

Select Board Budget information Meeting  
Monday, February 23, 2026, 6pm

Board members in attendance: Harry, Nancy, Nate  
Attendees: 7  
Via Zoom: 0

The Auditors delivered the Town Reports prior to the start of the meeting.

Clerk Gary announced updates to the budget due to addition errors and omissions. These updates will be posted on the Town's website tomorrow and announced at Town Meeting.

Board Chair Harry solicited questions about the budget from attendees, resulting in the following:

-There is no place in the budget, except in the notes, where we show the total amount of property taxes collected in 2025. It was suggested that we find a way to share that number so voters have a clear understanding. The Board agreed that this could be incorporated into future budget reports and acknowledged the need to separate municipal budget figures from school district figures.

-There were comments about the way agency requests for Town financial support are presented. Voters would like to be able to review the justification for requested support from each individual organization before voting. Clerk Gary noted that each organization submits a request letter with information about the agency's support of our residents and these will be available at Town Meeting. He also explained how some Towns present these requests in a different manner. Board member Nancy reminded folks that agencies used to have to provide a petition to get a warning on the ballot to request funding. It was agreed that we would investigate alternative ways to present this information in future years.

-Attendees asked for more information about Lancaster ambulance coverage and the number of people served. Clerk Gary noted that we've received that information in the past, upon request, and he'll reach out tomorrow to get stats for 2025.

-Clerk Gary asked if we needed to do more to inform people about the budget prior to Town Meeting since the budget information meeting was not well intended. Luke suggested low attendance was the result of more confidence and transparency in Town Government.

-Attendees noted that there was no report from the Transfer Station, yet it's a significant expenditure in the budget. It was agreed that any department/organization that receives Town funding should be required to submit a summary report of operations. There was also discussion about raising prices on Town Bags and it was noted that Lunenburg has one of the lowest costs in the area. Attendees shared a need for better tracking of fees collected at the Transfer Station. Attendees pointed out that it's in the Town's best interest to keep prices at the

Transfer Station consistent with what other Towns charge to discourage regional residents from trying to dispose of trash at the least expensive Transfer Station. It was noted that there are simple solutions that would provide internet access to the Transfer Station to help with fee collection. All agreed that more specific tracking of income received at the Transfer Station is needed.

-There were questions about what data we receive to justify the increased request for funding from the Sheriff's Office. Board Chair Harry summarized discussions he's had with Sheriff Trevor regarding the need to increase salaries to maintain competitiveness. Attendees shared support for the Sheriff Office's work, but hope for additional information: Is Lunenburg and Gilman safer than last year or more dangerous? Do we have a greater drug problem or are efforts to curtail drug use resulting in fewer drug-related violations. Clerk Gary shared that we have received reports from the Sheriff's Dept for Q3 and Q4 2025 that summarizes the types of calls the Sheriff's Office receives and the traffic violation citations issued. Gary emailed Sheriff Trevor earlier today to see if these stats were available for Q1 and Q2 2025.

-There was a brief discussion about Fire District #1 and Fire District #2. Concerns were shared about potential fee increases and ongoing capacity issues.

-Highway Foreman Gregg asked the Board to approve a \$1 raise for our new employee Harvey Call. Gregg noted that his 90-probation period had passed and praised Harvey for his hard work and commitment to the crew. The Board agreed to take the request into consideration.

There were no further questions, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm