



Budget Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 13, 2025, 7:00 PM

Open the Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Mike Cutting opened the Budget Committee meeting.

Budget Committee Members Present: Michael Cutting (Chair), Ray Martin, Rick Bixby and Bill Hanson arrived at 7:14 PM. Kelly Lombardi, Robert Blake and James Sherman were absent.

Select Board: Alfred Hanson and Harry Seidel.

Approval of Minutes • November 6, 2025 Tabled

Presentation of 2026 Budgets

Elections budget presented by Michael Brown. He explained that there will be four elections in 2026. Last year budget was \$5,997 and the proposed budget is \$9,673. There was a brief discussion on the election software implemented in 2025. There was a discussion regarding the efficiencies that the software brought. Harry Seidel stated he is disappointed that there is not a reduction in wages with the efficiencies from the software. Alfred Hanson noted that one election cost \$5,200 and four elections will cost \$9,700. There was a discussion regarding the special town meeting coming up. Michele Courser stated the special town meeting is not included in the budget. Mike Cutting questioned where the funding will come for the special town meeting. Bill Hanson stated that the Select Board should cover the cost. Harry Seidel asked if there is anywhere in the Elections budget that can be cut. Michele Courser stated that there is nowhere to cut.

Conservation Commission budget presented by Nancy Martin.

Last year budget was \$951 and only \$250 was spent. The proposed budget is \$753. Bill Hanson asked if any of the Land Use Change Tax monies received would be returned to the Town. Nancy Martin stated that it would not be legal. Alfred Hanson explained that would require a warrant article. Bill Hanson asked if Nancy Martin would be opposed to that. Nancy Martin explained that she would be opposed to that. Bill Hanson asked how the Land Use Change Tax is used. Nancy Martin explained that they are working on three conservation projects. She stated that the fund balance is \$130,000. Bill Hanson stated that he supports conservation efforts but he would like to know what the appetite of the Town is given the increase in property values. Nancy Martin spoke about the four family farms in Warner and the enhancement of agricultural businesses in town. She explained that it more than just protecting land, it is also using the land in a sustainable way that is good for everyone.

Health and Welfare budget presented by Elizabeth Labbe.

2025 budget was \$45,180, and the proposed budget is \$52,404. Elizabeth Labbe explained that currently the Town is contracting with Carol Conforti-Adams.

Wages: 10 hours or less per week at \$25.00 per hour. \$12,000

Telephone: \$1.

Computers: \$1

There was a discussion regarding the need for the town to find a trained individual to take over the welfare responsibilities. Elizabeth Labbe spoke about the interested candidates.

1 Software: \$1

2 Membership: reduced to \$300

3 Mileage: no change at \$100

4 Direct Assistance: \$40,000

5 There was a discussion regarding the challenges related to welfare issues. Elizabeth Labbe stated
6 that there is a shortage in fuel, food and housing.

7
8 **Building Inspector budget** presented by Elizabeth Labbe

9 2025 budget \$\$26,510 and the proposed budget is \$30,600 an increase of 15.4%. Bill Hanson
10 stated that some of the increase will be offset by building permit revenue.

11 Supplies/Postage: increased to \$1,500

12 Wages: \$7,500 (\$5,500 building inspector and \$2,000 compliance officer)

13 Mileage: \$2,400 (\$2,000 building inspector and \$400 compliance officer)

14
15 **Town Hall building**

16 Custodian wages decreased to \$2,000

17 Electricity: decreased to \$4,000

18 Heating fue: \$6,500

19 Water/Sewer: decreased to \$1,000

20 Fire Alarm: decreased to \$1,000

21 Supplies: decreased to \$800

22 Maintenance/Repairs: no change \$6,000

23 Mileage: \$100

24 Propane: no change \$910

25 Equipment Inspections: no change \$3,000

26
27 **Warner Community Center**

28 Electricity: \$6,100

29 Heating fuel: decreased to \$8,000

30 Water/Sewer: \$900

31 Sprinkler/Fire Alarms: \$700

32 Supplies: \$1

33 Maintenance/Repairs: decreased to \$12,000

34 Propane: \$1

35
36 **Old Fire Station**

37 Heating fuel: \$1,200

38 Maintenance: \$200

39
40 **Next meeting:**

41 November 20, 2025 Finance department, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessing, Parks and Rec
42 and Library

43 **Ray Marting made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to adjourn the Budget Committee**
44 **meeting. Motion passed**

45
46 The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM

47
48 Respectfully submitted by Tracy Doherty