

**Board of Selectmen
Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026**

Chairman Bailey opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Selectman James Bailey – Chairman; Selectwoman Iris Campbell, Richard Pelletier – Selectman, and Laura Buono, Town Administrator

Others present: Chris Parsons, Police Chief, James Clough, Parks & Recreation Director, Kenny Stafford, Fire Chief, Ernie Butler, Road Agent.

1. BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board met to finalize the 2026 Proposed Budget and to take into consideration questions and suggestions that came out of the Budget Public Hearing that was held on February 11th. Ms. Buono asked the Board if there were any changes to the operating budget they would like to make and she pointed out that since the public hearing, Chief Parsons scaled back the Animal Control Budget since he doesn't anticipate filling the ACO position this year. The Board didn't make any further changes to the operating budget.

The Board reviewed the remaining warrant articles and discussed the fact that although they feel the fire and highway equipment is needed, is this the year to move forward with the purchases? The fire department equipment will take almost two years to come in due to production time, so that's an additional consideration when making the decision about moving forward with this article. Ms. Buono suggested various options to soften the tax impact of some articles by utilizing capital reserve funds for portions of the payments this year, but said they have to understand that if that route is taken, there will be a slight increase the following year since those revenue amounts won't be available to offset the expense. The Board's final decision was to cover the first year's payment for the sidewalk tractor with money from the Highway Department CRF in the amount of \$46,106, and to utilize \$40,000 from the Fire Department Equipment CRF toward the first year's payment on the Pumper/Heavy Rescue for the Fire Department of \$185,000 leaving \$145,000 to come from taxation.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey motioned to adjourn at 10:48 a.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman

Date