



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 18, 2026

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Hybrid: Hartland Town Hall
22 South Road, East Hartland
and via Zoom Workplace

Attendance: Tom Kean, Chairman, John Ferro, Philip Groth, Tim Irwin, Fletcher Smith

Alternate: Mike Ryan

Others: Magi Winslow, First Selectman, Scott Levan, Second Selectman, Greg Sottile, Third Selectman, Pam Weber- Board of Education Chairman, Imma Canelli, Hartland School Superintendent, Anna Dorman, Karen Eseppi, Michelle Ferrari, Alissa Goguen, Connie Irwin (Zoom Workplace), TJ Kent, Linda Krish, Sara Krlha, Ben Lovell, Amanda Lukingbeal, Tony Miller, Jill Skaret, Ellen Smith, Hilary Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Chairman Kean.

A motion to seat Mike Ryan as an alternate Board member was made by Philip Groth and seconded by Tim Irwin

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Kean noted the agenda for this meeting should be revised as needed to further the presentation and discussion of the Town of Hartland's proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget. Said motion was made by John Ferro and seconded by Fletcher Smith.

Vote: Unanimous

Board of Education Budget Presentation FY2027 (continued):

Board members submitted several questions related to salaries, health benefits and transportation costs. Superintendent Canelli addressed questions and stated that the proposed budget reflected an increase of 3.6% in total salaries. Relative to health benefit costs, the Superintendent explained that she negotiated and was successful in mitigating a potential 45% increase in BOE health benefit costs by securing agreement to have the Hartland School staff included in the School District Region 7 consortium. She also worked in conjunction with Legeyt Bus Company to hold transportation cost increases to 3% for FY 2026-2027 and to 2% for the following two fiscal years. The Superintendent noted the rate of high school tuition remains costly and fixed. She commended her staff for their tireless work in keeping expenses down and stated that there were no further operational efficiencies to be found.

Board of Selectmen Budget Presentation FY2027:

First Selectman Magi Winslow presented the proposed Board of Selectmen's (BOS) FY 2026-2027 budget noting an overall increase of \$117,231 or 4.89% from the current BOS FY 2025-2026, budget. First Selectman Winslow highlighted that Town leadership is proactively responding to residents' feedback to increase access to Town Hall services by restructuring the main office operations and expanding the operating days and hours. Much of this plan stems from attrition and retirements, however, the impact of this change will result in a 48.82% increase to employee benefits, primarily health insurance premiums, beginning in FY2026-2027. The First Selectman acknowledged the proposed FY2026-2027 budget did not include salary increases for Town Hall staff that are commensurate with their diligent efforts to keep



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

expenditures in check and their outstanding work on behalf of Town residents. She stated that rising costs coupled with the Town's real property revaluation, this next fiscal year is likely to be a very difficult and challenging one for Hartland.

Karen Eseppi, Hartland Town Treasurer, pointed out that if the FY 2026-2027 Hartland budget fails to pass after three attempts, the Town is required to operate at current levels.

Expense Reports:

Mike Ryan made a motion to table this Agenda item until a subsequent BOF meeting. The motion was seconded by Philip Groth.

Vote: Unanimous

February minutes: Philip Groth made a motion to table this Agenda item until a subsequent BOF meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Irwin

Vote: Unanimous

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Communication and Public Comment:

First Selectman Winslow offered a reminder that the Town Newsletter will be drafted and needs to be sent to Hartland residents during the first week of April 2026 and the Public Hearing will be scheduled for May 6th. The Annual Town Meeting will be scheduled during the second half of May 2026.

Pam Weber, Chairman, Board of Education, expressed appreciation to the BOF members for their hard work and cooperation with the BOE. She and Superintendent Canelli pledged to go to the BOE to consider any opportunity to help subsidize the Town of Hartland budget (possibly from the BOE Non-lapsing Fund).

A motion was made by Mike Ryan for a Special Meeting to be scheduled to discuss the FY 2026-2027 Budget. Fletcher Smith seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Irwin and seconded by Mike Ryan.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Kean adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Krish