

**Town of Deerfield  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of March 2, 2026**

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

**Also Present:** Holly Drake, Christopher Dunne, Blake Gilmore, Tim Hilchey, Peter Law, Frank Leone, Ned Savicki (*via Zoom*), Francis Sobieski. Joint meeting with Select Board.

**Documents Presented:**

- Assessors Salaries Proposed 2027 Budget (account 141-5100)
- Assessors Admin Salary Proposed 2027 Budget (account 141-5110)
- Assessors Expense Proposed 2027 Budget (account 141-5400)
- Assessors Quinquennial Recertification Proposed 2027 Budget (account 142-5400)
- Board of Health Payroll Proposed 2027 Budget (account 512-5110)
- Board of Health Expense Proposed 2027 Budget (account 512-5400)
- Conservation Agent Proposed 2027 Budget (account 171-5110)
- Conservation Commission Proposed 2027 Budget (account 171-5400)

Ms. Chalfant called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. on March 2 in the Town offices on Conway Street in South Deerfield.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$12,500 for Assessors Salaries Proposed 2027 Budget (account 141-5100). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This represents level funding from last year. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

Mr. Paresky moved to recommend the sum of \$108,899 for Assessors Admin Salary Proposed 2027 Budget (account 141-5110). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This represents a 25.22 percent increase over last year. Mr. Dunne and Mr. Sobieski explained that the Board of Assessors are looking to hire a Principal Assessor to replace the current Administrative Assistant. The contract with Patriot Properties runs out in August and Ms. Menard will stay until then. Mr. Dunne indicated that he believes the Principal Assessor salary will likely be less than the current assistant plus the Patriot Properties contract fee. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$19,430 for Assessors Expense Proposed 2027 Budget (account 141-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This represents a small decrease of 0.31 percent from last year. This comes from a reduction in title search costs. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$22,000 for Assessors Quinquennial Recertification Proposed 2027 Budget (account 142-5400). Mr.

Paresky seconded the motion. This is level funding from last year. Mr. Dunne expects it to drop in 2028 with the Principal Assessor position filled. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$107,412 for Board of Health Payroll Proposed 2027 Budget (account 512-5110). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. This is a 3.41 percent increase over last year. Ms. Drake pointed out this is mostly step increases and cost of living. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$9,825 for Board of Health Expense Proposed 2027 Budget (account 512-5400). Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Ms. Drake pointed out that this is level funding overall but some specific line items have changed. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

Mr. Cambias moved to accept the minutes of the February 23 meeting. Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. The motion passed, 4-0-2.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to appoint Mr. Brennan as Finance Committee representative to the Capital Improvements Planning Commission. Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. Ms. Nartowicz currently serves in that capacity and wishes to step down. Mr. Brennan agreed. The motion passed, 6-0-0.

Ms. Nartowicz moved to recommend the sum of \$42,357 for Conservation Agent Proposed 2027 Budget (account 171-5110). Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. This is a new position. Mr. Dunne explained that the position was proposed last year and approved by the Personnel Board, and there is a candidate ready to take the job. This will be a benefitted position working 24 hours a week. Question about whether other towns might wish to share the position, but according to Mr. Law none have responded. Ms. Drake and Mr. Dunne were not sure if the benefits cost of this position were incorporated into the proposed 2027 insurance expense budget.

Mr. Brennan moved to amend the motion to recommend \$28,239 for 16 hours per week. Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. The amendment passed, 5-1-0.

Ms. Chalfant moved to amend the motion to recommend \$31,769 for 18 hours per week. Ms. Nartowicz seconded the motion. The amendment passed, 4-2-0.

The amended motion passed, 6-0-0.

Mr. Brennan moved to recommend the sum of \$1,525 for Conservation Commission Proposed 2027 Budget (account 171-5400). Mr. Cambias and Mr. Paresky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m. on March 2.