

**Town of Deerfield
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of February 9, 2026
(corrected)**

Members Present: James Cambias (*secretary*), Julie Chalfant (*chair*), Margaret Nartowicz, John Paresky.

Also Present: Holly Drake, Christopher Dunne, Blake Gilmore, Tim Hilchey, Trevor McDaniel, Matthew Morse, John Paciorek Jr. Joint meeting with Select Board.

Documents Presented:

Police Payroll proposed 2027 budget (account 210-5110)
Police Department Expense proposed 2027 budget (account 210-5400)
Police Cruiser proposed 2027 budget (account 210-5800)
Animal Control proposed 2027 budget (account 292-5400)
Emergency Management proposed 2027 budget (account 291-5400)
General Highway Payroll proposed 2027 budget (account 422-5110)
General Highway Expense proposed 2027 budget (account 422-5400)
Winter Snow and Ice Removal proposed 2027 budget (423-5400)
Transfer Station Expense proposed 2027 budget (account 433-5400)
Town Building Maintenance proposed 2027 budget (account 192-5400)
Sewer Payroll proposed 2027 budget (account WWTP-Sal)
Sewer Expense proposed 2027 budget (account WWTP-Exp)
Sewer Debt Service proposed 2027 budget (account WWTP-Debt)
Sewer Enterprise Fund proposed 2027 budget (account WWTP)

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. on Monday, February 9 in the Town Offices on Conway Street in South Deerfield.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the Minutes of the February 2 meeting. Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$1,304,769 for Police Payroll (account 210-5110). Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$60,603 or 4.87 percent over last year. Mr. Paciorek explained that this is all in accord with the contract negotiated with the union.

Questions about the grade of the Police Administrative Assistant. Mr. Paciorek explained that it was re-graded after accidentally getting assigned a lower grade.

Question about the Extra Hours budget item. Mr. Paciorek responded that figure is to cover events and activities which are not billed for a police detail.

The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the sum of \$137,800 for Police Department Expense (account 210-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$16,800 or 13.88 percent. The bulk of this increase comes from higher costs for Tech support/professional services, software, and tires for police vehicles. Mr. Paciorek did suggest setting up an ongoing contract for IT support. Ms. Nartowicz pointed out that in the past we did reserve fund transfers for some of these items. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Question about payroll budget vs. the amount expended each year: the department typically under-spends, so why not reduce the appropriation? Mr. Paciorek replied that he was concerned about uncertainty in the budget and pointed out that excess reverts to Free Cash.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$80,500 for Police Department Cruiser (account 210-5800). Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. Mr. Paciorek explained this includes the price of a new cruiser, plus budget lines for defibrillators and radio upgrades, which he hopes he can remove pending some possible reimbursement from the state.

Ms. Chalfant asked if the radios are the same ones which were also the subject of a Reserve Fund Transfer request. Mr. Cambias moved to amend the motion, reducing the recommended amount to \$76,500 and deleting the new radios for that reason. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion to amend.

The motion to amend passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to reassign the \$3500 for defibrillators to the Police Department Expense account. Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. This would reduce the Cruiser budget to \$73,000 and increase Police Department Expense to \$141,300. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$19,000 for Animal Control (account 292-5400). Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. This is a decrease of \$4964 or -20.71 percent over last year. Mr. Paciorek explained that this is now done through the Franklin Sheriff's Office rather than a cooperative arrangement with neighboring towns. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the sum of \$8700 for Emergency Management (account 291-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$5900 or 210.71 percent increase over last year. The amount is part of the chief's contract. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$763,165 for General Highway Payroll (account 422-5110). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$11,705 or 1.56 percent. Ms. Drake explained the increase is all normal step increases, and the department brought in some new employees starting at lower steps. The Highway Dept employees union are still negotiating a contract, and Mr. Dunne feels confident this budget will suffice. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$372,400 for General Highway Expense (account 422-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$15,800 or 4.43 percent. Mr. Morse explained there are large vehicle maintenance and road materials increases, offset by reduction in rentals and line painting.

Many questions and much discussion. Mr. Morse discussed a 5-year plan for road work. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Morse reported that we have exceeded the Snow and Ice budget already by \$65,000, with more salt deliveries scheduled. Mr. McDaniel explained that the town prefers to cover overages with free cash.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$100,000 for Snow and Ice Removal (account 423-5400). Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. Discussion of raising the amount in future. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$10,000 for Street Lighting (account 424-5400). Ms. Chalfant seconded the motion. This is level funding from last year. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$273,150 for Transfer Station Expense (account 433-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$24,230 or 9.73 percent. Most of the increase comes from trash compacting, recycling, and solid waste charges. Mr. Morse said it might be useful to make sticker sale dates match the fiscal year, and said he is trying to make it possible to purchase stickers online. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$35,000 for Test Well Monitoring (account 439-5400). Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$1500, or 4.48 percent over last year. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$132,210 for Town Building Maintenance (account 192-5400). Mr. Cambias seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$7026 or 5.6 percent. This removes \$4500 which had been budgeted for the library building, which is shifted to the library budget account. Mr. Morse noted increases in maintenance for the 1821 building and the Leary lot. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to recommend the sum of \$506,798 for Sewer Payroll (account WWTP-Sal). Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. This is an increase of \$21,301 or 4.39 percent over last year. All of it is covered by water/sewer fees. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$949,800 for Sewer Expense (account WWTP-Exp). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is an increase of

\$55,500 or 6.21 percent. Nearly all of that increase comes from sludge disposal, and Mr. Morse tried to offset it with reductions in some other lines. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$693,208 for Sewer Debt Service (account WWTP-Debt). Ms. Chalfant seconded the motion. This is a reduction of \$126,614 or -15.44 percent from last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the use of anticipated sewer/water revenues for Sewer Enterprise Fund (account WWTP). Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to adjourn. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.