

MEETING MINUTES

EAST LONGMEADOW FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Date: April 9, 2025

Time and Place: 4pm COA
Media Room

Meeting called to order by: Jim Broderick, Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

FOC: Jim Broderick, Dawn Starks, Kathleen Hill, Rich Freccero, Anna Jones, Connor O'Shea-Town Council President ex officio Tom Christensen- Town Manager Kim Collins- Finance Director

The FOC meeting was called to order, followed by the Town Council meeting. Councilors Ralph Page, Marilyn Richards, Anna Jones, and Connor O'Shea were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The FOC minutes of April 2, 2025, unanimously approved.

CALENDAR

Reminder that May 5, 2025, is the wrap- up date for budget recommendations.

REVIEW OF BUDGET PAGES 13-17 FY26

A review of Town side department budgets was conducted. The following explanations were provided by Tom and Kim to queries from the committee.

TOWN COUNCIL- no questions

TOWN MANAGER- no questions

RESERVE FUND TRANSFER- the 35k classification study is for non- union positions, using similar towns to us.

ACCOUNTING-5% increase due to COLA and STEP increases. PT reduction reflects reality.

ASSESSORS- GIS moved to IT. Revaluation reduction due to timing and contract.

TREAS/COLL-Salaries are down due to people, not positions.

LEGAL SERVICES- No questions

HR- No Questions

IT- reduced costs with use of Zoom phones.

TC/CLERK- Split budget with Treas/Coll dept for the vault.

ELECTIONS- No questions

PLANNING/ZONING- moved Building position to Planning.

POLICE- Retirement bonus moved to Compensated Absence Reserve.

FIRE- 18k reduction due to past over budgeting. Clarification the OT in budget is a Town expense, not the contracted expenses from utility companies, etc.

Building Dept-No questions

DISPATCH- this is the first year of full cost impact.

HIGHWAY- 20k cost reductions for vehicle upkeep due to maintenance program and newer vehicles. Uniforms (T Shirts)are now contractually funded.

BUILDING FAC- 29k contract service reduction due to over budgeting.

SNOW AND ICE – No questions

UTILITIES-No Questions

TRASH COLLECTION-No questions

WASTE COLLECTION: 20k reduction reflects reality.

REC. Dept- 6% salary increase is contractual obligation

VETERAN'S SERV, PUBLIC LIBRARY, CELEBRATIONS, PVPC, INTEREST/LONG AND SHORT TERM- No questions

WORKER'S COMP/LIABILITY- Looks like 8% increase

HEALTH INSURANCE- Subsidized by Scantic Valley. Currently

50/50 retirees, 70/30 employees. Discussion that the split may need to change in the future, as is unsustainable.

TOWN MANAGER ANSWERS/EXPLANATIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

IT- Part time salary specifics

FIRE- Clarify Stipends

COA- Salary Increases

WORKER'S COMP/LIABILITY- Verify increase (8% estimate)

TIMELINES AND MEETING AGENDAS

SCHOOL SIDE BUDGET- Jim to ask Superintendent if 4/23 works for a meeting.

NEXT MEETING- April 16th.

Review and vote town side budget, discuss School budget with review of questions, Review Sources and Uses, Retirements and Insurance

Both Meetings voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn W. Starks, FOC