

**Town of Hill  
Budget Committee  
2026 Budget**

**Meeting Minutes 1/21/26**

**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:** Amanda Curtis

**First order of business:**

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

Seconded: FS

All In Favor: Yes

Chair Vote: Affirmative

**Overview:**

- **Budget package under review** with draft warrant articles and revenue estimates circulated; **final AP numbers expected mid-week.**
- **Operating budget up ~9%**, driven by public safety (police/ambulance/fire); committee debating how to present increases.
- Multiple capital reserve requests discussed: **road improvements (Murray Hill), police cruiser down-payment, fire/ambulance vehicle planning and building improvements.**
- Revenue estimates show discrepancies and delayed postings (land-use, excavation, permits); some receipts likely to be corrected in next AP run.
- Cemetery/trust fund constraints noted (perpetual trusts cannot be dissolved); legal / DRA clarification needed for some warrant placement (ballot vs warrant).

### **Amendments & Motions:**

- Amended overview item: **9%** budget increase described as largely driven by public safety departments (police, fire, ambulance) instead of singling out the fire department.
- Motion to approve amended meeting minutes was moved, seconded, and approved; chair voted in the affirmative.
- Minutes header date corrected to 1-17.

### **Schedule, Printing & Finalization:**

- Printing deadline for the town report: **February 9**.
- Staff requested department numbers by **February 6**; final materials expected early next week.
- Next meetings: finalize town budgets on **February 11**; finalize school budget on **February 18**.
- Brief signing meeting scheduled **February 4 at 6:30 PM** to sign final documents and recommendations.
- Form MS-737 requires signatures from all committee members; final paperwork will be distributed before the public hearing; printed amendment sheet may correct post-print changes.

### **Warrant Articles & Capital Reserves:**

- Meeting scheduled for the **4th**; no meeting on the **28th**.
- Charlie provided end balances and is finishing **MS-9** and **S-10**.
- Cemetery funds are perpetual trusts; principal preserved and only interest expendable; records are public; six cemetery capital reserves; Pleasant Hill fund is small and may be recommended for dissolution/transfer to town.
- Article 2 holds the proposed budget placeholder \$0 until board updates; a petition for a five-selection item likely requires a ballot vote pending DRA confirmation.
- Articles 3 and 4 address Murray Hill Road paving; legal/DRA review will decide if a separate warrant is required; proposals include **\$500,000** from road improvement capital reserve, roads capital reserve balance **\$97,706** with **\$50,000** proposed for Murray Hill, and Article 4 estimate **\$300,000**; final scope and cost pending R&D paving measurements.

### **Roads & Murray Hill Paving:**

- Article 4 estimated at \$300,000; final cost may vary by selected distance/option determined by R&D Paving.
- Funding proposed: \$25,000 from highway block grant + \$50,000 from road improvement; remainder to be covered from other sources.
- Reclaim means grinding the roadway and repaving; reclamation provides greater longevity than overlay.
- Bunker Hill received shim/topcoat layers but no final sealcoat; town is not recommending finishing Bunker Hill, reducing its longevity.
- Murray Hill Road is intended to be repaved in full; R&D Paving is evaluating options and bids may include multiple contractors.

### **Revenue Estimates & Account Balances:**

- Land-use tax receipts were lower than estimated due to office vacancy and board turnover; recorded \$6,250; several bills deferred to next fiscal year.
- Yield-tax estimate raised to \$15,000 after late filings and a state-notified timber cut of 206 acres.
- Excavation-tax receipts totaled \$367,000 versus a prior estimate of \$500,000.
- Motor-vehicle permit fees rose to about \$252,000+ (prior \$220,000); estimate set at \$250,000; state retains increased inspection-related fees.
- Interest income and account management: general checking is swept into a Franklin Savings money-market; monthly interest ranged \$2,000–\$4,000; capital-reserve interest \$30–\$35/month with capital reserve balance about \$10,000 (held via NH PDIP).

BB Motioned to postpone budget until next meeting.

HK Seconded

All In Favor = Yes

Chair Votes Affirmative

New Business: None

Respectfully Submitted,  
MaryAnne Moses, Secretary

Minutes approved by attending Budget Committee members 2/10/2026