

Meeting minutes

East Longmeadow Financial Oversight Committee

April 16, 2025

Meeting called to order by Jim Broderick - Chair

Attendance

FOC: Jim Broderick - Chair, Dawn Starks – Vice Chair, Richard Freccero, Kathy Hill, Anna Jones, Connor O’Shea – ex officio, Tom Christensen – Town Manager, Kim Collins – Finance Director

Town Council: Kathy Hill, Anna Jones, Connor O’Shea, Ralph Paige, Marilyn Richards

Approval of minutes

FOC minutes of April 9, 2025 unanimously approved

Calendar

Reminder meeting with school department is Thursday, April 24 at 4 o'clock

Review Town budget questions

IT part time

Three temporary positions with one intern being added

Fire stipends

Holiday pay [corrected line item]

COA salary increase

One employee salary was readjusted

Work comp/liability

Still looking for numbers, figuring 8% estimate

Motion to approve Town Manager 's budget on the town side as noted in April 9,2025 minutes

Voted unanimously

Capital plan project

No borrowing from General fund

Allen Street landfill

DEP expected closure within five years

Cost will definitely increase

Permit process is cumbersome

Question on use of the 7 to 8 acres

Ambulance account must be secured in May

Detective bureau car

Usage?

Town Manager will follow up with Police Chief on inventory

Cost of vehicles includes increase in quote

Water rate evaluation study

Industry standard, tiered rate

Rates equitable by usage

Low use user means lower rates

Motion to improve the capital plan projects of \$1,532,956 understanding movement may occur between the ambulance fund and Alan Street

Voted unanimously

Enterprise funds

Water fund

DPW, based on payments

20% target in retainer to use for funding

Sewer fund

Maintain funds without raising cost

Weather can throw off usage

Stormwater fund

New account

Returned earnings

47% increase as rates were not high enough due to Covid

A burden on citizens such as \$15 per parcel

Discussion ensued

Ambulance fund

Will not reach budget figure of 2,050,000

Our community residents mostly Medicare funds 70% charge

Discussion ensued

Financial Oversight Committee questions to East Longmeadow Public Schools

Joint Special Town Council/FOC Meeting-April 24, 2025 at 4:00pm
Council on Aging Media Room

1. Explain why there are multiple line items for teacher salaries in each school building's budget
2. Provide, as previously, a printout which includes grant, current funding, and revolving funds so we could see the full financial picture, including a three year look back
3. Provide the number of students for the last four years, this year, and projected for FY 26
4. Provide the number of full-time FTE for the last four years, this year, and projected for FY 26
5. Explain the major reduction in supplies and materials and the impact
6. Explain the dynamics causing the 58% (\$254K) increase in district wide tuition and the 39% (\$673K) increase in special education tuition for a total 43% (\$927K) increase in tuition
7. Review increase in excess of required net school spending by the town and how we compare to other towns and cities
8. Provide an organizational chart by building, including administration, teachers, clerical, guidance, and support staff.
9. Provide the number of school choice students and currently how many have special education needs
10. Detail the number of positions notified 4/15 as being lost and the impact
11. Speculate your plan for FY 27