

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 30, 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

Finance Committee Members Absent: J. Kuzmeskas, E. Laroche

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

J. Collamati made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. K. Keppler seconded. Approved 5/0.

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

215 Depot Street Backup Generator:

Phase 2 of the Backup Generator request is to furnish and install a backup generator and necessary devices at the DPW location at 215 Depot Street. The previous Phase included a comprehensive analysis for generator recommendations. Due to funding, the request has been revised to include 1 of the 2 generators designed for the entire complex. The proposed generator is critical for operations during power outages.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$165,745, with 25% being taken from each account as listed: Free Cash, Water, Sewer, and Stormwater, for the 215 Depot Street Backup Generator request. B. Post seconded. Recommended 4/0 with 1 Abstained member.

Vegetation Management Plan – Additional Information Provided Since Last Week's Finance Committee Meeting:

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.

W. Poitras made a motion to recommend \$27,500 from Free Cash for the Vegetation Management Plan. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Town Administrator, Joseph Laydon, and CFO, Heidi Chuckran, were present to discuss Town Meeting Warrant Articles, as follows:

Article 1 – Amend Annual Town Meeting Article 1 – Operating Expenses and Salaries

This item will be "passed over" at Town Meeting

Article 2 – Amend Annual Town Meeting Article 2 – Trash Enterprise

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

Article 3 – Amend Annual Town Meeting Article 3 – Water Enterprise

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

Article 4 – Amend Annual Town Meeting Article 4 – Sewer Enterprise

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

Article 5 – Amend Annual Town Meeting Article 5 – Stormwater Enterprise

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

Article 8 – Amend Annual Town Meeting Article 15 Capital Outlay for the PFAS/TTHM Design/Engineering for Hartford Avenue Treatment Plant

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 8 of the Town Warrant. B. Post seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 9 – Transfer to Group Insurance Trust Fund

Following a brief explanation of Article 9, J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$1,000,000 from Free Cash to the Group Insurance Trust Fund. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 10 – Transfer to Capital Investment Trust Fund

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

Article 11 – Transfer to Compensated Absences Trust Fund

Following a brief explanation of Article 11, K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$75,000 from Free Cash to the Compensated Absences Trust Fund. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 12 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

Article 13 – Unpaid Bills

This item will be “passed over” at Town Meeting

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 6:45 pm

B. Post made a motion to adjourn at 6:20 pm. W. Poitras seconded. Approved 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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