BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Hooksett Town Offices
35 Main Street
Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER
A. Shaine called the meeting to order.

.

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE
Ernie Bencivenga, Germano Martins, William Lynch, George Harrington, Alyssa Ehl, Elizabeth Spitzer, Marianne Soucy, John Ciempa, School Rep, David Smith, Town Council Rep and Abigail Shaine.

G. Gagnon in attendance (to be sworn in)

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS
Chair
W. Lynch nominated Abigail Shaine as Chair.
Seconded by M. Soucy

E. Stitzer nominated W. Lynch as Chair
Seconded by E. Bencivenga

Vote:
A. Shaine 6
W. Lynch 5

Vice Chair
G. martins nominated W. Lynch as Vice Chair
Seconded by M. Soucy
Vote 10:0

Secretary
A. Ehl nominated E. Bencivenga as Secretary
Seconded by E. Spitzer
Vote 10:0

The Chair welcome new members George Harrington and Gary Gagnon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 28, 2026
M. Soucy motioned to approve the minutes of May 28, 2026
Seconded by G. Martins
Vote unanimously in favor 4 abstained: D. Smith, J. Ciempa, A. Ehl, and G. Harrington

PUBLIC INPUT
No comments

BUSINESS
Chair discussed the Board procedure for distributing and reading into the record any correspondence from a non-resident.
All correspondence should be emailed through the Secretary, L Moynihan for distribution.

E. Bencivenga feels a letter from outside of Hooksett should not be read into the record.
You shouldn't be giving opinions from outside of Hooksett. They are not part of the community. They may come here and speak in public, but the Board should not be representing their voice if they are not present.

W. Lynch stated that non-resident letters will be distributed to the board and members can make a motion to discuss if necessary.

Marianne motioned that non-residential letters be forward to the Board and only discussed if a member bring it up.
Seconded by E. Bencivenga.
Vote 9:0 J. Ciempa abstained

Default Budget Legislation
J. Ciempa addressed the way the default is prepared as a result of HB1575 and HB1300.
HP1575 changes the authority to prepare the budget from the governing body to the Budget committee. HB1300 is a statewide growth and SAU spending limit question that will be on the State Ballot.
The School Board's goal is to understand new requirements. HB1575 went into law Sept. 1, 2026. We will need to work out a process with the Budget Committee. This legislation doesn't change how the default budget is defined.

A. Shaine asked if the board should have the School Board's Counsel speak to the Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee would like to seek an opinion from the Town's legal counsel on this matter.

L. Moynihan suggested reaching out to the NHMA legal counsel first for assistance.

A. Shaine asked if the NHMA legal counsel would be willing to come to the budget committee meeting.

L. Moynihan will contact NHMA and make the request.

L. Moynihan provided budget training information which included a PowerPoint overview of the local government as well as their duties, authority and responsibilities.

The Budget Committee will discuss Board rules and bylaws at their next meeting.

Review of Calendar
The Committee reviewed the calendar.

M. Soucy motioned to approve the 2026-2027 Budget Committee calendar.
Seconded by A. Ehl.
Vote unanimously in favor

Christine Tewksbury, Finance Director stated that the Municipal Budget Books would be available for the committee members to pick up in the Town Tax Collector's Office during normal business hours on September 22nd. The proposed budget will also be available online.

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT
M. Soucy motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by W. Lynch.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

.