



TOWN OF MENDON

Finance Committee

fincomm@mendonma.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Michael Krager, Chairman
Nicholas Ciantra, Vice Chairman
Billy Haddad, Clerk
Mike Ammendolia
Jesse Curll
John Hodgens
Ron Zammuto

Meeting Date: Monday, March 03, 2025
Time Called to Order: 6:31 PM
Time Adjourned: 8:58 PM
Location: Town Hall - Main Meeting Room
Meeting Chair: Michael Krager
Recorder: Billy Haddad

Member:	Present ¹	Remote ²	Member	Present	Remote
Michael Krager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Hodgens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nicholas Ciantra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jesse Curll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Ammendolia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Billy Haddad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ron Zammuto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Topic Name	Finance Committee Attended the Select Board Meeting
Summary:	<p><u>Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Overview:</u></p> <p>Jeremy provided a high-level overview of the fiscal year 2026 budget, explaining the framework within which the town's financials are structured. He described the revenue picture, indicating that the fiscal 2026 Levy is approximately \$19.8 million with a proposition two and a half increase cap of almost \$500,000. The department heads have been asked to create what is termed a 'maximalist' budget, which includes both a level service budget and additional requested items.</p> <p>Jeremy also provided a detailed breakdown of anticipated revenues and expenditures, highlighting a gap between the budget request of \$25.2 million and the expected revenue of \$24.2 million. Areas where deficiencies were noted included state aid, which remains static, and local receipts, which will need to be reassessed for realistic figures. He mentioned that the town spent heavily on salt in fiscal 2025 due to adverse weather conditions, which also affected the budget.</p> <p><u>Planning Department Budget Discussion:</u></p> <p>Planning officials, including Assistant Town Planner Dylan, presented the budgetary requests for their department. They proposed funding for a full-time planner within a changing municipal framework, which would replace the current Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) wherein Dylan works part-time for three towns. They described the shift from part-time to full-time status and the corresponding</p>

¹ If "Present" contains an "x" that person was physically present.

² If "Remote" contains an "x" that person participated remotely according to 940 CMR 29.10(5) as approved by the Meeting Chair.

	<p>budget necessary, with specific costs calculated for salaries and benefits. Dylan explained that this transition could provide more comprehensive and consistent planning services, specifically noting the need for continual assistance on zoning and land-use projects.</p> <p><u>Human Resources Budget</u></p> <p>The Human Resources department budget was presented by Jen O'Neill, who discussed various initiatives focused on employee training and morale. Significant aspects included proposed increases for recruitment and retention, and a stronger emphasis on employee engagement. There was a detailed discussion regarding employee benefits including health care costs. Jen pointed out ongoing training efforts and emphasized the desire to enhance the workplace culture through more activities and educational opportunities. This department also intends to enhance financial literacy among staff regarding retirement plans.</p> <p><u>Fire Department Budget</u></p> <p>The Fire Chief presented the budget for the fire department, stressing the necessity for additional staffing to meet national firefighting standards. Currently, the department runs on a minimal staffing model which strains their operations and prevents them from responding effectively to emergencies.</p> <p>The Chief emphasized that the department is currently understaffed with the need for four additional full-time employees to improve response capabilities and lessen overtime strains on current staff. During the discussion, many concerns about service delivery, mutual aid dynamics, equipment costs, and overall departmental structure were voiced by committee members. The discussions ran deep into operational benefits and the implications of proposed staffing changes.</p>
Decisions Made:	None
Actions to be Taken:	Attend future budget presentations
Related Documents:	03.03.25 Budget Document for Select Board Five Year Land Use Program 2025