

Budget Review Committee – February 4, 2026

Present: Budget Review Committee Members: Ron Schneider, Brian Toomey, Richard DeBold, Dave MacKenzie, Bob Mulcahy, Adam Bloom-Paicopolos and Bill Wade.

Staff Members: Town Manager Mike Pardue and Finance Director Jodie Sanborn.

Selectboard Representatives: John MacLeod III and Kathy Chase.

Current Agenda

Nomination and Election of Chair. Nominations for the committee Chair were sought. Ron indicated that he would like to continue as Chair. Motion by Richard, seconded by Dave to elect Ron as Chair. Approved 7-0.

Nomination and Election of Vice Chair. Nominations for the committee Vice Chair were sought. Motion by Ron, seconded by Dave to elect Brian as Vice Chair. Approved 7-0.

FY26-27 Budget Overview. Mike and Jodie gave an overview of the entire budget. The current budget proposal includes adding a Public Works Facilities Assistant, Fire Inspector, and converting a Part-Time Before & After School Program Supervisor and Recreation Summer Camp Counselor to Full-Time (paid from Recreation Enterprise).

The budget proposal included 35 step increases for employees that have chosen to stay working in Wells. Union contracts for all four unions are currently under negotiation. The budget reflects a 12% increase in health insurance costs.

Review of Proposed Schedule and Assignment of Committee Members for Departmental Review

- a. Departments were assigned the following committee members as reviewers:
 - i. Assessing - Richard
 - ii. Library – Bill and Mark
 - iii. Public Works & Facilities, Local Roads Reimbursement, Transfer Station, Transportation Center, Public Works CIP's and Public Works Staffing Request – Richard and Bill
 - iv. Conservation Commission and Conservation CIP – Ron
 - v. Information Center – Ron
 - vi. Town Clerk – Richard
 - vii. Code and Planning Enterprise – Brian and Mark

- viii. Parks and Recreation, Activity Center, Parks and Rec CIP's, Recreation Enterprise and Recreation Enterprise Staffing Request – Adam and Bob
 - ix. Harbor and Harbor CIP's – Adam and Dave
 - x. Fire, EMA (Civil Defense) and Fire CIP's – Bob and Richard
 - xi. IT Infrastructure, IT CIP, Police, Dispatch, Public Safety Facility, Townwide Utilities, Animal Control, Animal Control CIP – Brian and Dave
 - xii. WEMS and WEMS CIP's – Adam and Dave
 - xiii. Beach Enterprise – Brian and Dave (PD Portion), Bob and Richard (FD Portion)
- b. Ron reminded Committee members that they should keep the department meetings to one hour or less.
 - c. Committee members should funnel any requests for additional information or questions for Mike or Jodie through Brian.
 - d. During budget meetings once the assigned budget reviewer has given an overview of the budget each committee member will then have an opportunity to ask questions. Ron explained that he will go around the table to allow each committee member to ask any additional questions.

Other Committee Topics


- a. Next meeting February 11, 2026 at 5PM.

Motion to adjourn by Brian

Seconded by Richard


Approved 7-0

Respectfully submitted,



Jodie Sanborn
Finance Director

Approved by,



Ron Schneider Jr.
Budget Committee Chairman