

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2025**

1. Call to Order

Michael Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Members Present

In attendance were Michael Parker, Joe Tolisano, Kathy Devlin, Bruce Devlin, Bill Salka, and Paul Hart. Also, in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Sam Galloway, CFO Brian Wissinger, and First Selectman Tim Keeney.

3. Board of Education Update

Dr. Galloway announced that Somers Elementary School has been chosen as elementary school of the year. Dr. Galloway informed the Board that the Board of Education had approved the FY2026 budget with a 5.68% increase over the current year. Dr. Galloway also updated the Board on the HVAC project, and it is anticipated that a contractor will begin work in mid-April, removing ceiling tiles and prepping the area for major summer construction.

4. Board of Selectmen Update

Tim Keeney informed the Board that Ellington had signed the Intercept Agreement with the Town of Somers and that it will take effect on July 1, 2025. Roughly \$25,000 in revenues are projected from the agreement. Keeney informed the Board that the agreement with Stafford for building official services has been cancelled and that Michael Anthony will be appointed as the building official later in the week. Keeney also updated the Board on the status of the Charter Revision Committee and the work completed to date.

5. CFO/Finance Department Update

Brian Wissinger updated the Board on the status of the FY2025 budget. Wissinger also updated the Board on the status of HB-7067. The bill passed the House on Monday, February 24 and is in the Senate for approval. This bill adjusts the steep decreases in motor vehicle assessments and clarifies terminology within the veteran's property tax exemptions.

6. CIP Update

Joe Tolisano updated the Board on the status of the capital budget and the plan to finalize the budget by their March meeting.

7. FY2026 Budget Update

Brian Wissinger gave the Board a 3-page packet laying out 3 different scenarios the Board could take to close the budgetary gap. A lengthy discussion of the 3 scenarios followed.

8. Vote to Set Budget Public Hearing Date for April 22, 2025

Joe Tolisano made a motion to set the budget public hearing date for April 22, 2025, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall Auditorium, seconded by Paul Hart. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.

9. Appropriations and Transfers

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$11,000 from the Capital Equipment Fund to cover the cost of replacement of the boiler at Piedmont Hall, seconded by Bill Salka. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.

10. Other Business

Brian Wissinger recommended that the Board set a special meeting date of March 11, 2025, to receive formal presentations of the both the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen's budgets.

Joe Tolisano made a motion to set a special meeting of the Board of Finance for March 11, 2025, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall Auditorium, seconded by Kathy Devlin. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.

11. Approval of Minutes

a. 1/28/25 Regular BOF Minutes

Paul Hart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Joe Tolisano. There was no further discussion, and a unanimous decision followed.

12. Adjournment

Joe Tolisano made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm, seconded by Bruce Devlin. There was no further discussion, and a unanimous decision followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Wissinger

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FIU4XoiAQ0>