

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 5:15 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room**

Finance Committee Members Present: J. Allam (Chairman), J. Collamati (Vice-Chairman), K. Keppler, W. Poitras, B. Post, E. Laroche

Finance Committee Members Absent: J. Kuzmeskas

Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

J. Collamati made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. K. Keppler seconded. Approved 6/0.

Public Hearing: Library Director, Bernadette Rivard was present to discuss the Department's request, as follows:

Commercial Carpeting/Floor Cleaner

Ms. Rivard provided information for the request of a commercial floor cleaner. The library doesn't have one and needs to borrow one from the School Department every time one is needed. Having a floor/carpet cleaner at the library will also make it easier for the custodian that routinely cleans floors and carpets.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$3,975 from Free Cash for the purchase of a Commercial Floor/Carpet Cleaner. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Chief Miller from the Fire Department was present to discuss the Department's Capital Request, as follows:

Replace Breathing Air Fill Station:

Chief Miller provided information regarding the request to replace the 2012 Resolve Aire Breathing Air Fill Station that is currently 13 years old and no longer made. This piece of equipment is vital in the department's daily operations and is needed to fill the crew members' self-contained breathing apparatus.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$70,000 from Free Cash for replacement of the Breathing Air Fill Station. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Conservation Agent, Hannah Chace was present to discuss the Conservation Commission's request, as follows:

Sonar ONE Treatment at Silver Lake:

Ms. Chace provided information on the use of chemical sonar that is recommended every three to five years. This process is to help treat nuisance aquatic vegetation that is non-responsive to the annual treatment.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$26,285 from Free Cash for Sonar ONE Treatment at Silver Lake. B. Post seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Lieutenant Daigle from the Police Department was present to discuss the Department's Capital Requests, as follows:

Motorola APX Multi-Band Portable Radios:

Information was provided to members regarding the request for Motorola portable radio replacements. The request is for the purchase of 36 Motorola all-band portable radios, to replace the existing, outdated system, which is no longer maintained by Motorola. In addition, parts are no longer available for the existing system, due to its age. The transition to all-band radios is critical for interoperability with neighboring agencies in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, ensuring communication during mutual-aid operations, regional incidents, and large-scale emergencies.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$288,756 from Free Cash for the replacement of 36 Portable Radio units. W. Poitras seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Building Commissioner, Tim Aicardi was present to discuss various Department's request information, as follows:

Municipal Center Roof Replacement:

The current roof at the Municipal Center is 22 years old and has been repaired and/or patched in several places with multiple leaks. Due to the age of the roof, shingles continue to blow off with every windstorm, which is causing more water damage.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$49,800 from Free Cash for the Roof Replacement at 10 Mechanic Street. W. Poitras seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Coupler Repair:

The current coupler structure on top of the Municipal Center Building needs repair. This project will include repairing any boards/plywood that it may need, in addition to ice & water barrier, and drip edge installation.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$16,200 from Free Cash for the Coupler Repair at 10 Mechanic Street. W. Poitras seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Council on Aging:

Mr. Aicardi provided information regarding the Council on Aging Building that requires repairs to the siding, and replacement of several window sashes, as needed. The building is 24 years old and is currently in need of these repairs.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$16,000 from Free Cash for the Council on Aging Siding and Repairs. W. Poitras seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: DPW Director, Jesse Riedle was present to discuss the Department's Capital Requests, as follows:

215 Depot Street Backup Generators:

This item was put on hold until the next Finance Committee Meeting, to have the bid price amounts provided for review.

Vegetation Management Plan:

Municipalities that apply herbicides to their rights-of-way are required to be under 333 CMR 11.00. This is to provide a vegetation management program that effectively manages troublesome vegetation along Municipal Rights-of-Way, while protecting human health and the natural environment.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$27,500 from Free Cash for the Vegetation Management Plan. W. Poitras seconded. 4 Members opposed. Not recommended by the Finance Committee.

Playground Repairs:

Information was provided of some various repairs needed at multiple playground areas in Town. Some of the repairs will be done by the Parks Department, as well as some needing to be done by a third-party.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$25, 000 from Free Cash for the Playground Repairs needed at multiple locations. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 6/0.

North Main Street Sewer Station:

Information was provided regarding the need for replacement of sewer grinders for the North Main Street Sewer Station. The replacement price includes materials and labor.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$77,640 from Retained Earnings for the North Main Street Sewer Station Sewer Grinders request. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Trash – Compliance Engineering Services:

(Phase 1 of 2) – Recycle Center Location - Information was provided for Engineering associated with repairing erosion of the mid-slope berm, which is just upstream of the riprap down chute. This would also include the toe-of-slope riprap that is covered with rubble material.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$51,700 from Free Cash for the Recycle Center Compliance Engineering Services request. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Well #10 Access Road:

Pricing was provided to members regarding the construction cost associated with the creation of an access road for the new Well #10. This project would consist of roadway clearing and placement of crushed stone to gain access to the Well.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$300,000 from Retained Earnings for the Well #10 Access Road. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Bellingham School Superintendent, Peter Marano and Director of Maintenance, Doug Houston were present to discuss the Department's Capital Requests, as follows:

Equipment Trailer:

The School Department needs a new trailer and has provided information to members regarding the quote received. This request is for a Mentzer Custom Trailer that is a 102" X 18' Deck Over Equipment Trailer.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$7,600 from Free Cash for the purchase of a new custom trailer. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Various HVAC Upgrades:

Information was provided for various HVAC Upgrades and replacements that are needed. The Middle School needs a hot water control valve replacement. In addition, Stall Brook Elementary School needs to have the boiler repaired.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$100,000 from Free Cash for Various HVAC Upgrades. W. Poitras seconded. Recommended 6/0.

District Feasibility Study:

Information was provided to members regarding the need for a District Feasibility Study to be done for buildings and facilities. The study is a comprehensive assessment to determine the practicality and potential success of proposed projects. The study would provide information of some various areas of the School District.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$130,000 from Free Cash for the District Feasibility Study. W. Poitras seconded. Recommended 6/0.

DiPietro Elementary Entry Hallways:

A quote for repairing the entry hallways at DiPietro School was provided to members for review. The quote includes skimming, priming, and installing Kinetics on all areas where the tile exists in the entry hallways. Pricing also includes the removal of existing tile on the wall and entrance floor.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$44,876 from Free Cash for the repair of the DiPietro School Entry Hallways. E. Laroche seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Town Administrator, Joseph Laydon, and CFO, Heidi Chuckran were present to discuss Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Additional information for the current Warrant Articles will be provided for review and recommendations at the next Finance Committee meeting.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 5:15 pm

J. Collamati made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 pm. K. Keppler seconded. Approved 6/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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