

Lunenburg Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Bilotta Meeting Room
Lunenburg Town Hall
July 23, 2026

Present Members: Chair Chris Menard, Clerk Tom Gray, Committee Member Peter Beardmore, Committee Member Tanya Dall, Committee Member Jay Simeone, Committee Member Ana Lockwood, Committee Member Mike Rupp

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 7:03 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Announcements

Chris Menard confirmed that an additional Special Town Meeting is expected to be held this year; however, the date has not yet been determined.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

5. Town Manager & Finance Director Reports

The Town Manager and Finance Director are on vacation; therefore, no report was provided.

6. Current Business

a. Reorganization of Finance Committee

There was a motion to nominate Chris Menard for Chair by Jay Simeone, seconded by Tanya Dall. All in favor.

There was a motion to nominate Peter Beardmore as Vice Chair by Jay Simeone, seconded by Tom Gray. All in favor.

There was a motion to nominate Tom Gray for Clerk by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Peter Beardmore. All in favor.

b. Presentation by Green Communities on Mass Save Programs and Incentives

The Chair of the Green Communities Committee, David Blatt, provided the presentation.

David Blatt discussed different programs and incentives offered by Mass Save and National Grid. The representative at Mass Save is Matt O'Keefe and the representative from National Grid is Sean Krauss.

Mass Save offers free audits regarding energy efficiency. For FY 26, 90% of towns in the Commonwealth are now Green Communities.

There was discussion about weatherization incentives, heat pump incentives, building management systems, and other electric measures.

David Blatt discussed the accelerated repair program offered to schools that cover roof and window repair. Applications need to be submitted in January 2027; a decision will be made in mid-2027 and construction will start in 2028. The applications are only accepted every 2 years.

c. Additional State Aid, other revenues and savings Discussion

Renee Emkey forwarded a presentation to the Committee for review.

Chris Menard confirmed a petition was submitted by Mandy Gilman who is also working with the Superintendent. There will be an upcoming presentation by Mandy Gilman, possibly with the School Committee and Superintendent.

Chris Menard provided the following documents to the Finance Committee members: General Law, Bylaws, Home Rule Charter, as well as guidance from the Mass Dept. of Revenue.

The Finance Committee public hearing has been scheduled to take place on August 27, 2026.

Below are some highlights anticipated to be discussed at the public hearing.

- \$135,915 increase in Chapter 70 funds
- \$116,413 increase in charter school tuition reimbursement
- \$160,187 was received in receipts from the Smart Growth school reimbursement.
- There was a total increase of \$402,730 in school related state aid.

Below are the 5 requests proposed by the Superintendent totaling \$350,000.

- Reading Specialist at the Primary School
- Reading Specialist at the Turkey Hill Elementary
- Increasing the Vice Principal position to full time
- Increasing the Music Teacher at the High School to full time
- Online tutoring program for the Primary School

d. Committee and Liaison Assignments

The assignments are as follows:

Council on Aging: Ana Lockwood

Green Communities Committee: Tom Gray
Library Board of Trustees: Jay Simeone
Master Plan Steering Committee: Mike Rupp
Municipal Design Committee: Tom Gray
Parks Commission: Tanya Dall
Personnel Committee: Tanya Dall
School Committee: Peter Beardmore
Select Board: Tom Gray
Sewer Commission: Jay Simeone

The Town Manager Screening Committee has concluded its work thus will not need liaison.

The assignments for the Capital Planning Committee, Stormwater Task Force, Planning Board were deferred.

Peter Beardmore volunteered to be the contact person for department liaison with the Police Department, Facilities Department and the Department of Public Works.

e. Upcoming priorities and Calendars

Chris Menard anticipates that department heads will present their requests prior to the budget season, most likely during wintertime.

Chris Menard will reach out to the DLS representative to set up a presentation regarding best practice and knowledge for the Finance Committee and the Select Board.

7. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

8. Minutes (Fincom - 5/28, 6/11, Triboards – 1/12, 1/27, 3/10, possibly others)

There was a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2026, and June 11, 2026, by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Tom Gray.

There was a motion to approve the Triboard minutes of January 12, 2026, January 27, 2026, and March 10, 2026, by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Tom Gray.

Both sets of minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0-2.

9. Committee Reports

Tom Gray states the Municipal Building Design Committee will be meeting with the Select Board on July 28, 2026, to discuss the future of the Committee.

10. Actions and Topics for Future Meetings

There were no actions or topics to add to future agendas.

11. Important Dates & Upcoming Meetings

- a. Finance Committee – August 13
- b. Finance Committee Public Hearing – August 27
- c. Special Town Meeting – September 3

12. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

13. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Jay Simeone. All in favor.

The meeting closed at 9:34 PM.