

Minutes for the
Budget Committee
Town of Danbury, New Hampshire
July 23, 2026

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order

Present: Ashlynn Comeau, Ruby Hill, Karen Padgett, Jim Phelps, Lenny Ryan

Not Present: Jessica Hatch, Tracy Feinauer

Old Business: Minutes

- Minutes were reviewed from January 15, 2026 meeting. Ashlynn moved to accept the minutes, second to the motion by Karen; motion carried by unanimous aye vote.
- Minutes were reviewed from the March 31, 2026 meeting. Karen moved to accept the minutes, second to the motion by Jim; motion carried by an aye vote with Ashlynn abstaining
- Ruby explained that the following minutes were not “signed” by her with her name and though previously approved, need to be approved as amended. These minutes were from March 27, 2025; November 6, 2025; November 13, 2025; December 11, 2025; and January 8, 2026. Ruby moved to accept the minutes as amended, second to the motion by Karen; motion carried by unanimous aye vote.

New Business:

Discussion of Budget to Date:

- Karen asked if the new highway department truck had been received and if/when it would be put in service. Ashlynn said it has been received, will sit in the highway department garage until it can go to Viking-Cives of Vermont; we are dependent on their schedule.
- Karen said the \$12,000 spent on a new Transfer Station container is on the wrong line and will be moved to the Recycling line.
- Discussion ensued about the third person working at the Transfer Station-are we paying this person to pick cans? Are the fees being collected by the Transfer Station attendants that should be? Are we saving any \$? We were supposed to save money by having the new container.
- Jim asked for a comparison of revenue for municipal solid waste vs. construction and demolition.
- We have \$36,000 budgeted for Employer Social Security/Medicare but have spent more than \$26,000 already. Why is this so high for half a year?
- How are the Fire Department stipends distributed? What is the formula for that?

- Jim wants to see the contract the Town has with the Bristol Fire Department for ambulance service. He specifically asked what happens to the revenue they receive from Danbury patients? Does any come back to the Town to offset costs for that contract?
- Karen would like to know the status of the Hazard Mitigation Grant.
- Jim asked if the revaluation was done, and when we will get a notice of it being done?
- Ruby asked if the TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) was paid off? Ashlynn said it is.
- Ruby asked if the Board is expecting to take out another TAN this year. Ashlynn thinks they are.
- Jim asked if the Town expects any unanticipated revenue this year.
- Karen asked if an audit firm had been retained. Ruby said she shared RFPs for Audit firms with the Board and Ashlynn believes an RFP went out.
- On June 26 a law passed which makes the Default Budget the responsibility of the Budget Committee instead of the Selectboard; we will be responsible for both preparing and presenting the Default Budget this year.
- Revenues are up this year. Land Use revenues were budgeted at \$10,000 and are \$26,000. Excavation is up \$5,000. Interest and penalties are already at \$25,000 and were expected to be \$21,000 for the year.
- Karen asked why the Town received a \$6,000 health insurance reimbursement.
- Lenny asked about Temporary Help and Overtime for the Highway Department. Most of the budget has already been used for both of these lines.
- Karen asked why we keep budgeting for a third police officer position when we have been unable to find a third police officer for several years now.

Next Meetings:

- Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

School District:

General discussion of the District budget not passing and specific warrant articles failing for lack of a 60% majority vote. Ashlynn explained that until they held the June meeting to perfect the March meeting, the Department of Revenue Administration would not discuss this year's budget with them. The law changed last year to require 60% on special warrant articles in towns with a tax cap.

6:57 p.m. Meeting adjourned with a motion from Karen, second by Lenny.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruby Hill, Clerk