

Town of Norwich
Finance Committee Meeting
February 9, 2026, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Multi-purpose Room, Tracy Hall

Committee Members Present: Tricia Spellman, Steven Hepburn, Cheryl Lindberg, and Nicholas Wood

Committee Members Missing: Russell North and Christie James

1. Call meeting to order
 - a. At 6:34 pm, Hepburn called the Finance Committee meeting to order.
2. Approve Agenda – discussion/motion
 - a. Wood made a motion to accept the agenda, and Lindberg seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
3. Approve Minutes 1/12/26 – discussion/motion
 - a. Lindberg made a motion to accept the 1/12/26 minutes, and Wood seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
4. Selectboard task – Comparable towns – discussion
 - a. There was a discussion about Hepburn’s draft report titled “Norwich VT Comparable Towns 2026 Report.” He noted that additional sections could be added over time as we receive more information about each of the towns.
 - b. Hepburn noted that Manchester’s budget increase looked high (18%) because the town took library into the town budget.
 - c. The group reviewed the VT Municipal Compensation and Benefit Report from 2022 and discussed adding information from that report by town. The Town Manager has a more recent version of the report and we could ask to review it.
 - d. There were discussions about the Police departments sections and the administration sections.
 - e. The next steps is for Hepburn to finalize the report and to put the document in front of Norwich Selectboard.
 - f. Wood made motion to send the report with edits as discussed to the Selectboard. Spellman seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
5. Town Budget
 - a. The group discussed the FY25 audit report that is included in this week’s Selectboard packet.
 - b. The group tried to understand the reasons for the variance from budget, using the December Selectboard packet to help explain the large adjustments.
6. School Budget Overall
 - a. The school budget information is now posted on the bulletin boards and the group reviewed the documents. It showed a 6.4% increase in Dresden budget and a 7.4% increase in Norwich School Board budget (comparing to FY26 budget)

7. Public Comments for items not on the agenda
 - a. There was no public comment.
8. Adjourn – motion
 - a. Spellman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, and Wood seconded.
The motion passed with unanimous consent.