

BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF BRANFORD
1019 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 150, BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405

JOSEPH W. MOONEY, CHAIRMAN
DEBORAH CONKLIN
HARRY DIADAMO, JR.
PAMELA DELISE
YVETTE LARRIEU
JEFFREY E. VAILETTE



EX-OFFICIO
JAMES COSGROVE, First Selectman

CLERK
LISA E. ARPIN, Town Clerk

REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

RECEIVED
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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting to continue the 2025-2026 budget hearings Thursday, March 20, 2025, called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Joe Trapasso Community House, 46 Church Street, Branford, CT. The meeting was available for remote public viewing via BCTV (Comcast Channel 20) and Facebook Live.

Board members in attendance were Chairman Joseph Mooney, Deborah Conklin, Harry DiAdamo, Pamela DeLise, Yvette Larrieu (via remote Zoom technology) and Jeffrey Vailette. Also present were First Selectman James Cosgrove, James Finch, Finance Director, Kathryn LaBanca, Assistant Finance Director and Lisa Arpin, Town Clerk. RTM reps in attendance were Maryann Amore, Peter Black, Tracy Everson, John Hartwell, Chris Hynes, Ray Ingraham, Alex Larsson, Nancy McCormack, Shahida Soomro, Frank Twohill, and Alisa Waterman.

Board of Finance Chairman Joseph Mooney provided a brief overview of budget requests for fiscal year 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) summary pages from the budget book are attached. Total budget requests including Board of Education total \$144,457,798, an increase request of \$9,146,702 or a 6.8% increase in expenditures. After estimated revenues of \$20,211,000 are applied, it leaves a net to be raised from taxation of \$124,246,144. The Grand List is expanded through the revaluation and is estimated at \$5,597,529,138 which represents an increase (due to some additions but mostly the revaluation) of \$1,696,831,626 or 43% increase in the Grand List. Chairman Mooney emphasized the 22.69 mill rate which is a decrease from the current mill rate is not final nor does it reflect what the tax rate will be.

Chairman Mooney noted the Board of Finance will meet on March 31st to recommend a budget to the RTM and the RTM will deliberate and meet on May 13th with the Board of Finance meeting on May 19th to finalize revenues and set the mill rate. Tonight is the final evening of FY26 budget hearings the Board of Finance heard as follows:

RTM-EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER	PAGE #s
Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library	Jennifer Sullivan	52
James Blackstone Memorial Library	Katy McNicol, Janice Kochanowski, Larry Greenberg, Kathy Oxsalida *See meeting handout "Budget Request Summary"	51

RTM-ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER	PAGE #s
Elections (Moved from Tuesday)	Darren Lawler /Jeff Rowan & Peter Black	22

RTM-EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER	PAGE #s
School Age Child Care	Lauren Skultety & Blaize Levitan	63
Adult Education	Christine Bjork	62
Board of Education	Christopher Tranberg/Peter Berdon/Blaize Levitan *See meeting handout "Amended Public Input: 2025-26 Superintendent/BOE Budget"	55

Finance Director Jim Finch spoke regarding his meeting handout on BOE Capital "thoughts and conversations" since the BOE put forth their budget requests, attached.

By motion from Mr. Valette, seconded by Mr. DiAdamo, Chairman Mooney closed the budget hearings at 8:57 p.m. at which time the meeting adjourned. The Board of Finance meeting and Budget Workshop will be held on March 30, 2025.

Dated this 1st day of April 2025



Lisa E. Arpin, MMC MCTC
Board of Finance Clerk

**TOWN OF BRANFORD
MILL RATE CALCULATION
(PROPOSED BUDGET)
FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026**

	2024/2025	2025/2026	Change Amount	%
Budget Requirements				
Less:				
Annual Receipts Other Than Taxes				
Interest & Penalties on Back Taxes				
State & Federal Grants	\$2,184,839	\$2,184,839	\$0	0.0%
Departmental Receipts	4,192,080	\$5,047,364	\$855,284	20.4%
Fund Balance Brought Forward	8,807,520	\$9,133,451	\$325,931	3.7%
	\$3,846,000	\$3,846,000	\$0	0.0%
	\$19,030,439	\$20,211,664	\$1,181,215	6.2%
Net to be raised from Taxation	\$116,280,657	\$124,246,144	\$7,965,487	6.9%

	2024/2025	2025/2026	Change Amount	%
NET GRAND LIST	\$3,900,697,512	\$5,597,529,138	\$1,696,831,626	43.5%

Mill Rate	30.48	22.69	-7.8	-25.6%
Gross Taxes Available	\$118,900,209	\$126,999,332	\$8,099,123	6.8%
Less: State Reimbursements	\$270,800	\$270,800	\$0	0.0%
Less: Elderly Tax Relief	\$386,899	\$386,899	\$0	0.0%
Less: Allowance for Uncollectible	1,961,853	2,095,489	\$133,636	6.8%

Net Taxes Available	\$116,280,657	\$124,246,144	\$7,965,487	6.9%
Collection Rate	98.35%	98.35%		

Kurt Schwanfelder
Treasurer
Town of Branford
3/11/2025

(1) Reflects anticipated reductions from tax appeals

GRAND LIST HISTORY

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This Information Will Appear in the 2025-26 RTM Approved Budget Book

SECTION II

BUDGET PRESENTATION

GENERAL FUND

TOWN OF BRANFORD

2025-2026

Budget Summary

DEPT #	<u>REVENUES</u>		RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	Requested Budget 2025 - 2026	Difference Requested vs RTM Amended	<u>PERCENT</u>
3010	Tax Collector		118,465,496	126,430,983	7,965,487	6.7%
3020	State & Federal Grants		4,192,080	5,047,364	855,284	20.4%
3030	Other Revenues		12,653,520	12,979,451	325,931	2.6%
	Total Revenues & Taxes		135,311,096	144,457,798	9,146,702	6.8%
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
4101	Legislative		18,983	20,432	1,449	7.6%
4102	Executive		344,120	347,779	3,659	1.1%
4103	Finance		140,239	155,835	15,596	11.1%
4104	Fiscal Services		598,201	620,746	22,545	3.8%
4105	Assessor		530,049	537,745	7,696	1.5%
4106	Board of Tax Review		20,748	15,355	(5,393)	-26.0%
4107	Tax Collector		800,975	672,446	(128,529)	-16.0%
4108	Town Clerk		308,806	299,666	(9,140)	-3.0%
4109	Legal Services		450,000	450,000	0	0.0%
4110	Labor Relations		93,600	93,600	0	0.0%
4111	Probate Court		17,290	18,350	1,060	6.1%
4112	Elections		288,287	377,518	89,231	31.0%
4113	Planning & Zoning		400,448	456,476	56,028	14.0%
4114	Zoning Board of Appeals		11,436	11,549	113	1.0%
4115	Economic Development		23,550	23,550	0	0.0%
4116	Inland Wetlands & Natural Resources		144,769	145,911	1,142	0.8%
4117	Municipal Government Buildings		1,167,997	1,314,129	146,132	12.5%
4118	Cable T.V.		15,750	27,923	12,173	77.3%
4119	Information Technology		1,274,886	1,417,834	142,948	11.2%
4120	Human Resources		358,669	379,561	20,892	5.8%
	Sub - Total General Government		7,008,803	7,386,405	377,602	5.4%

TOWN OF BRANFORD

2025-2026

Budget Summary

DEPT #	EXPENDITURES	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	Requested Budget 2025 - 2026	Difference Requested vs RTM Amended	PERCENT
4201	Police Service	7,356,267	8,402,892	1,046,625	14.2%
4202	Police Service - Special Detail	525,000	525,000	0	0.0%
4203	Department of Emergency Management	30,500	30,500	0	0.0%
4204	Fire Protection	9,278,429	9,535,394	256,965	2.8%
4205	Building Inspection & Enforcement	243,653	247,825	4,172	1.7%
4206	Other Protection - Animal Control	399,554	399,738	184	0.0%
	Sub - Total Public Safety	17,833,403	19,141,349	1,307,946	7.3%
4301	Public Works	2,822,699	2,944,654	121,955	4.3%
4303	Water Pollution Control	600,000	600,000	0	0.0%
4304	Solid Waste Management & Recycling	4,940,442	5,172,143	231,701	4.7%
4305	Engineering	507,603	515,160	7,557	1.5%
	Sub - Total Public Works	8,870,744	9,231,957	361,213	4.1%
4401	Human Services	1,226,111	1,288,494	62,383	5.1%
4402	Commission for Elderly	492,940	395,397	(97,543)	-19.8%
4404	East Shore Health	397,652	414,488	16,836	4.2%
	Sub - Total Public Health / Welfare	2,116,703	2,098,379	(18,324)	-0.9%
4501	Recreation Department	1,328,353	1,373,232	44,879	3.4%
4505	Parks and Open Space	26,800	26,800	0	0.0%
4507	Docks & Recreational Facilities	21,702	21,853	151	0.7%
4508	Public Celebration	48,600	48,735	135	0.3%
4510	Conservation Commission	11,750	11,772	22	0.2%
	Sub - Total Recreation	1,437,205	1,482,392	45,187	3.1%
4601	Blackstone Library	1,743,500	1,789,500	46,000	2.6%
4602	Willoughby Wallace Library	279,450	299,959	20,509	7.3%
	Sub - Total Libraries	2,022,950	2,089,459	66,509	3.3%

TOWN OF BRANFORD

2025-2026

Budget Summary

DEPT #	EXPENDITURES	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	Requested Budget 2025 - 2026	Difference Requested vs RTM Amended	PERCENT
4701	Debt - Principal	6,390,000	6,640,000	250,000	3.9%
4702	Debt - Interest	2,247,766	2,440,106	192,340	8.6%
	Sub - Total Debt Service	8,637,766	9,080,106	442,340	5.1%
4800	Board of Education	65,428,110	69,214,640	3,786,530	5.8%
4901	Pensions & Contributions	7,200,158	7,268,652	68,494	1.0%
4902	Employee Group Insurance	6,440,141	6,697,126	257,126	4.0%
4903	Municipal Insurance	2,841,773	2,681,932	(159,841)	-5.6%
	Sub - Total Pension & Insurance	16,482,072	16,647,351	165,779	1.0%
4904	Contingency	1,207,297	993,596	(213,701)	-17.7%
5000	Capital Project Funds - BOE	496,000	2,479,000	1,983,000	399.8%
	Capital Project Funds - Town	3,185,043	4,047,664	862,621	27.1%
	Coastal Resiliency Fund	310,000	225,000	(85,000)	-27.4%
	Lease Fund Town	150,000	170,000	20,000	13.3%
	Lease Fund BOE	125,000	170,000	45,000	36.0%
	Sub - Total Capital	4,266,043	7,091,664	2,825,621	66.2%
	Total Expenditures	135,311,096	144,457,798	9,146,702	6.8%
<i>Composition of Expenditures</i>					
	Municipal Operating Expenditures	56,081,880	58,302,792	2,220,912	4.0%
	Town Capital & Lease Expenditures	3,335,043	4,217,664	882,621	26.5%
	Total Town Expenditures	59,416,923	62,520,456	3,103,533	5.2%
	Board of Education Expenditures	65,428,110	69,214,640	3,786,530	5.8%
	BOE Capital & Lease Expenditures	621,000	2,649,000	2,028,000	326.6%
	Total BOE Expenditures	66,049,110	71,863,640	5,814,530	8.8%
	Contingency	1,207,297	993,596	(213,701)	-17.7%
	Debt Service Expenditures	8,637,766	9,080,106	442,340	5.1%
	Total	135,311,096	144,457,798	9,146,702	6.8%

TOWN OF BRANFORD Budget Presentation

Department - 3010 TAX DEPARTMENT

ORG	OBJECT DESCRIPTION	Actual 2023 - 2024	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026 Requested	CHANGE * AMOUNT	PERCENT
10180000	400010 Property Taxes, Current	115,854,267	116,280,657	124,246,144	7,965,487	6.9%
10180000	400020 Delinquent Taxes	1,520,468	1,370,105	1,370,105	0	0.0%
10180000	400030 Interest, Property Taxes	857,697	798,234	798,234	0	0.0%
10180000	400040 Lien Fees	11,865	6,100	6,100	0	0.0%
10180000	400050 Suspense Tax Collections	124,239	7,100	7,100	0	0.0%
10180000	400055 Tax Collection Fees	87	0	0	0	NA
10180000	400060 Foreclosure Fees	0	0	0	0	NA
10180000	400065 Attorney Fees	0	0	0	0	NA
10180000	400070 Returned Check Fees	0	0	0	0	NA
10180000	400080 Warrant Fees	2,508	300	300	0	0.0%
10180000	400085 Motor Vehicle Fees	10,698	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL TAX REVENUE		118,381,629	118,465,496	126,430,983	7,965,487	6.7%

*Change column compares the 2025-26 Requested Budget versus the 2024-25 RTM Amended Budget.
**Please note the 2024-25 Amended Budget reflects amendments approved through February 2025.

TOWN OF BRANFORD Budget Presentation

Department - 3020 STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS

ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	Actual 2023 - 2024	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026 Requested	CHANGE * AMOUNT	PERCENT
10148050	410010	Education Cost Sharing	3,485,200	3,572,866	3,542,520	(30,346)	-0.8%
10148050	410015	Special Education	828,264	426,572	1,310,883	884,311	207.3%
10148050	410020	Health & Welfare	3,104	0	0	0	NA
10148050	422010	Tuition Reimbursement	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Education Grants	4,316,568	3,999,438	4,853,403	853,965	21.4%
10180000	411020	Disability Exemptions	2,608	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
10180000	411040	Exempt Private Property	162,211	163,140	64,387	(98,753)	-60.5%
10180000	411050	Exempt State Property	0	0	0	0	NA
10180000	411080	Vet Reimbursement - State	15,915	0	0	0	NA
10180000	411090	Municipal Video Competition Grant	0	0	0	0	NA
10180000	411100	Municipal Revenue Sharing	714,046	0	100,000	100,000	NA
10180000	411110	Municipal Stabilization Grant	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Tax Related Grants	894,780	166,140	166,387	1,247	0.8%
10142010	412060	Misc. State Grants	0	0	0	0	NA
			0	0	0	0	NA
10142030	411350	Misc. State & Federal Grants (EMPG)	41,460	14,002	14,074	72	0.5%
			41,460	14,002	14,074	72	0.5%
10142040	411350	Misc. State & Federal Grants (SAFER)	0	0	0	0	NA
			0	0	0	0	NA
10144020	480340	NGO Grant Revenue	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Elderly Commission Grants	0	0	0	0	NA
10180000	412060	Misc. State Grants	10,570	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
10180000	414000	Wild Life Refuge	3,712	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Other Grants	14,282	13,500	13,500	0	0.0%
		TOTAL GRANTS	5,267,090	4,192,080	5,047,364	855,284	20.4%

*Change column compares the 2025-26 Requested Budget versus the 2024-25 RTM Amended Budget.
 **Please note the 2024-25 Amended Budget reflects amendments approved through February 2025.

TOWN OF BRANFORD

Budget Presentation

Department - 3030 OTHER REVENUES

ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	Actual 2023 - 2024	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026 Requested	CHANGE * Amount	Percent
10141130	420100	Planning & Zoning Fees	20,504	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
10141130	420610	DEP Lic/Town Portion	616	500	500	0	0.0%
10141140	420140	Zoning Board of Appeals	3,000	3,750	3,750	0	0.0%
10141160	420060	Inland Wetland Applications	49,571	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
10141160	420610	DEP Lic/Town Portion	58	60	60	0	0.0%
10142050	420020	Building Permits	824,086	700,000	725,000	25,000	3.6%
10142050	420030	Electrical Permits	2,112	0	0	0	NA
10142050	420080	Map Copies - Bldg. & Engineering	1,894	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
10142050	420082	Building Dept. - Education Fee	714	600	600	0	0.0%
10142050	420120	Sewer Connection Permits	2	0	0	0	NA
10143050	420040	Excavation Permits	5,940	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
10143050	420120	Sewer Connection Permits	90	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Building, P & Z, Engineering	908,587	751,910	776,910	25,000	3.3%
10143040	420320	Sticker Revenue	28,756	16,000	16,000	0	0.0%
10143040	420330	Transfer Station Escrow Payments	314,119	180,000	180,000	0	0.0%
10143040	420340	Trip Passes	1,938	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
10143040	420515	Electrical Revenue Share (Covanta)	19,523	17,000	17,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Solid Waste & Recycling	364,336	214,500	214,500	0	0.0%
10142010	420440	Police Department - Permits, Tags	550	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
10142010	420445	Fingerprinting Fees	17,045	14,859	12,000	(2,859)	-19.2%
10142010	420450	Police Department - Special Wages	617,760	525,000	525,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Police Department	635,355	544,359	541,500	(2,859)	-0.5%
10143030	420530	North Branford Sewer Fees	0	124,270	33,000	(91,270)	-73.4%
10143030	420540	Pump Out Services	7,925	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Water Pollution Control	7,925	130,270	39,000	(91,270)	-70.1%
10141080	420640	Dog Licenses	6,549	2,000	4,000	2,000	100.0%
10141080	420650	Marriage Licenses	4,992	4,100	4,500	400	9.8%
10141080	420660	Real Estate Conveyance Tax	482,319	500,000	500,000	0	0.0%
10141080	420670	Town Clerk - Other Monies	197,830	220,000	220,000	0	0.0%
10141080	420680	E-Commerce Revenue Share	12,909	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Town Clerk	704,599	741,100	743,500	2,400	0.3%

*Change column compares the 2025-26 Requested Budget versus the 2024-25 RTM Amended Budget.

**Please note the 2024-25 Amended Budget reflects amendments approved through February 2025.

TOWN OF BRANFORD

Budget Presentation

Department - 3030 OTHER REVENUES

ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	Actual 2023 - 2024	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026 Requested	CHANGE - Amount	Percent
10141110	420570	North Branford Probate Fee	6,452	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Probate Court	6,452	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%
10142040	420420	False Alarm Fees	1,550	4,900	2,000	(2,900)	-59.2%
10142040	420710	Ambulance Fees	2,411,592	1,935,000	2,015,000	80,000	4.1%
10142040	420720	Misc. Permits & fees	2,445	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Fire Department	2,415,587	1,941,900	2,019,000	77,100	4.0%
10144020	433010	Building Usage Fees	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Elderly Commission	0	0	0	0	NA
10145010	433010	Building Usage Fees	8,525	8,000	5,000	(3,000)	-37.5%
10145010	433015	Facility Usage Fees	3,625	1,000	3,000	2,000	200.0%
10145010	480297	Footie Family Charitable Trust	302,000	275,000	275,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Recreation Department	314,150	284,000	283,000	(1,000)	-0.4%
10145100	420820	Fees & Services	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Conservation Commission	0	0	0	0	NA
10146020	420910	Library Fees	1,043	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
10146020	420920	Passport Fees	4,960	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
10146020	420930	Notary Fees	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Willoughby Wallace Library	6,003	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
10190000	420690	Commerce Bank Revenue Share	8,078	5,000	5,500	500	10.0%
10190000	422040	Insurance Claims & Refunds	48,378	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
10190000	433020	Leases - Other	6,701	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
10190000	440010	Interest Income - General Fund	4,504,333	1,796,917	2,262,807	465,890	26.3%
10190000	451060	Returned Check Fees	40	0	0	0	NA
10190000	480010	Employee Health Insurance Co-Pay	733,402	715,000	715,000	0	0.0%
10190000	480080	Miscellaneous Income	49,859	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
10190000	480100	Sale of Town Property	62,669	0	0	0	NA
10190000	480130	Miscellaneous Refunds	40,373	0	0	0	NA

*Change column compares the 2025-26 Requested Budget versus the 2024-25 RTM Amended Budget.
 **Please note the 2024-25 Amended Budget reflects amendments approved through February 2025.

TOWN OF BRANFORD Budget Presentation

Department - 3030 OTHER REVENUES

ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	Actual 2023 - 2024	RTM Amended 2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026 Requested	CHANGE * Amount	Percent
10180000	480310	Telephone Access Tax	103,522	55,000	60,000	5,000	9.1%
10180000	480320	Lieu of Taxes - S. C. Reg. Water	636,522	475,000	475,000	0	0.0%
10190000	480350	Virtual Net Metering Credits	0	30,000	0	(30,000)	-100.0%
10190000	480360	EV Charging Revenue	1,766	0	0	0	NA
10190000	480370	Municipal Cannabis Sales Tax Revenue	380,866	300,000	200,000	(100,000)	-33.3%
10190000	480380	Settlement Income	88,423	0	0	0	NA
10190000	480296	Fund Balance Brought Forward	0	3,846,000	3,846,000	0	0.0%
		Sub Total Miscellaneous	6,564,912	7,245,917	7,587,307	341,390	4.7%
10190000	490010	Transfer In - Sewer Utility Fund - Benefits	791,035	786,564	761,734	(24,830)	-3.2%
10190000	490012	Transfer In - Municipal Facilities Fund	0	0	0	0	NA
10190000	490013	Transfer In - Infrastructure Enhancement Fund	0	0	0	0	NA
10190000	490015	Transfer In - Capital Fund	335	0	0	0	NA
10190000	490090	Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0	NA
		Sub Total Other Financing Sources	791,370	786,564	761,734	(24,830)	-3.2%
		TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT	12,719,276	12,653,520	12,979,451	325,931	2.6%
		Total General Fund Revenues	136,367,995	135,311,096	144,457,798	9,146,702	6.8%

*Change column compares the 2025-26 Requested Budget versus the 2024-25 RTM Amended Budget.
 **Please note the 2024-25 Amended Budget reflects amendments approved through February 2025.

James Blackstone Memorial Library
Budget Request (Summary)
July 2025 through June 2026

	Actual 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Requested 2025-2026	Change Amount	Change Percent	Percent of Budget
Operations Income/Expense						
Income						
Total 41000 - Town of Bldg Operating Grant	1,700,340	1,743,500	1,759,500	46,000	2.64%	88.19%
Total 42000 - Program Operations	18,744	17,500	18,000	500	2.88%	0.90%
Total 43000 - Contributions	82,847	84,000	87,000	3,000	4.89%	3.34%
Total 43500 - Development & Fundraising	28,359	29,000	29,500	500	1.72%	1.47%
Total 44000 - Other Grants	54,550	8,000	8,000	0	0.0%	0.40%
Total Income	1,884,840	1,882,000	1,912,000	50,000	2.69%	95.29%
Expense						
Total 60000 - Salaries	986,844	1,046,777	1,071,111	24,334	2.33%	53.38%
Total 60200 - Payroll Taxes	77,099	85,528	83,450	-2,078	-2.6%	4.16%
Total 60300 - Employee Benefits & Insurance	255,345	396,688	413,747	17,059	4.3%	20.62%
Total 61000 - Materials of the Collection	105,832	112,000	112,000	0	0.0%	5.58%
Total 62100 - Utilities	52,788	61,027	65,027	4,000	6.55%	3.24%
Total 62200 - Repairs/Maintenance	85,765	79,000	85,000	6,000	7.6%	4.24%
Total 63100 - Automation/Technology	78,583	77,250	75,250	-2,000	-2.59%	3.75%
Total 63200 - Development/Fundraising	8,944	9,200	8,285	-935	-10.16%	0.41%
Total 63300 - Insurance	38,425	40,000	45,000	5,000	12.5%	2.24%
Total 63500 - Supplies/Postage/Copying	17,256	17,450	17,950	500	2.87%	0.89%
Total 63700 - Professional Fees	11,372	12,000	12,000	0	0.0%	0.60%
Total 63800 - Memberships/Cont.Ed	1,808	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%	0.10%
Total 63900 - Telephone	1,330	1,600	1,500	-100	-6.25%	0.07%
Total 64000 - Other Program Expenses	22,280	9,900	10,200	300	3.03%	0.51%
Total 65500 - Funded Program Expenses	48,387	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%	0.20%
Total Expense	1,796,048	1,954,420	2,006,500	52,080	2.67%	100.00%
Net Operations Income	88,792	-92,420	-94,500	-2,080	2.25%	-4.71%
47010 - Transfer from LIT Investments	0	92,420	94,500	2,080	2.25%	4.71%
Net Income	88,792	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00%

Notes

I am writing to make you aware of some thoughts and conversations that have taken place since the Superintendent and BOE put forth their budget requests:

Capital:

As a reminder I referred to BOE capital in my letter to you outlining the budget highlights and in my letter to the BOF in February.

March 13, 2024, letter on budget highlights

"You will also note the BOE capital request presents a significant cost to the taxpayer under the present pay as you go framework. Therefore, I suspect we will find a suitable alternative which may include a combination of bonding and deferrals."

February 21, 2024, letter on budget strategies

"The Town is working with the BOE and bond counsel to determine how to best supplement the BOE's capital request. The approach will consider what is likely to be completed within the next fiscal year without negatively impacting the ongoing facilities study."

Thoughts for the presentation:

In our conversations with BOE staff we sought to provide preliminary guidance regarding a pay-as-you-go target. Our suggestion was to fund the BOE capital, excluding leases, at \$600,000, which represents an increase over the prior year's pay-as-you go of \$496,000.

If the BOF prefers, the BOE is willing to forgo their presentation of all 26 items and, as an alternative, present a package of items that total \$600,000.

Technology Leases (aka Device Program):

When the BOF votes on their budget resolutions included in those resolutions is an appropriation for the lease fund. This appropriation functions like a bond resolution in that it authorizes the principal amount or present value of the lease payments. The actual lease payments are made from the lease fund with contributions from both the Town and the BOE.

Unfortunately, prices for the devices are expected to exceed the BOE's request of \$676,000 and therefore, I recommend that the BOF consider an authorization of \$800,000 when making their recommendations later this month. On a positive note, the supplemental appropriation approved by the BOF in February in combination with requested funds in the FY 2026 budget will cover the higher lease payments.

Amended Public Input: 2025-26 Superintendent/BOE Budget

- 1- Communications Coordinator/ Webmaster needed on staff.
- 2- Bonuses for non-certified district employees that showed loyalty to BPS.
- 3- Greater investment in the Paraprofessional Contract to make it fairer, more economically competitive, and more functional for both sides.
- 4- Bring in BPD advocated SRO'(s) to the district (assume the district funds at least 50% of this expenditure).
- 5- Major enhancements to school athletics overall. Constructing a more compelling baseball facility, in coordination with the town Recreation Department. Adding a minimum of two new sports (such as girls' gymnastics and boys' volleyball, for example).
- 6- Additional funds, as needed and necessary, to hire and/or promote an exceptional CHRO (Chief Human Resource Officer).
- 7- Additional funds, as needed and necessary, to hire and/or promote a CTO (Chief Technology Officer) or CIO (Chief Information Officer).
- 8- Additional educational offerings to positively differentiate the district, particularly in technology and offerings that can help bridge the gap between academia and college and/or the real world.
- 9- Possible enhancements/ additional training in District Union leadership.
- 10- Possible enhancements/ additional training for the BOE, over and above what it has been doing.
- 11- Reading Interventionist (WIS).
- 12- EL Teacher.
- 13- Special Education Teacher (K).
- 14- A free Full Day Preschool program for all students and families.
- 15- Bridging the "financial gap" that has developed through the years and currently stands at \$2.8M, assuming a 6.8% budget. Therefore, the current trajectory of a 4.6% budget likely puts this number at around \$4.5M.