



Town of Hartland

22 South Road
EAST HARTLAND, CT 06027
860-653-6800
www.hartlandct.org

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

Date: March 19, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: HYBRID MEETING – Hartland School Library, 30 South Rd, East Hartland and Zoom Workplace

Attendance: Tom Kean, Chairman, Nicole Bernabo, Philip Groth, Tim Irwin, Fletcher Smith

Alternates: Deborah Gilpin, Frank Monchun and John Ferro

Others: Magi Winslow, First Selectman, Scott Levan, 2nd Selectman, Greg Sottile, 3rd Selectman, Superintendent Imma Canelli, Treasurer Karen Eseppi, Secretary Linda Krish

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm by Chairman Kean.

A motion was made by Nicole Bernabo to seat Deborah Gilpin as an alternate, Fletcher Smith seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

Chairman Kean announced the voluntary resignation of Laura Irwin from the Board of Finance and on behalf of the membership, he expressed appreciation for her service.

A motion was made by Nicole Bernabo to accept Laura Irwin's resignation from the Board, Fletcher Smith seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

Review/Approve Minutes of the February 19th, 2025, Regular Meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Tim Irwin and seconded by Philip Groth.

Vote: Unanimous.

Expenses/Reports:

The Board of Education Reports were presented by Superintendent Imma Canelli. She highlighted that 61.19% of the allocated budget has been expended through the end of February 2025.

Board of Selectmen Report was discussed by Magi Winslow, First Selectman. 70.21% of the annual budget has been expended as of the close of February. The First Selectmen noted that seeking efficiencies and close monitoring of all budget items will continue.

First Selectman Winslow stated the foreclosure process on the West Hartland property is expected to move forward at the end of March subject to any further legal delay.

The monthly Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Karen Eseppi. 97.21% of property taxes have been received. This collection rate is consistent to the rates in prior years. The second installment of the ECS Grant received on 1/31/25 is included in the February 2025 report. The next installment is due in April.

Treasurer Eseppi continues to closely track the State of Connecticut's implementation of the Totally Disabled Veteran legislation provisions along with the numerous proposed amendments; the enactment of this legislation will reduce Hartland's tax revenue.

Chairman Kean stated that the annual audit is complete, and the report has been issued.

Nicole Bernabo made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Philip Groth seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.



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Old Business:

None

New Business:

Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Town of Hartland General Government budget was presented. First Selectman Winslow reviewed the proposed Board of Selectmen's FY 2025-2026 budget component noting an overall decrease of \$8,770 from the current, FY 2024-2025, budget. First Selectman Winslow explained that municipalities across the State are confronting unprecedented budget balancing difficulties and all are facing substantial tax mil rate increases to offset shortfalls in revenue, fees and grants. Hartland School Superintendent Canelli presented the annual request for the Board of Education. This budget proposal included a total increase of \$81,722 or 1.42% (.0142) over the current fiscal year budget. Superintendent Canelli shared that the Hartland School was named a School of Distinction for the second year in a row and for the third time in the past six years (there were no accountability measures for two years due to the pandemic).

Chairman Kean opened the Board's discussion of the proposed budgets by highlighting the significant challenges the Town of Hartland is facing including but not limited to sizable cuts from the State of Connecticut and the negative impact to the grand list due to legislation that removes homes and possibly acreage owned by military veterans. Also raised was the change in how motor vehicle taxes are formulated which will further reduce the grand list and the likelihood of future unfunded mandates.

Treasurer Eseppi reviewed the impact on Hartland's mil rate if the proposed budgets were approved as submitted and also if the proposed budgets were revised. The Board considered the budget information and determined further discussion is warranted. A Special Meeting was scheduled for March 26, 2025 at 7pm.

Communication and Public Comment:

None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Nicole Bernabo and seconded by Fletcher Smith.

Vote: Unanimous.