, free cash has not been certified yet. The following has been requested from free cash, digital sign for the gazebo for \$32,000, playground equipment and swings for Whitney, locker room renovations at the community center, fire ladder truck payment 5 of 5 will be done for \$335,000. The new ambulance comes out of the ambulance prescription fund and will be payment 3 of 4 for \$95,000 and does not come from free cash. Two patrol vehicles for the police department for \$155,000 which are every year and cycle out over 8 years. Facilities F-150 4 x 4 with plow \$54,000, DPW F-350 pickup super duty with plow \$81,000, DPW Volvo L60GP Wheel loader payment 3 of 3 so that will complete, \$69,653. DPW trash and recycling bins, payment 2 of 6 for \$152,000. Hubbard Memorial Library parking lot extension \$52,000, library upgraded HVAC pneumatic controls \$50,000, LHS replace cafeteria HVAC \$85,000, exterior wall facade \$362,000. School pick up truck \$52,000. Total free cash is \$2.4 million out of the \$6.5 million that's going to be used. Then Westover Golf for their golf carts which payment 4 of 4 which come out of the golf operating budget, not free cash. There will be approximately \$1.4 million leftover in free cash.

Mr. Mullin asked if Cheryl will be presenting the budget.

Ms. Allen stated that it is probably going to be Marc, but she will double check.

Mr. Mullin asked if the committee would need to make a recommendation for each department or just the bottom line.

Mr. Kelliher said it is for the bottom line only.

Moved by Mr. Kelliher to approve and sign the meeting minutes from February 18, 2026, seconded by Mr. Mullin. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Sanches announced the Finance Committee Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Select Board's Conference Room at Town Hall.

CLOSING COMMENTS

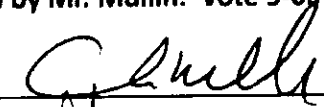

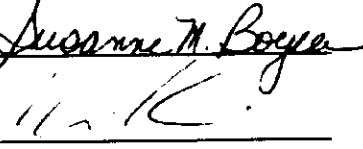

Mr. Sanches thanked everyone for their assistance with the committee and looks forward to hopefully working with them through the Select Board's office. He also thanked Ms. Allen for all of her hard work and getting documents to the committee even at the last minute.

Ms. Allen thanked Mr. Sanches as well.

Mr. Kelliher thanked Mr. Sanches for all his hard work and knowledge with the Finance Committee.

Mr. Mullin encouraged residents to join the Finance Committee, they currently have several vacancies.

Moved by Mr. Kelliher to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mullin. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

 Chairman




Ludlow Finance Committee