

DRAFT Minutes for the
Budget Committee - Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen
November 6, 2025

Town of Danbury, New Hampshire

6:31 p.m. Meeting called to order by Ashlynn Comeau, Budget Committee Chair with the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Ashlynn Comeau, Tracy Feinauer, Jessica Hatch, Ruby Hill, Anna Hullinger, Karen Padgett. Also present were Selectwoman Frances Bliss and Selectman James Farmer.

Not Present: Lenny Ryan

Public Present: Holly Surgens, Town Administrative Assistant

Anna made a motion to approve the draft minutes from August 7, 2025 as-is, second to the motion provided by Karen, motion carried by an aye vote with one abstention from Jessica.

Each department this year will have a \$600 increase in tech support, which was formerly in the Executive Department budget. This increase and allocation will be \$50/month from each department.

Budget Requests Presented by the Following Departments, with Highlights Noted:

6:40 Transfer Station-Jim Larkin and Mike Maines

Raise wages from \$18 to \$20/hour; 5% increase in solid waste contract (expected)

7:00 Police Department-Peter Brigham and Becky Huntoon

Wage increases for chief, officer, and clerk totaling \$39,800; five-year contract for tazers; increase in computer support needed for infrastructure and networking (Becky explained this is for police-specific technology); increase in vehicle maintenance due to aging fleet. Officer Brigham explained three suggested warrant articles for 1. new cruiser, 2. hiring a full-time officer with benefits, and 3. paving the PD parking lot

7:31 Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Tricia Taylor

Raise wages from \$18.50 and \$18 to \$21.50 and \$22.00 (Tricia shared that the Merrimack County average pay is \$24/hour)

7:39 Fire Department-Jeremy Martin

Change stipend for firefighters and EMTs to per call pay, raising appropriation from \$9,000 to \$30,000; small changes to other items; \$1,000 decrease in EMS supplies

Karen asked if a change from stipend to per call would change the status of firefighters and EMTs to employee instead of volunteer. The answer was unknown. It was noted that Hebron made this change so they could be asked.

Some discussion took place regarding the warrant article for a safety services building. Frances asked if an engineer would be hired to draw plans for the proposed structure. Chief Martin said this would be a waste of money, in his opinion. Tracy asked if there were buildings ours could be modeled after where plans already exist. Ruby said those plans are usually proprietary in nature.

Chief Martin explained that our contract with Bristol for ambulance service went up more than expected – from \$136,428 to \$227,298 (expected roughly \$65,000 increase) due to increased calls. One reason for this was automatic Smart Watch calls made from skiers who fall on the slopes even though no emergency exists.

8:20 Highway Department-Alan Huntoon

Increase wages from \$137,280 to \$162,240; increase Road Agent salary from \$68,000 to \$72,000; increase overtime from \$15,000 to \$19,000; \$500 increase each in telephone and electric, \$2,000 decrease in uniforms; \$2,000 increase in general supplies; \$15,000 increase in vehicle repair; \$2,000 increase in culverts; \$5,000 increase in gravel; \$2,000 increase in salt; other items remain the same

8:45 Revised Numbers from Police Department (original spreadsheet had errors on Actual Budget numbers, no effect on requests)

Written budget requests received from the following Town departments:

- George Gamble Library
- Cemetery Department
- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustments
- Trustee of Trust Funds

Written budget requests also received from the following community partners/agencies:

- Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA)
- Council on Aging (COA)
- Community Action Program (CAP)
- Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association
- Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice
- Mid-State Health Center
- Tapply-Thompson Community Center

Additional Written Information Provided by the Board of Selectmen:

- HealthTrust Notice of Health Insurance Premium increase-6.8%
- Primex Notice of Property & Liability Program increase-\$1,248
- Primex Notice of Workers' Compensation Program increase-\$2,910
- Primex Notice of Unemployment Compensation Program rates-No Change

No Public Comment to Record

8:47 Meeting adjourned with a motion by Anna, second by Ashlynn

