

**Town of Sullivan, NH  
Budget Committee  
Approved Meeting Minutes, Monday, January 12, 2026  
Sullivan Town Hall**

Board members present: Mike Blanchard, Aimee Fador, Gary Patnode, Bradford Smith, BJ Wahl

Board Representatives: Dave Jakway, Selectmen; Virginia DeAngelis, Selectmen alternate, Paul Bolduc, Selectmen Alternate;

Departments: Mike Blanchard, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Department; Dave Jakway, Board of Selectmen

Public: None

Staff: Kathleen Rowe, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Brad Smith, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Brad Smith introduced Aimee Fador, new member of the Budget Committee. Brad also noted Sherry Connor's resignation, effective this date.

On a motion by Aimee Fador, seconded by Gary Patnode, the minutes of the of January 5, 2026 Budget Committee were unanimously approved as written.

**1. BUDGET REVIEW**

A. 4220 - Fire Department: \$57,853, (+582.00)  
Mike Blanchard presented.

390: Mike noted the largest increase in the budget is for Fire Mutual Aid (\$16,368 +\$3,587). This system has recently gone through an audit, and a number of factors including increased assessments in area towns, effected a rate increase region-wide.

Gary asked what services were provided by Mutual Aid; Mike explained that this is the central dispatch for region-wide emergency calls. Without this, towns would need to support local dispatching at substantial expense. SWFMA also provides radio repair and attendance at large-scale emergencies, providing communications assistance.

430: Building maintenance: \$1000 (+\$500) installation materials for new lighting

662:Radio Repair & Maintenance: \$1500 (-\$1500) Mike noted that there are grant opportunities for new radios in 2026; the existing radios are in good repair.

740: New Equipment: \$6000 (no change) The Fire Department replaces hose on a rotating basis; line item includes miscellaneous tools as needed.

4290 - Emergency Management: \$450 (no change) Standing request

Fire Department Capital Reserves:

4917-02: Fire Department Vehicle: \$35,000 (to augment current balance). Mike explained that the Town trucks are all in good condition right now. To Gary's question regarding which vehicle is the most likely to be replaced in the near future, Mike noted that either the 1990 Pierce tanker or the Sterling pumper (purchased new in 2003) would need replacement; a smaller truck (1500 gallons) would be sufficient. The cost (new) is upwards of \$750,000.

4917-04: Breathing Apparatus \$2500 for annual upkeep

4917-22: Dry Hydrant \$5,000: to replace dry hydrant at Rt. 9 and Centre Street. The current hydrant has failed; with this appropriation there should now be sufficient funds to have permitting and construction done in 2026.

Paul commented that it is important that the budget Committee recognize the amount of time and the value of materials being volunteered by members of the Fire Department. Without this, expenses would be much higher. Additionally, the combined expertise of key members is invaluable and will not be able to be replaced when no longer available. Mike added that SFD volunteers completed the build-out on the new squad vehicle at no cost to the Town.

In answer to Aimee's question about membership, Mike explained that there are currently 13 members, of which 9 are fully active and reliable. The Department is always looking for help, including that which does not require firefighting or EMS certification. To Gary's question, Mike noted that people who would be willing to do work on general projects not requiring certification (tasks such as truck checks) would be valuable to the Fire Department.

B. Board of Selectmen

4130: Salaries \$70,836 (+\$266)

Dave noted that all salary lines include the Federal COL increase (2.8%). Adjustments in hours and salaries for 2026 result in an overall .38% increase.

4140: Election/Registration: \$4,864 (+3863) There are three elections in 2026 versus one in 2025. Additionally, specialized software for both school and town elections is now required by the State, adding \$1300.

4150: Financial: \$56,552 (-\$1,831) Selectmen were able to initiate savings through changes in attendance at annual TC/TC seminars (1 person per seminar, 2 seminars) and savings from changes in Municipal Resources Inc. (accounting) staffing.

4152: Revaluation: \$9,646 (+646): Increase in Avitar charges for annual utilities analysis; monthly update costs remain static.

4153: Legal and Audit: \$44,875 (+3225): Increase results from land use and ordinance challenges coupled with increased legal fees.

4155: Personnel: \$8,744 (-\$1,103): Includes Social Security and Medicare taxes, unemployment and Workmen's Compensation. Decrease results from reallocation of costs across departments.

4194: Building Maintenance: (\$17, 600 (+720) This account include telephone, propane and electricity as well as general maintenance (mowing, cleaning, etc.). Additional funds allocated to the latter are for increased general maintenance costs (Waste Management, cleaning, small repairs).

Dave noted that the Selectmen are taking quotes for a VOIP telephone system which will provide substantial savings for all departments.

4210: Police Services: \$64,346 (+\$9,339) Cheshire County Sheriff's Department is hiring and training officers for additional patrolling in 2026.

4215: Ambulance: \$25,539 (+12,182) This is an anticipated increase; 2025 was supported by one-time funds available to the City of Keene.

4414: Health & Welfare: \$39,655 (+975) Direct Assistance and Vendor Payments remain stable; Health Agencies increased with the addition of Tiny Tummies, a local non-profit service agency providing major assistance in food delivery from the NH Food Bank to the Sullivan Food Pantry, an independent agency.

Capital Reserves:

4917-09: Building Major Maintenance \$25,000: To augment reserve fund for future major repairs

4917-10: Reassessment: \$7,000: To fund 2029 reassessment

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Next meeting of the Budget Committee will be 1/19/2025 at 6:00 PM, Sullivan Town Hall to discuss Sullivan School District Budget and make recommendations.
- With Sherry Connor's recent resignation, the Board again needs one more member to be complete.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:30PM made by Mike Blanchard, seconded by BJ Wahl, all aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen N. Rowe, AA  
Secretary