

The Westport Library...

The Westport Library
Westport, Connecticut

Unapproved Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting January 20,2026

Members Present: Scott Bennewitz (Chair), Bob Boroujerdi, Sheri Gordon, Ben Chan, Peter Zakowich, Darcy Travlos, Anna Alemani

Members Absent: none.

Guest attending: Christy Charise, Randy Herbertson

Staff attending: Bill Harmer, Melanie Myers, Robin Powell, Tory Donohue and Amber Tencic

Scott Bennewitz opened the meeting at 4:50 pm.

- The minutes of the December 16,2025 meeting were asked to be revised
- A discussion was had to combine other unrestricted funds with the Board Designated Fund, retroactively effective June 30, 2025. The amount proposed to move was reflected in the June 30, 2025 Reserves Spreadsheet. Scott asked for a vote of the committee, which was unanimously approved.
- Next a discussion was held around the annual % to be drawn from the Board Designated Fund for the proposed FY 2026-27 Operating Budget. Historically the % spend has been 5% of the trailing three-year trailing balance as of June 30. The Finance Committee is proposing a 6% spend for the 2026/2027 budget to support operations. It was further discussed that future years could be anywhere from 1% to 6%.
 - Ben suggested that we add this calculation to the draft financial/fiscal policy. Scott made a motion to include a 6% spend for the 2026/2027 proposed budget that was unanimously approved.
- Next the committee reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2026-27, including a 3.2% appropriation increase from the Town of Westport. Scott made the motion to recommend that the Board approve the proposed budget; the motion was approved 6-0, with Anna abstaining.

The meeting concluded at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, *Amber Tencic*