



# Town of Hartland

22 South Road  
EAST HARTLAND, CT 06027  
860-653-6800  
[www.hartlandct.org](http://www.hartlandct.org)

Re: **Regular Meeting Minutes for the Hartland Board of Finance**

Date: January 17, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: HYBRID MEETING

Attendance: Chair Tom Kean, Vice Chair Nicole Bernabo, Tim Irwin, Philip Groth and Fletcher Smith, Laura Irwin joined the meeting at 7:44pm.

Not in attendance: Heather Gust

Others in Attendance: Magi Winslow – First Selectman, Imma Canelli – Superintendent, Karen Eseppi - Treasurer, Scott Levan – Selectman, Chris Davis – Chief EHVFD, Peter Sevetz – Firefighter/1rst Responder EHVFD, Hilary Wilson- Treasurer/Admin WHVFD

1. The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chair Tom Kean. Mr. Groth made a motion to seat Fletcher Smith. Seconded by Chair Kean. Motion carried.
2. Tom Kean recommended that the process of reading the minutes aloud at the Board of Finance meeting be discontinued and the expectation is that the Board of Finance members will review the minutes in advance of the meeting for efficiency. Ms. Bernabo made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes which was seconded by Phil Groth. Discussion occurred. Motion carried.
3. The minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 20, 2023 were reviewed. Ms. Bernabo made a motion to accept the December 20, 2023 minutes and Mr. Groth seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Expenses/Reports:
  - Board of Education: As of December 31, 2023 – 42.03% was expended. High School tuitions are the largest expenses for the month. The Board of Education is in the process of preparing the annual budget and is planning to present a reasonable budget.
  - Board of Selectmen: As of December 31, 2023 – 48.75% has been expended. The budget is in very good shape, but there is Planning and Zoning shortfall, as explained in previous months, and Civil Defense also has a shortfall, due to unanticipated meetings and mileage expenses. Operation Rapid Welcome Migrants was also discussed.
  - Treasurer: The interest on the investment funds is coming in above what was budgeted. Program fees on Line 13 are also above budget. The Town received the first portion of the FIFA grant, line 28. For special accounts, Library is in a shortfall due to the upgrading of the digital platform. The Library budget for next year will be taken into consideration as a result of this shortfall. Farmland preservation capital improvement has a balance and is funded by fees through the Town Clerk's Office. Ms. Eseppi explained that such money can be used for capital expenses and suggested that such funds possibly be used for the senior center improvements. Motion made by Mr. Groth to accept the Treasurer's report which was seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.
5. Presentations by the Fire Departments. Mr. Kean thanked the Departments for attending the meeting and for agreeing to provide the Board with information about its planning needs.
  - East Hartland – Fire Chief Davis presented on behalf of the East Hartland Fire Department. Membership is doing well with volunteers from other towns. The new truck that is on order is not outfitted with some of the required fittings that are needed. The price of the new equipment is planned to be offset by the sale of the older equipment. Mr. Davis also provided an overview of fundraisers, including the carnival and game dinner, and the status of the 501©(3) application.
  - West Hartland – The Engine 1 truck is not holding pressure like it should and is aging. A new truck is needed and the Department is doing research on next steps to lease a new truck. The upcoming



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budget includes replacement of gear, bottles and gear on rotation proactively on a schedule. Staffing is going well with some new certifications and trainings.

- Ms. Eseppi discussed that the WH Fire Department form a committee to discuss the capital purchases. Ms. Bernabo suggested that the Town consider a Townwide Capital Projects Committee.
6. Old Business:
    - Chair Kean discussed the Board of Finance proposed budget to submit to the Town and suggested that the budget remain the same as last year in the amount of \$1040. Ms. Bernabo made a motion to submit the Board of Finance budget in the amount of \$1040 and Mr. Groth seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  7. New Business:

Ms. Bernabo proposed to have a Freedom of Information training by an attorney for the Board of Finance. Ms. Winslow suggested that the Freedom of Information Commission or CT Conference of Municipalities provide the training due to the expense of having an attorney provide such training. Ms. Winslow offered to look into this and report back to the Board.
  8. Mr. Groth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nicole A. Bernabo  
Vice Chair, Board of Finance