

Town of Bowdoinham  
Finance Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 4, 2026 at 2:00p.m.  
Kendall Meeting Room

Present – David Engler, Steve Smith, George Christopher, Wayne Dorr, Marc Babcock (via Zoom), Nina Mendall, and Nicole Briand, Town Manager

1. Call the Meeting to Order & Establish a Quorum

Meeting was called to order at 2pm.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved, as amended.

3. Review Department Budget Requests

The committee discussed the Municipal Revenue Sharing projection of \$943,285.67, a \$200,000 increase from FY26's projection. The proposed Municipal Revenue Sharing budget is now \$900,000.

The committee discussed outsourcing payroll, which would be an additional estimated expense of \$5,000. The concerns with continuing with in-house payroll are ensuring we are meeting new federal and state laws as they are quickly changing and the time involved with the end-of-year processes and reporting. Nicole will meet with companies over the next two weeks and have an updated budget for the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the following budgets:

- Animal Control/Harbor Master – The proposed budget of \$37,713 is a -\$1,163 decrease from the FY26 budget, which includes a: \$600 reduction for mileage and \$2,000 reduction in navigational/no-wake aids based on current expenses.
  - The committee asked for information regarding the contract with the animal shelter and the Town's usage of their services.
- Community Services – Jason Lamoreau, Community Services Director was present. The proposed budget is \$180,774, a \$19,929 increase from the FY26 budget; the next cost of the department to taxpayers after revenues would be \$147,224. \$14,129 of the increase is for wages and benefits. A \$4,500 increase is proposed for activities to allow for additional programming including camps over school vacations. The cost of the additional programming would be paid for through registration fees. Some ideas that have been discussed include a summer paddle camp and extended art camp.
- Planning & Development – Yvette Director, Planning & Development Director was present. The proposed budget is \$157,347, a \$1,411 increase from the FY26 budget. The proposed budget contains a \$6,339 increase in wages which is offset with a \$4,929 decrease in benefits. There are no other proposed changes in this budget. Yvette shared that she is working to have a summer intern through Bowdoin College to help with project work and event planning, at no cost to the Town.

- Town Facilities Maintenance – The proposed budget is \$132,850, a \$28,000 increase from FY26. We are expecting our hydrant rental fees to increase \$10,000. The Town Hall and the new waterfront park will be open, and we'll have a higher water bill while the new landscaping is establishing. New this year is a \$5,000 budget line item for cemeteries, in addition to the reserve account; this budget line would be used for supplies and smaller projects. The Committee discussed the need for the additional funding. Nicole will share the Cemetery Committee's cemetery work inventory.

The Committee discussed additional information that they would like to have to finalize the budget. Steve requested the Fire Department's electric budget line be reviewed and asked for information about the solar system.

The Committee asked for the information about the brine system that was discussed at the previous meeting. Nicole stated that staff would be working on it after the winter season.

4. Financial Reports

The Committee reviewed the financial reports.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.