

**Town of Deerfield
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 2026**

Members Present: Mark Brennan, Beth Brown, James Cambias (*secretary*), Julie Chalfant (*chair*), John Paresky.

Others Present: Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Ken Cuddeback (*via Zoom*), Holly Drake, Christopher Dunne, Blake Gilmore, Tim Hilchey, Trevor McDaniel, Cate Merlin (*via Zoom*), Patricia Ann Telega, Jeff Upton.

Documents Presented:

- Summer Swim Program proposed 2027 budget (account 630-5400)
- Tri Town Beach proposed 2027 budget (account 630-5410)
- Tilton Library proposed 2027 budget (account 610-5400)
- "FY2027 Municipal Budget Request Detail — CBC 1st Draft" (Tilton Library)
- Inspections Department Payroll proposed 2027 budget (account 241-5110)
- Inspections Department Expense proposed 2027 budget (account 241-5400)
- Recreation Department Director Salary proposed 2027 budget (account 634-5110)
- FRCOG Core Assessment proposed 2027 contribution (account 830-5400)
- FY 2026 Expense Detail 3/9/2026

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. on March 9, 2026 at the Town Offices on Conway Street in South Deerfield.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$3,338 for the Summer Swim Program (account 630-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a 44.4 percent reduction from last year. Ms. Telega reports that by using lifeguards as instructors they can do more with less. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$39,078 for Tri Town Beach Expense (account 630-5410). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a 3.29 percent increase from last year. In answer to a question Ms. Telega reported that the staff has been controlling vegetation without any outside contractors. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$292,474 for the Tilton Library (account 610-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a 17.35 percent increase over last year. It adds staff hours due to more use by patrons, with a large increase in building/grounds maintenance due to costs being passed on by the Highway Department, also a big jump in utilities expense.

Question about the MBLC budget requirement for library materials, and whether that will reduce if power costs go down due to adding solar panels. Ms. Merlin explained the process the town and library board would have to go

through in that case. Questions about staffing levels, and some confusion about how this is represented on the budget sheet.

Mr. Brennan moved to amend the motion to \$230,232, which meets the MBLC minimum budget requirements, moving power and maintenance costs of \$53,870 to the Town Building Maintenance budget (account 192-5400) and reducing the allocation for materials in proportion. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Considerable discussion about math. The amendment passed, 4-0-1.

The amended motion passed, 3-0-2.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2026 meeting. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Ms. Chalfant reported that due to reduced insurance cost the Frontier budget has dropped by nearly \$80,000. It was noted that other reductions might be possible.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$194,743 for Inspections Department Payroll (account 241-5110). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a 3.86 percent increase over last year. Ms. Drake explained this is entirely due to salary step increases. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$4,950 for Inspections Department Expense (account 241-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is level funding from last year. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$36,694 for Recreation Department Director Salary (account 634-5110). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an 8.3 percent decrease from last year. The drop is because the job is now a part-time position. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$44,678 for FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments) Core Assessment (account 830-5400). Ms. Brown seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$3,215, or 7.75 percent. The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$2,950 for the Dickinson Library Trust allocation. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is the interest from the Dickinson endowment, which is divided between the Tilton and Frontier Regional School library. The cost to the town is zero. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Upton expressed concern that conditions attached to the MBLC grants for the Library give the agency influence on local budget decisions. Several members agreed.

Ms. Chalfant notified the Committee about upcoming Deerfield Elementary School and Franklin Technical School budget meetings.

Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn. Ms. Chalfant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.