

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday – March 2, 2026

1. Councillor Katz called the meeting to order at 8:10pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Chairman Katz requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Committee members Durkee, King, LaFauci, LeBlanc, and Katz were all present in-person.
3. Councillor Durkee moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2026. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on February 17, 2026 were accepted.
4. A motion by Councillor Durkee to put the agenda item of the School collective bargaining funding at the end was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A motion to hear from all individuals (Mayor McCarthy, City Engineer Robert Winn, Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin, School Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa, and Asst Superintendent Chad Mazza) with an item on the agenda was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$5,999 to purchase a replacement copy machine for the Wires Department. The current copier is beyond repair due to the age of the machine.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance
\$5,999

#001-000-3590-3590

TO:

Wires – Copy Machine
\$5,999

#001-245-5800-6413

The Mayor was in attendance to speak on behalf of the department head stating the reasons for the new copy machine. A motion by Councillor Durkee to approve the funding amount of \$5,999 for the copy machine was adopted on a voice vote.

7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve a transfer in the amount of \$7,521.93 for the purchase of a new copier/scanner machine for the Engineering Office. The current machine was purchased in 2015, and the manufacturer no longer makes replacements parts for this model. Service calls have been steadily increasing in frequency, and some functions are not working and not fixable, therefore the copier needs to be replaced.

TRANSFER FROM:

Engineer – FT Salary

#001-410-5100-5111

\$7,521.93

TRANSFER TO:

Engineer – Copier/Scanner

#001-410-5800-6413

\$7,521.93

Upon questions from Councillors, Mr. Winn stated the reasons for the new copy machine.

A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the funding amount of \$7,521.93 for the copy machine was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$275,000 for the Structural and Transportation Engineering Services required for the conceptual design phase of the replacement of the Farwell Street Bridge superstructure and associated roadway improvements. A proposal from TEC, Inc. was attached which outlined the scope of work and deliverables.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance

#001-000-

3590-3590

\$275,000

TO:

Engineer – Eng Services (Farwell St Bridge)

#001-410-5800-6640

\$275,000

Upon questions from Councillors, Mr. Winn explained the reasons for the bridge replacement and the City was pursuing funding from the State for the construction phase of the project. Councillor LeBlanc asked questions about the bridge abutment supports and traffic impacts during the bridge closure. Councillor LaFauci asked questions about other impacts, including the bike path on either side of bridge. A motion by Councillor LeBlanc to approve the funding amount of \$275,000 for the engineering services was adopted on a voice vote.

9. A request was received from the Mayor to approve a transfer of funds of \$9,500 to purchase a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to be installed on Trapelo Road at the intersection with Porter Road. This device will replace the existing post-mounted traffic signal in flashing mode at this intersection. The removal of the existing signal equipment and the installation will be performed by the Wires Department.

FROM:

Traffic – General

#310-480-

2006-6000

\$ 535.43

Traffic – High/Joyce/Hamblin Signal

#310-480-2006-6810

\$

3,057.00

Traffic – South/Highland Signal

#310-480-2006-6850

\$ 184.04

Mayor – Fernald Security	#001-121-5400-5386
\$ 3,553.15	
Recreation – Fernald Security	#001-630-5400-5386
\$ 2,170.38	
TO:	
Traffic – Trapelo/Porter RRFB	#310-480-2006-6840
\$ 3,776.47	
Mayor – Fernald Security	#001-121-5400-5386
\$ 3,553.15	
Recreation – Fernald Security	#001-630-5400-5386
\$ 2,170.38	

Upon questions from Councillors, Mr. Garvin explained the project was requested by Councillor Hanley and approved by the Traffic Commission. A motion by Councillor LeBlanc to approve the funding amount of \$9,500 for the RRFB was adopted on a voice vote.

10. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$564,581 to fund the additional contingency for the first year of the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the School Department and the Waltham Educators Association (WEA) for the period September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. The School Department is utilizing \$1,946,279 of the current FY2026 budget contingency. The funding for the second and third year of the agreement will be recommended in the FY2027 and FY2028 operating budget for the School Department. The School Committee voted on February 4, 2026 to request additional funds from the City.

FROM:	
Unreserved Fund Balance	#001-000-3590-3590
\$564,581	
TO:	
School Contingency –	
Collective Bargaining	#001-35-99-9-2001-5111-1-1
\$564,581	

Upon questions from Councillors, Superintendent Mendonsa explained the various items of the agreement, including the financial items and the increase to the teachers' work schedule. Councillors LaFauci and King asked follow up questions about the calculation of the request and negotiation process. A motion by Councillor Durkee to approve the funding request of \$564,581 for the WEA contract was adopted on a voice vote.

11. Councillor LaFauci moved to take the School Mid-Year Budget Report from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Superintendent Mendonsa and Asst Superintendent Mazza distributed a multi-page report on the status of the mid-year budget. Mr. Mazza explained the various components of each program accounts and highlighted the status

of where each stood at this time. Upon questions from Councillors, Mr. Mazza responded about the condition of various maintenance issues in schools, specifically boilers. Councillor LaFauci asked questions about the non-WHS building maintenance costs and if those could be isolated. Councillor LeBlanc asked questions about the rising costs associated with out-of-district student placements. Councillor LeBlanc also asked questions about the enrollment in the various CTE programs and how it is being marketed to prospective students. Councilor LeBlanc asked about the budget impacts for the consumable items (wood, wiring, etc) that are used in the CTE programs. Councillor Durkee asked about the budget impact of legal fees once union contracts are finalized and if student clubs needed to raise funds for their individual program. Councillor LaFauci asked questions about the budget impact once the COVID funds are no longer available. Councillor LaFauci also asked questions about the ability to reduce the out-of-district cost by keeping the students in-house. Superintendent Mendonsa explained that appropriate staffing is needed. Councillor King asked questions about the work force development for the CTE students and placement in outside industries. Mr. Mazza stated that is happening. Hearing no other questions/discussion/comments, Councillor LaFauci moved to file the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

2. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman Katz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee