

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**  
**Board of Finance**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2025  
Municipal Office Building – Room 1 & 2  
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

Participating:

Board of Finance Members:

William Barney  
Joseph Corbett  
Todd Gelston  
Maureen Goff  
Eric Kolasinski  
Harvey Thomas

Others:

Valerie Belles, Finance Director  
Irene Haines, First Selectwoman  
And other members of the public

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Gelston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the pledge of allegiance. He reviewed the meeting's agenda.

**GUESTS & AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Gelston opened the meeting to comments from guests and audience.

**Laurel White** – expressed her concern about the divisive tone during the budget season and stated that she feels students are learning that education is not important. She discussed the need to develop a bigger tax base and encouraged citizens to get involved in the Town's economic development efforts. She also encouraged the Town to put out more referendum notification road signs.

**Carianne Rand** – voiced her opposition to additional reductions to the BOE budget. She stated that she is unhappy about the elimination of several teachers' positions and urged the BOF to reconsider cuts to the BOE FY2025-2026 budget.

**Keira H. Thompson** – stated that the comment that the Shared Services budget is mostly BOE expenses is a misrepresentation of the facts. She encouraged the BOF to support the BOE budget and stated that seniors, veterans, and the disabled have access to programs that can reduce their property taxes.

**Denise DiStefano** – expressed her frustration that the public’s second opportunity to speak at the BOF meetings had been eliminated. She questioned the explanation that the 2.7% overall increase in the Town’s budget was primarily due to increases in the cost of electricity and the Police and Firefighters’ salary increases. She asked that the BOE budget be restored to its original request and stated that she does not think the Town has been a good financial steward. Ms. DiStefano also expressed her concern that the public does not receive answers to their questions at Town meetings. She questioned several Town expenditures and stated that good education should always be the Town’s first priority.

**Jackie Endorf** – provided statistics on the Town’s residents by age group as well as income and enrollment data. She strongly encouraged the BOF not to make any more cuts to the BOE budget.

**Andrea Webster** – stated she has two children in the school system and she is “losing hope” for the schools. She stated that property taxes are part of home ownership. She encouraged the Town to increase its tax revenue and noted that East Haddam is in need of more affordable housing. She encouraged citizens and Board members to contact their legislators and tell them not to cut any educational assistance programs. She asked the BOF to reconsider its request for additional cuts to the BOE budget.

**Chris Leidermer** – distributed informational materials and stated that he is a Career Captain on the East Haddam Fire Department. He said that he was here tonight to advocate in favor of keeping the pay raises in the Fire Department’s FY2025-2026 budget. He said that the EHF’s current pay rate for firefighter/EMT positions is 26% below the state median and noted the difficulty the Department has recruiting and retaining qualified individuals. Capt. Leidermer stated that, even though the pay rate in the proposed FY25-26 budget is still below the state’s median rate, it makes the Town competitive with surrounding comparable fire departments.

**Terri Garrity** – provided the Board with copies of her statement and one from Mr. Francese. She advised that she and Mr. Francese are Board of Education members and listed several “foundational” teaching positions that will be open due to attrition which may go unfilled next year and reviewed the impact of lack of staffing. She noted that if the proposed cuts to the BOE budget go through they may have to eliminate plans for a Middle School track team and families may have to pay for field trips. She stated that she does not feel that the referendum failing by nine votes constitutes a mandate to reduce the budget.

**Denise Dalton** – stated that her family moved to East Haddam 11 years ago because of the great school system. She said that cutting positions at the schools is “unacceptable” and not in the best interest of the students. She reviewed several bad outcomes that could result from cutting staff and stated that she would like to see vital services remain available to students.

**Marybeth Mordecai** – thanked the BOF for its hard work. She expressed disappointment with the voter turnout at the budget referendum and stated that she does not feel it was a big enough sample to determine what East Haddam citizens want. She also noted that she felt only a low number of people participated in the exit poll and expressed concern about the results of the next budget referendum. She stated that cutting another \$200k from the BOE budget would not be popular and said she would vote “No” if that happens.

**Rosemarie Evans** – expressed her support for the BOE and her concern that the BOF is not listening to the public. She stated that she hopes they will review the information about the teachers, including their low rate of pay. She said that she does not believe the failed referendum indicates taxpayers desire to cut the BOE or Town budgets. Ms. Evens reviewed a list of extra-curricular experiences and field trips that will be eliminated if the BOE must make further cuts.

**Trish Hagerty** – read a letter from Meg Lettieri, a reading specialist and co-worker at the Elementary School. Ms. Lettieri provided background information on her career and noted that one of the reading specialist positions at the school may not be filled next year. She reviewed the need for the position for at-risk students and the long-term impact of not having it. Ms. Lettieri urged the BOF to reconsider any additional cuts to the BOE budget.

Ms. Hagerty provided background information on herself and stated that her position as a world language teacher at the Elementary School is being cut but stated she wants to advocate for the students, the community, and its shared values. She stated that she has been disappointed with the disparaging comments she has heard about students, teachers, and the public who spoke at the public meeting in May.

Ms. Hagerty encouraged the public to get involved and made several suggestions about how they could do that, including getting out the vote. She reviewed several staff positions and programs that may be eliminated and discussed the potential impacts on education.

**Amalia Shaltiel** – advised that she is a retired artist-educator who moved to East Haddam from PA and stated she is on a fixed income. She stated that she feels educational funding is more important than services for seniors and noted that funding schools serves everyone. She stated that she believes the BOF should challenge the information they receive more and should join with other CT municipal BOFs and demand policy changes at the state level. She also requested the BOF provided a Public Comment session after they make their FY2025-2026 budget proposal.

**Ken Tosi** – noted the small statistical sampling of taxpayers that voted at the budget referendum and questioned why more voters didn't turn out. He expressed concern that there are a large number of citizens that "just don't care". He encouraged the BOF to "do the right thing".

Mr. Gelston and Ms. Goff read the following emails:

- **Justin Kennedy** - encouraged the BOE to keep the Middle School track team in its budget.
- **Jennifer Esty** – expressed her concern about the BOD budget cuts over the past two years and stated she would like to see that funding restored. She suggested putting road signs about the referendum at the Transfer Station.
- **Desiree Tavera** – reviewed her discussion with BOF members at the referendum exit poll and stated that they had informed her that nothing had been decided about the budgets yet. She stated that she had recently learned that there had been conversations about cutting the BOE budget if the referendum failed and stated she feels the BOF mis-represented their intentions.

- **Sarah Anderson** – expressed concern that the East Haddam track club and Middle School track team may be eliminated. She stated that students need to be given every opportunity to get outside and move.
- **Christine VanValkenburg**– suggested the BOF resubmit the same budget that failed the first referendum. She wrote that she feels further cuts would be a dis-service to the community. She encouraged the Town to do more to get its citizens out to vote.
- **Alicia Brickett** – stated she did not want further cuts made to the BOE budget and encouraged full funding of its budget.
- **Joy McNeil** – wrote that she has been living in East Haddam for 50 years and does not want to see the BOE budget cut.
- **Linda Wagner** – advised that she had completed an exit poll at the budget referendum. She called attention to the “We are proud of our schools” statement on the Welcome to East Haddam signs. She stated that she is aware of the challenges in creating municipal budgets and discussed her volunteer work with the Elementary School reading program. She urged the BOE not to cut a reading specialist position.
- **Donald Hinton** – wrote that he does not want any cuts made to the BOE budget.
- **Amber McDonnell** – stated that she does not want any further cuts to the BOE budget, especially to the reading specialist and special education positions.
- **Shannon Hammond** – expressed her concern about the BOE budget cuts, specifically the world language position. She wrote that she does not want to see any further cuts to the BOE budget.
- **Victoria Ebright** – stated that she moved to Town, in part, because of the school system and is concerned about the cuts to the BOE’s budget. She stated that the Town should not prioritize one group over another.
- **Kelsey Caulfield** – said she moved to East Haddam for a better school system four years ago and expressed her concern about cuts to teachers and other staff positions. She encouraged the BOF to cut the Town budget rather than the BOE’s. She stated she will vote “No” if there are any additional cuts to the BOE’s budget.
- **Denise Gable** – asked the BOF to keep the Town’s and BOE’s budgets “as is”. She wrote that she feels the referendum failed due to complacency and stated that she believes it is everyone’s responsibility to widely publicize the next budget referendum.
- **Laura Cuscina** – said she is disappointed about the cuts to the BOE’s budget and does not want any more reductions. She said that she feels that even though the Elementary School is short staffed, it does an amazing job. She stated that she is particularly concerned about losing the world language, math summer courses, and athletic programs. She asked the BOF to reconsider the cuts that were made previously.

- **Kelly Chapman** – expressed her concern about the potential loss of a guidance counselor at the High school. She thanked the BOF for all they do to shape and protect the community.
- **Joshua Strecker** – thanked the BOF for their work. He expressed his concern about potential staff cuts if additional BOE budget reductions are required. He stated he is also concerned about additional cuts to the Town’s budget. He stated he feels the narrow failure of the referendum was due to poor turnout.
- **Scott McKnight** – wrote about his support for the Middle School track team. Ms. Goff stated that she asked Mr. McKnight about the annual cost of the team and he had projected it to be approximately \$9,688.00/yr.
- **Ashley Raithel** thanked the BOF for their work and wrote that she does not want to see any further cuts to the BOE budget.
- **Jennifer Boggiatto** – wrote that cuts to the BOE budget are detrimental to the students and unfair.
- **Caryn DeLisa** – expressed her concern and opposition to the BOE budget cuts. She stated that they risk the quality of education and students’ wellbeing.
- **Karin Blaschik** – stated that she is concerned about the proposed cuts to the BOE budget. She said that she does not believe student programs should be cut.
- **Jim Francese** – wrote that he believes cuts to the BOE budget would be a bad decision and he will vote “No” if there are any additional cuts.

Mr. Thomas reiterated that the BOF’s instructions to the Town and the BOE were to identify what would need to be cut to trim their budgets by \$100k and \$200k respectively; it was not an instruction to actually cut those amounts.

Mr. Gelston called for a 10-minute recess in the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:04 p.m.

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

- a. **EHAA Presentation and Funding Request** – Mr. Tosi reviewed the East Haddam Ambulance Association’s presentation and funding request. He summarized the presentation he made to the Board of Selectmen on May 21<sup>st</sup> including operational statistics and financial data. He noted that the BOS had discussed establishing a special line item for the EHAA rather than subsidizing the non-profit out of the Contingency fund.

Mr. Tosi briefly discussed the difficulty EHAA has had hiring and retaining EMTs and the Association’s expectations that revenues may continue to decrease if the call volumes continue to fall. He provided an overview of how they got to the funding request for FY2024-2025 and advised that the BOS had approved their request for \$70,897.00 to cover the shortfall.

Mr. Tosi stated that the EHAA is being conservative in preparing its FY2025-2026 budget and reviewed several risks that could impact future budgets. In response to questions from Ms. Goff, Mr. Tosi discussed the impact of lower call volumes on expenses.

**Motion made by Mr. Barney to approve funding for the East Haddam Ambulance Association from the FY2024-2025 Board of Finance Contingency account (#10541020-58911) in the amount of \$70,897.00 and request that the Board of Selectman schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Kolasinski seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Motion carried.**

b. Board Subcommittee Reports

- Communications – Mr. Gelston reported that he and Mr. Barney are updating the Citizens’ Guide and will be posting roadside signs reminding voters about the budget referendum. He also advised that the editor of the East Haddam News will be scheduling an interview with him to discuss the Board of Finance, the Town’s finances, and the budget referendums.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Goff, Ms. Haines confirmed that, the day before the budget referendum, the Town will send out an Everbridge phone notification reminding citizens to get out and vote.

- Long-Range Capital Improvements Committee – Mr. Thomas reported that, over the summer, the group will work on streamlining and simplifying the capital projects ranking process.
- Financial Policies – Mr. Thomas reported that the team will work on the following two policies this summer: (1) Application for BOF Approval to Apply for Grants (i.e. to include a waiver of the need for BOF’s approval for small grants that do not require any matching or on-going expenditures for the Town), and (2) investigate how to gather data which can be used to forecast budgetary needs so that the BOF can comply with its obligation to provide a financial outlook in anticipation of the annual budget season.

**2025-2026 BUDGET**

- c. Discussion of Town and Board of Education Budgets – Mr. Thomas stated he would like to invite the Superintendent and BOE Chairperson into the meeting.

**Motion made by Mr. Kolasinski to invite Superintendent DeBrito and Board of Education Chairwoman Stricker into the meeting. Mr. Barney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Motion carried.**

Mr. Kolasinski reiterated the need for the Town to develop more revenue. In response to several public comments, he also stated that he did not feel it was appropriate to combine the exit poll results indicating the budgets were “Acceptable” into either the “Too High” or “Too Low” counts. Mr. Kolasinski encouraged everyone to keep an open mind regarding the next steps for the FY2025-2026 budget.

Ms. Goff agreed with Mr. Kolasinski's comments and Mr. Gelston noted that the issue of increasing Town revenues won't be fixed for awhile so the Town needs to do the best it can with what it has.

Ms. Stricker reviewed the BOE budget presentation which included a list of staff positions that are at risk of not being filled for the next school year. She reviewed academic and athletic programs that potentially could be eliminated next year and extra-curricular activities, such as field trips, that could become self-pay for student families. She discussed the risks of the potential cuts and the impacts on the quality and equity of education in Town.

Ms. Stricker reviewed the first wave of cuts the BOE made and emphasized that a final decision regarding vacant positions cannot be completed until a successful budget referendum is completed. She reviewed the BOE capital projects that are on hold and stated that the maintenance of school buildings and playgrounds is the responsibility of the Town since they are the Town's property.

Ms. Stricker noted the poor turnout at the budget referendum and the narrow margin the budget failed by. She expressed concern for the apparent civic disengagement. She reviewed the statistics of the exit poll and commented on the overall Operating Budget and the cost to taxpayers. She addressed the lack of flexibility the BOE has with state mandates and provided some background on the creation of the Shared Services budget.

Ms. Stricker concluded her comments noting the impacts of the initial \$500k reductions the BOE made to its FY2025-2026 budget and stated that it cannot absorb further cuts without significantly harming the integrity of the Town's educational system. She emphasized their budget is not inflated; it is responsive. She stated that it reflects legal mandates, increasing student needs, and the community's expectations for a safe, inclusive, high quality educational program. Ms. Stricker stated that she feels the exit poll does not justify another reduction in the BOE budget.

In response to a question from Ms. Goff requesting clarification on staffing reductions as it would relate to the list of positions in Ms. Stricker's presentation, Ms. Stricker stated that, to achieve a \$200k cut, she would expect not to fill approximately two of the listed positions, along with other budget reductions; however, she could not provide information on which those positions would be at this time. She stated that there are many factors that must be considered in making the decisions, including contractual obligations.

In response to Mr. Kolasinski's suggestion about asking for union concessions, Ms. Stricker and Superintendent DeBrito stated that would not be possible.

Mr. Gelston thanked Ms. Stricker for her prestation. In response to questions he raised about the Shared Services budget, Finance Director Belles advised that only one position in the budget is exclusively assigned to the BOE; all others split their time between Town and BOE tasks. She also confirmed that the Shared Services budget in under the Town's management.

First Selectwoman Haines advised that she had identified more than the \$100k of reductions requested by the BOF from the Town's budget because she also feels that additional cuts to the BOE's budget would be detrimental to the schools. She stated that, in addition to the initial \$75k cut from the Town's budget, she had identified another \$300,212.00 in reductions. She reviewed the Town's potential cuts and related savings.

There was a general discussion about dismissing the BOE and First Selectwoman since they had concluded their presentations. Mr. Barney raised a point of order stating that the BOE and BOS representatives had fulfilled the BOF's request to provide proposals of what cutting \$200k and \$100k respectively would do to their budgets and should be released from the meeting so that the BOF could return to its agenda. A show of hands indicated all Board members were in favor of Mr. Barney's point of order with the exception of Mr. Gelston who dissented.

Superintendent DeBrito and BOE Chairwoman Stricker moved to the public seating area; however, First Selectwoman remained in the BOF meeting since she was on the agenda to provide a report later in the meeting.

- d. Other Budget Items – Mr. Gelston solicited input from the Board members on the Town's proposed FY2025-2026 budget. Mr. Thomas noted the Town's initial reduction in their budget of \$75k and suggested additional reductions totaling \$65k. There was a general discussion about Mr. Thomas' suggestion.

**Motion made by Mr. Thomas to reduce the Board of Selectmen's portion of the FY2025-2026 budget that failed at referendum an additional \$100,000.00, not to include any reductions to the Board of Education's Business Manager and Maintenance lines in the Shared Service budget. Mr. Kolasinski seconded the motion. Mr. Corbett, Ms. Goff, and Mr. Gelston voted Nay and the motion failed.**

Mr. Corbett stated for the record that he voted against Mr. Thomas' motion because he did not feel the Town's budget could sustain any further cuts.

**Motion made by Mr. Thomas to reduce the Board of Selectmen's portion of the FY2025-2026 budget that failed at referendum an additional \$65,000.00, not to include any reductions to the Board of Education's Business Manager and Maintenance lines in the Shared Service budget. Mr. Barney seconded the motion. Mr. Corbett, Mr. Gelston, and Ms. Goff voted Nay and the motion failed.**

**Motion made by Ms. Goff to reduce the Board of Selectmen's portion of the FY2025-2026 budget that failed at referendum an additional \$50,000.00, not to include any reductions to the Board of Education's Business Manager and Maintenance lines in the Shared Service budget. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.**

Ms. Belles advised that the state recently passed its budget and the Town will receive approximately \$109k more in revenue for roads and education plus a \$31k special needs grant.

**Mr. Thomas, Mr. Kolasinski, Ms. Goff and Mr. Barney voted Yea; Mr. Corbett and Mr. Gelston voted Nay. The motion carried.**

Mr. Gelston solicited input from the Board regarding whether or not to ask for additional reductions in the BOE budget. Mr. Corbett stated that he cannot, in good conscience, support any additional cuts to the BOE budget because he feels that would cause significant harm to the community. Mr. Barney stated that he feels the exit poll comments indicate that the voters do not want any additional cuts to the BOE budget and, therefore, he supports no additional reductions.

Ms. Goff expressed concern that bringing the same BOE budget to another referendum disregards the voters who turned out and, further, the poll results on the BOE budget leaned toward “Too High”. She stated that she understands there was a limited turnout to the referendum but still feels no reduction to the BOE budget is a disservice to the people who took the time to come out and vote. She stated she would be comfortable with a reduction of up to \$200k. Mr. Gelston stated that he is not in favor of any additional reductions in the BOE budget.

**Motion made by Mr. Barney to reduce the Board of Education’s portion of the FY2025-2026 budget that failed at referendum an additional \$100,000.00. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.**

Mr. Gelston stated that he feels a \$100k reduction will do more harm than good. Ms. Goff reiterated that the exit poll results were fairly equal in the choice of “Too High” for both the Town and the BOE.

**Mr. Corbett, Mr. Kolasinski, and Mr. Gelston voted Nay and the motion failed.**

**Motion made by Mr. Barney to make no further reductions to the Board of Education’s portion of the FY2025-2026 budget that failed at referendum. Mr. Corbett seconded the motion. Mr. Kolasinski, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Gelston and Mr. Barney voted Yay; Mr. Thomas and Ms. Goff voted Nay. The motion carried.**

### **POTENTIAL 2025-2026 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

In response to a question from Mr. Thomas, Ms. Belles stated that the expenditures in the budget that will go to referendum on June 24<sup>th</sup> are \$282,178.00 lower than those in the budget that failed the last referendum

**Motion made by Mr. Barney to present to a Public Hearing on June 24, 2025, at the Nathan Hale High School, a total budget of \$44,258,614.00 based on the October 1st, 2024, Grand List of \$1,190,802,955. This budget represents a 1.30 mil rate increase and an 8.8% increase from the FY 2024-2025 expenditure budget. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Mr. Barney to utilize \$2,600,000.00 of the Unassigned Fund Balance to offset the FY2025-2026 budget. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

## **FIRST SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Ms. Haines reported the following:

- The Town's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating has been adjusted to 8B, effective August 1, 2025. The new rating will save homeowners money on their homeowners' insurance premiums.
- Repairs to the Swingbridge have been completed, with the exception of a few punch-list items, and the bridge and the walkway along the bridge are open.
- She had no update on the cell tower project.
- Economic development efforts in the Village and Moodus center are moving forward.
- If the Town were to purchase the Banner Golf Course, it would lose property tax revenue and research indicates that, due to how the income from golf fees would have to be accounted for, there would be no off-setting revenue increase. Ms. Haines stated that it would be more advantageous to the Town to have a private buyer purchase the golf course.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- a. 2024-2025 YTD Budget Reports – Finance Director Belles called the Board's attention to the end of April financials in their meeting packets. She noted that the BOF's budget line continues to be over-budget because it is carrying the majority of the expense for two years of audits. She stated that, with 83% the fiscal year completed, expenditures are at 63% and revenue collected is at 88%.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed at the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approval of the Suspense List from Tax Collector – Ms. Belles advised that every year the Board of Finance is required to vote on the Tax Suspense List supplied by the Tax Collector. She stated that the Suspense List contains accounts that are deemed uncollectable by the Tax Collector. She added that it does not mean that they cannot be collected, it simply removes them from the financial statements as an asset. She noted that accounts on the suspense list will be sent to a collection agency.

**Motion was made by Mr. Barney to approve the Tax Suspense List in the amount of \$60,441.60. Ms. Goff second the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

- b. Transfer Request – BOE Capital – Interior Lighting Repairs – Ms. Belles called the Board’s attention to a transfer request in their meeting packets from Facilities Director Angersola to move expenses from completed Board of Education capital projects to a new BOE Capital Project for interior lighting repairs at the Elementary School

**Motion was made by Mr. Barney to authorize a transfer totaling \$17,421.98 from the following closed BOE projects’ Capital Account 33250013-58926: \$812.50 from C0317 - HS Stage Curtain; \$3,010.00 from System Wide Painting - C0258; \$11,800.00 from HS Track Equipment - C0304; \$27.00 from System Wide Radios – C0324; \$399.62 from MS Exterior Basketball Court – C0204; \$76.82 from HS Hot Water Systems – C0306; \$1,536.55 from HS Field Storage Building – C0331, and \$125.72 from HS Boiler Replacement – C0077 to the Elementary School Lighting Repair – C0341, and to request that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Kolasinski seconded the motion.**

In response to questions from Ms. Goff, Facilities Director Angersola provided clarification about a new lighting repair project at the Elementary School.

**The motion was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

- c. Transfer Request – BOE Capital – Elementary School Generator – Ms. Belles called the Board’s attention to a transfer request from Facilities Director to move the remaining funds from the High school Renovation Study to the Elementary School Generator project.

**Motion was made by Mr. Barney to transfer \$71,000.00 from the High School Renovation Study account 33250013-58926 - C0283 to the Elementary School Generator account 33250013-58926 - C0216 and to request that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Corbett seconded the motion**

In response to a question raised by Ms. Goff, Mr. Angersola stated that the transfer is to facilitate an expansion of the Elementary School Generator project to include back-up for the new HVAC equipment.

**The motion was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

- d. Transfer Request – BOE Capital – HS Tech ED Building – Ms. Belles called the Board’s attention to a transfer request from Facilities Director Angersola to move the remaining funds from Field House Roof capital project to the High School Tech Ed Building project.

**Motion was made by Mr. Barney to transfer \$2,500.00 from the Field House Roof account 33250013-58926 - C0318 to the High School Tech Ed Building account 33250013-58926 - C0281. Ms. Goff seconded the motion.**

In response to questions from Mr. Barney and Ms. Goff, Mr. Angersola explained the purpose of the Tech Ed building and stated that this work would complete the project.

**The motion was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

- e. Grant Authorization Request – BOE Security Grant – Ms. Belles advised that the Board of Education is asking for authorization to apply for a Security grant. She called their attention to the completed BOF grant authorization form in their meeting packets. Mr. Angersola provided additional background information on the request.

**Motion was made by Mr. Barney to authorize the grant application presented by the Board of Education to apply for a grant from the US Department of Justice (DOT) School Violence Prevention Program to provide lockdown and door security upgrades to each school building. The grant amount requested is up to \$500,00.00 with a Town match amount of up to \$125,000.00. Ms. Goff seconded the motion.**

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Goff, Mr. Angersola confirmed that the matching amount is not currently in the budget and, if the grant is awarded, the BOE would come back to the BOF to request those funds.

**The motion was approved unanimously. Motion carried.**

- f. Transfer Request – Town Capital – Police Car – Ms. Belles advised that through the 2024 audit process it was discovered that there was no funding source for the purchase of a police cruiser. She stated that the BOF needs to make a transfer cover the overage. She noted that a Public Works truck purchased in 2024 came in significantly under budget and the excess could be used to cover the deficit on the police cruiser.

**Motion made by Mr. Barney to approve a FY2024-2025 transfer of up to \$41,000.00 from capital account 33250013-58926 - C0239 (Public Works Truck #8) to capital account 33250013-58926 - C0246 (police cruiser) and request that the Board of Selectman schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Ms. Goff seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

- g. Transfer Request – Snow Removal to Road Reclamation – Ms. Belles called the Board's attention to a transfer request in their meeting packets, from Public Works Director Valez, to move remaining funds from the Snow Removal budget to the Road Reclamation budget.

**Motion was made by Mr. Barney to approve a FY2024-2025 transfer of \$100,000.00 from the Snow Removal budget in the following amounts: \$83,679.00 from 10543070-56600 (Sand/Salt) and \$16,321.00 from 10543070-51510 (Regular Employees) to Capital Account 33250013-58926 - C0230 (Road Reclamation) and to request that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Ms. Goff seconded the motion.**

In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Ms. Belles confirmed that the funds from the Regular Employee budget line were intended specifically for the employees' snow removal work.

**Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Mr. Kolasinski to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 p.m. Mr. Barney seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

William Barney

Secretary