

**Town of Hill
Budget Committee
2026 Budget**

Meeting Minutes 1/14/26

Members Present: Bruce Blazon (Chair), Harold Knott, MaryAnne Moses (Ex-Officio), Bill Machado, Jr. and Karen Sylvestre, Lexi White (Ex-Officio), Frank Simeone, Marshall Bennett (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Tom Angeley and Tom Scribner

Public: Chief Casey Brennan, Amanda Curtis, Brian Connelly, Carol Snow Asher

First order of business:

Review Minutes: No correction requested. BB motioned to except minutes.

Seconded: HK

All In Favor: Yes

Chair Vote: Affirmative

Overview:

- A new AI system, Summary AI, was approved for automating meeting minutes.
- The public hearing for the town budget is scheduled for February 11th at 6:30 p.m.
- The school budget review highlighted a significant \$106,000 decrease in state adequacy funding.
- A 9% increase in the overall town budget was proposed, driven largely by the fire department.
- The statutory deadline for the public budget hearing is February 13th, requiring coordination with the school board's schedule.
- A statutory deadline requires at least one budget hearing by February 13th. A scheduling conflict exists between the town and school board hearings, which are typically held a week apart.
- Meeting minutes from the 7th were approved with amendments.
- AI for Meeting Minutes new tool, "Summary AI," will be used to record and transcribe meeting minutes. The committee discussed data privacy concerns but formally consented to using AI. New Hampshire is an "all-party consent" state.

Scheduling Public Budget Hearings:

- Town budget public hearing proposed for February 11th at 6:30 p.m.
- A statutory deadline requires at least one budget hearing by February 13th.
- A scheduling conflict exists between the town and school board hearings, which are typically held a week apart.
- Discussion includes holding a joint hearing or moving one hearing to an earlier date, such as February 6th.
- A budget committee meeting is provisionally scheduled for January 21st, contingent on the completion of work.

School Budget:

- Tuition for the 26-27 school year is \$19,278 per middle school student (12 students) and \$18,167 per high school student (34 students).
- Major budget changes include a \$72,000 increase in high school tuition and a \$18,000 increase in personnel wages.
- Budget decreases include \$34,000 in insurance costs (staff opting out) and \$27,000 in middle school tuition (fewer students).
- State Adequate Education Funding was cut by \$106,000, leading to a local tax assessment increase of \$144,000.
- Future high school capital projects (HVAC system, potential new wing) will be partially funded by the district (~8-9%), with costs integrated into tuition rates.

Town Budget Initial Presentation:

- General government dues increased by 3% to 6%; postage and telephone costs also rose.
- A shredding service is being considered for \$50 every 8 weeks to manage excess paper.
- Payroll taxes decreased due to a lower salary for the new bookkeeper position.
- The police budget includes a recurring annual lease payment of \$8,661 for a cruiser.
- Workman's Comp insurance increased by \$3,641, and liability insurance rose by \$983 to \$30,133.
- A town budget with a 9% increase is under consideration.
- The committee expresses concern about public disapproval of the proposed increase.
- There is a persistent issue with low attendance from department heads at budget meetings.
- Most of the budget increase is attributed to public safety departments: police, ambulance, and fire.

- The committee has decided to postpone a vote on the budget until revenue information is provided.

BB Motioned to postpone budget until next meeting.

HK Seconded

All In Favor = Yes

Chair Votes Affirmative

New Business: None

BB ended meeting at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted
MaryAnne Moses; Secretary

AI Generated:

Minutes Approved 1/21/2026