

Select Board/Budget Committee

Joint Meeting

January 26, 2026

Town Office @ 4:30 PM

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7900549589?omn=84390268720>

Agenda

- A.** Call to Order Select Board Mtg
- B.** Call to Order Budget Committee Mtg
- C.** Official Action Items
 - a. (Budget Committee) Approve Minutes November 18 and December 3
- D.** Discussion Items:
 - a. Proposed Capital Budget
- E.** Adjourn

Meeting Goals:

- Review proposed Capital Budget

Select Board/Budget Committee

Joint Meeting

November 19, 2025

Town Office @ 4:30 PM

Minutes

Select Board: Daryl Fraser, Tom Anderson, Dan Hunter, Andrea Keushguerian, Darryl Day

Budget Committee: Richard McLean, Constance Magistrelli, Gary Rosenthal, Shari Sage, Mary Devlin, Larry Sidelinger, Leah Puckey, Susan McAlister (alternate)

Absent Budget Committee: Karen O'Bryan, Bruce Rockwood, Jenny Begin (alternate)

Other Present: Andrew Dorr, Town Manager; Cheryl Pinkham, Town Treasurer; Michael Martone, Town Planner; Emerson Wesselhoff, Island Fellow; Ali Juell, LCN

A. Call to Order Select Board Mtg

Fraser called the Select Board to order at 4:30.

B. Call to Order Budget Committee Mtg

McClellan called the Budget Committee to order at 4:30.

C. Official Action Items

a. Election of Officers (Budget Committee)

i. Chair

Magistrelli nominated McLean as Chair

Second by Sidelinger

Vote: 7/0/0

ii. Vice-Chair - Tabled

iii. Secretary

Magistrella nominated Devlin as Secretary

Second by Sidelinger

Vote: 7/0/0

Introductions were made.

D. Discussion Items:

a. Proposed FY 27 Budget Process

Dorr proposed a draft budget timeline schedule calling attention to earlier Department Head presentations and allowing more time for Board/Committee deliberations. Also suggested was a meeting on December 3, 2025 for the Budget Committee to review any questions new members may have and perhaps have input for the Town Manager early in the process.

Motion by Devlin to meet on December 3, 2025

Second by Sage

Vote: 6/1/0

Motion by Devlin to meet at 4:30 p.m.

Second by Sage

Vote 6/1/0

- b. Review Budget Documents
- c. Select Board Strategic Plan
- d. Current Capital Improvement Plan
- e. Anticipated Budget Impacts/Pressures
- f. Schedule next committee meeting

Dorr shared FY26 documents: 10-year capital reserve annual allocations, a sample capital improvement/reserve request form, a listing of current projects by department, current FY27 assumptions that will impact the budget, a pie chart illustrating tax bill appropriations and the 25-26 municipal tax rate calculation form. Dorr explained that only the municipal appropriation line (#8) on the form could be impacted by the actual approved budget. McLean shared that he was aware people are complaining about the cost of everything. Fraser noted that there was a tool on the website that could break down someone's total real estate tax bill and show dollars by every department. There was discussion regarding contracted services and little choice in the rates the Town is charged. The school budget and large contracts such as water and sewer have public meetings prior to their figures being finalized. The CLC ambulance service which used to be calculated by Town assessment, call rate and a population factor. The call rate has now been removed and calculated on a tax basis. Anderson shared that there was a surplus that would be shared among towns and that cost could decrease for FY27.

Sage shared an anecdote which illustrated that billing is at a different rate if used as emergency transportation vs non emergency.

McLean clarified for the Budget Committee that the police chief is not part of the union so that salary is negotiated separately, along with the benefits

Devlin thought that it would be helpful if the non-negotiable items be highlighted in some way, so time wasn't wasted discussing something technically nonnegotiable.

McLean reminded members of the budget committee to email any questions to the Town Manager rather than group emails, as they would constitute a meeting.

E. Adjourn

Motion by Fraser to adjourn the Select Board meeting.

Second by Day

Vote: 5/0/0

Motion by Devlin to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting.

Second by Puckey

Vote: 7/0/0

Budget Committee
Joint Meeting
December 3, 2025
Fire Station @ 4:30 PM

Minutes

Budget Committee: Richard McLean, Mary Devlin, Constance Magistrelli, Gary Rosenthal, Shari Sage,, Larry Sidelinger, Leah Puckey, Bruce Rockwood, Karen O’Bryan, Jenny Begin (alternate), Susan McAlister (alternate)

Others Present: Andrew Dorr, Town Manager; Michael Martone, Town Planner; Emerson Wesselhoff, Island Fellow; John Roberts, Fire Chief; Ali Juell, LCN

A. Call to Order Budget Committee Mtg

Chair McLean called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

B. Official Action Items

- a. Election of Officers (Budget Committee)
 - i. Vice-Chair

Rosenthal expressed interest in serving as Vice-Chair.

Motion by Magistrelli to appoint Gary Rosenthal as Vice-Chair.

Second by Sidelinger

Vote: 9/0/0

C. Discussion Items:

- a. Review proposed FY 27 budget process
- b. Discuss budget expectations
- c. Provide feedback or guidance on any data or additional information

Dorr reviewed the 2026-27 Budget Timeline document. He explained that between now and the beginning of February, he would be meeting with department heads and pulling together documents. He wants some input prior to making the budget book available and deliberations. He suggested having department presentations be given to both the Budget Committee and the Select Board on February 9,10 and 11 with no decisions being made; just time to hear justifications and ask questions. Devlin commented that she liked the idea, and it would allow more time to process information and ask any follow-up questions sooner in the process. McLean added that sessions with department heads have typically moved quickly but being mindful of department heads’ time, it made sense and he would be in favor of having presentations made jointly. The fire department and the police department seemed to generate the most questions. McLean suggested meeting from 4:30-6:30. All members agreed.

Dorr continued to say that the CIP would also be distributed to them the last week in January.

Dorr asked what expectations the Committee might have at this point. Sidelinger responded that he hoped the budget could be reduced or at least that we could hold the line. Magistrelli echoed that she thought they should be hard-nosed on departmental requests. Many people are on a fixed income, so the question should be “what can you do without?” Sidelinger continued that everything should have a clear purpose and value. O’Bryan shared that the Select Board worked hard to keep the budget down in 2024-25. That the largest increases came from the school and county obligations. Sage offered that we are not making it clear enough to the public that things are costing more now, and we just can’t alter them. Magistrelli wondered how revenue could potentially increase. She volunteered to work with Town staff on potential business licensing. Rockwood wanted to make sure they were notified asap about any changes to State and Federal funding. He also wanted to make sure providing agencies were notified earlier what their expectations were. He too wanted to hold the line, where we can, unless we want to do without a service. McLean offered that critical questions with department heads should occur. Rosenthal asked if they had an opportunity to meet with the school board? McLean stated that they have public meetings and all residents were welcome to attend. He recalled that the last time there was an actual meeting between the School Board and the Budget Committee was when they wanted to create a reserve fund for the school. McAlister asked how Provider Agencies functioned. Rockwood shared that they do provide essential services to the Town’s people. Dorr added that the municipal contributions were voted on separately. There was a brief discussion on pilot revenue and what the Town could do to possibly increase that. Sage talked about simply cutting programs. Devlin wondered if there were any sources for revenue coming soon; like the business licensing, etc. She continued talking about how the Comp Plan outlined the desires of the community. The issue is want vs need. What does the Town want to sacrifice? Sidelinger asked about further grant opportunities. Dorr responded that Damariscotta has done well getting grants and will continue to seek them.

D. Adjourn

Motion by O’Bryan to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Rockwood

Vote: 9/0/0