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# Town of Redding
# Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes
# Monday, 3/30/2026
# 7:30PM via Zoom

*Filed subject to approval.*

**Present:**

- Ward Mazzucco, Chair
- Karen Gifford, Vice Chair
- Jamie Barickman (Absent)
- Robert Dean
- Jenifer Wyss
- Roger Van Ausdal

**Also Present:**

- Jim Sanders, Finance Director
- Wes Higgins, Treasurer
- First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton
- Michael Thompson, Selectman
- Dr. Jason McKinnon, Superintendent of Schools, Easton-Redding-Region 9
- Laura Worosz, Redding Board of Education Chair
- Members of the Public

Chair Mazzucco called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

1. **To Approve the Minutes of the Wednesday, 3/18/2026 Board of Finance (BOF) Public Hearing.**

**Motion:**

**Vice Chair Gifford made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, 3/18/2026 BOF Public Hearing. Ms. Wyss seconded the motion. There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman).**

2. **Public Comment.**

Chair Mazzucco opened the floor to Public Comment.

Jess Gaspar thanked the BOF for presenting the various borrowing scenarios at the last BOF meeting. He asked the BOF if there was information regarding past borrowing that the Town of Redding has engaged in. Wes Higgins stated that the Long-Range Financial Planning Committee has presented this information in the past. Discussion followed.

3. **Discussion and Possible Action: FY27 Capital Budgets.**

**a. Board of Education.**

Laura Worosz, Redding Board of Education (BOE) Chair, presented the modified Capital Request for FY 2026-2027 for the Redding BOE:

## RBOE Capital Budget Request 2026

| Item | Original request | Revised request |
|---|---|---|
| JRMS 5th grade restrooms | $80,778 | $0 |
| JRMS student lockers | $88,774 | $70,000 |
| Modernization project (SpEd, music spaces) | $298,878 | $298,878 |
| Exterior door units (RES and JRMS) | $60,248 | $60,248 |
| Project adventure at JRMS | $53,250 | $53,250 |
| **Total cost** | **$581,927** | **$482,376** |

Chair Worosz stated that the JRMS 5th Grade Restrooms have been pushed out a year and the JRMS Student Lockers project was reduced by $18,774.

Ms. Wyss asked Chair Worosz what is included in the Project Adventure at JRMS project. Chair Worosz explained that this project includes a variety of new equipment and improvements to the existing equipment related to the Project Adventure program.

Mr. Sanders stated that the Redding BOE has a balance of $40,000 leftover from the FY 2025-2026 Capital Projects that were approved at the May 2025 Referendum. This $40,000 could be used as a potential funding source for the Redding BOE capital budget for FY 2026-2027. Discussion followed concerning how this affects the Capital Projects funding request for FY 2026-2027.

**Motion:**

**Vice Chair Gifford made a motion to approve the Redding BOE Capital Budget Request for FY 2026-2027 of up to $482,376. This will be funded by the unassigned fund balance or other sources as determined by the BOF. Mr. Van Ausdal seconded the motion. There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.**

**b. Board of Selectman.**

The BOF reviewed the FY 2026-2027 Capital Plan:

# Overall Summary of Adopted FY27 Capital Plans

| | | Referendum Capital | Lease/ Operating | Grants | Bridge Borrowing | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Works Equipment | | $120,000 | $350,000 | | | $470,000 |
| Bridges | | | | | $2,315,625 | 2,315,625 |
| Roads | | 1,400,000 | | | | 1,400,000 |
| Town Facilities | | 688,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | | 868,000 |
| **BOS Sub-total** | | **$2,208,000** | **$440,000** | **$90,000** | **$2,315,625** | **$5,053,625** |
| BOE FY27 Request | $482,376 | ~~$584,000~~ | | | | |
| Remaining FY26 Appropriation | | (40,000) | | | | |
| **BOE Sub-total** | $482,376 | ~~$544,000~~ | **$0** | **$0** | **$0** | **$0** |
| **WPCC** | | **$220,000** | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | $2,910,376 | ~~$2,972,000~~ | **$440,000** | **$90,000** | **$2,315,625** | **$5,053,625** |

**Note:** BOE $100,000 Non-lapsing account available for capital requirements.

The BOF discussed the "Referendum Capital" item for the Board of Selectman (BOS).

**Motion:**

**Vice Chair Gifford made a motion to approve the BOS FY 2026-2027 Capital Plan of up to $2,208,000. This will be funded with the unassigned fund balance or other sources as determined by the BOF. Mr. Van Ausdal seconded the motion.**

**Ms. Wyss asked First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton how the BOS determined the various estimates for the various Capital Projects. First Selectwoman Pemberton stated that estimates were acquired for all these projects, although the final numbers may be different than what is currently presented. Discussion followed.**

**There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.**

**c. WPCC.**

The BOF discussed the WPCC Capital Request for FY 2026-2027:

# WPCC Adopted FY27 Capital Budget

| | Major Components | FY26-27 | FY27-28 | FY28-29 | FY29-30 | FY30-31 | Total | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Roofing, Odor Control Building (1996) * | 220,000 | | | | | 220,000 | Estimates based on a 2024 T&B engineering estimate and 2025 Barrett roofer estimate. Admin and Odor Control are original from 1996, assuming a life of 30 years to 2026; Influent and Permeate/Membrane were built in 2007, assume a life of 20 years to 2027. |
| 2 | Roofing, Influent Screening Bldg (2007) * | | | 160,000 | | | 160,000 | |
| 3 | Roofing, Permeate/Membrane (2007) * | | 680,000 | | | | 680,000 | |
| | Subtotal | 220,000 | 680,000 | 160,000 | - | | 1,060,000 | |
| | Pending T&B Asset Management Plan/Operations Assessment | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Membranes | | | | | | | Membrane - replaced in 2024, 7-10 year lifespan |
| 5 | Off-line Aeration Basin recirculation pump; SCADA automation | | | 30,000 | 28,000 | | 58,000 | Future: Instrumentation required to operate both basins together. ~Q1; year pending operations review and increased flow |
| 6 | Grit Handling | | | | | 160,000 | - | Estimated engineering specs and construction services or alternate and implementation |
| 7 | Grinder/Drum Screen Systems | | | 35,000 | 35,000 | | 70,000 | |
| | Sub Total | - | - | 65,000 | 63,000 | 160,000 | 128,000 | |
| | Total for all projects | 220,000 | 680,000 | 225,000 | 63,000 | 160,000 | 1,188,000 | |

Timeframe may float

**Motion:**

**Vice Chair Gifford made a motion to approve the WPCC Capital Budget for FY 2026-2027 of up to $220,000. This will be funded with the unassigned fund balance or other sources as determined by the BOF. Mr. Van Ausdal seconded the motion.**

**Ms. Wyss asked the BOF about the timing of the proposed projects and if anything will "float". Mr. Higgins stated that the proposed roofing projects could be extended. Discussion followed.**

**There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.**

**d. Consolidated Budget.**

Mr. Sanders stated that the revised Consolidated Budget for Capital Projects for FY 2026-2027 is $2,910,376.

**Motion:**

**Vice Chair Gifford made a motion to approve the Consolidated Budget for Capital Projects for FY 2026-2027 of up to $2,910,376. This will be funded with the unassigned fund balance or other sources as determined by the BOF. Mr. Van Ausdal seconded the motion. There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.**

**4. Discussion: FY27 Mill Rate Pro-forma.**

Mr. Sanders presented the FY27 Mill Rate Pro-forma to the BOF:

# FY27 Mill Rate Pro-Forma

| EXPENDITURE SUMMARY | 2024-2025 REFERENDUM | 2025-2026 REFERENDUM | 2026-2027 PRO-FORMA | $ Δ from PY | % Δ from PY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Selectmen Budget (adopted) | $ 16,961,130 | $ 17,751,404 | $ 18,453,366 | $ 701,962 | 3.95% |
| Board of Ed Budget (adopted) | $ 25,453,622 | $ 26,521,323 | $ 27,570,525 | $ 1,049,202 | 3.96% |
| Region 9 Budget (adopted) | $ 11,987,042 | $ 12,458,720 | $ 13,449,692 | $ 990,972 | 7.95% |
| Education Sub-Total | $ 37,440,664 | $ 38,980,043 | $ 41,020,217 | $ 2,040,174 | 5.23% |
| BOARD BUDGETS SUB-TOTAL | $ 54,401,794 | $ 56,731,447 | $ 59,473,583 | $ 2,742,136 | 4.83% |
| **NON-TAX REVENUE** | | | | | |
| Town Charges for Services | $ 1,316,765 | $ 1,353,836 | $ 1,339,955 | $ (13,881) | -1.03% |
| Licenses and Permits | $ 285,000 | $ 315,000 | $ 340,000 | $ 25,000 | 7.94% |
| State Aid | $ 423,588 | $ 423,188 | $ 487,538 | $ 64,350 | 15.21% |
| Investment Income | $ 600,000 | $ 700,000 | $ 550,000 | $ (150,000) | -21.43% |
| Rental Income/Other | $ 58,928 | $ 65,106 | $ 65,106 | $ - | 0.00% |
| NON-TAX REVENUE SUB-TOTAL | $ 2,684,281 | $ 2,857,130 | $ 2,782,599 | $ (74,531) | -2.61% |
| Contribution From / (To) Fund Balance | $ (250,000) | $ (500,000) | $ (100,000) | $ 400,000 | -80.00% |
| TO BE RAISED BY TAXES | $ 51,967,513 | $ 54,374,317 | $ 56,790,984 | $ 2,416,667 | 4.44% |
| October Net Grand List | $ 1,917,704,865 | $ 1,930,804,817 | $ 1,956,557,845 | $ 25,753,028 | 1.33% |
| Based on Tax Collection Rate | $ 1,898,527,816 | $ 1,911,496,769 | $ 1,936,992,267 | $ 25,495,498 | 1.33% |
| Tax Collection Rate | 99.0% | 99.0% | 99.0% | | 0.00% |
| MILL RATE TAX RECEIPTS | $ 54,532,158 | $ 56,465,177 | $ 58,922,797 | $ 2,457,620 | 4.35% |
| **MILL RATE TAX RECEIPT ADJUSTMENTS** | | | | | |
| Prior Year Taxes | $ 470,000 | $ 425,000 | $ 425,000 | $ - | 0.00% |
| Interest and Liens | $ 225,000 | $ 225,000 | $ 225,000 | $ - | 0.00% |
| Supplemental MV Tax | $ 438,000 | $ 420,000 | $ 420,000 | $ - | 0.00% |
| Less: WPCC Loan | $ (405,645) | $ (424,860) | $ (416,813) | $ 8,047 | -1.89% |
| Less: Tax Refunds | $ (90,000) | $ (90,000) | $ (90,000) | $ - | 0.00% |
| Less: Tax Refund Meadow Ridge | $ (650,000) | $ - | $ - | $ - | 0.00% |
| Less: Fire/EMT Tax Credit | $ (132,000) | $ (140,000) | $ (150,000) | $ (10,000) | 7.14% |
| Less: Elderly Benefit | $ (2,420,000) | $ (2,506,000) | $ (2,545,000) | $ (39,000) | 1.56% |
| TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS | $ (2,564,645) | $ (2,090,860) | $ (2,131,813) | $ (40,953) | 1.96% |
| TOTAL NET TAX RECEIPTS | $ 51,967,513 | $ 54,374,317 | $ 56,790,984 | $ 2,416,667 | 4.44% |
| **APPROVED/CALCULATED MILL RATE** | **28.72** | **29.54** | **30.42** | **0.88** | **2.98%** |
| **YtY % CHANGE** | **3.72%** | **2.85%** | **2.98%** | | |

**Mill Rate Sensitivity**

1. No contribution to Fund Balance – Mill rate +2.81% YtY
2. $250K contribution to Fund Balance – Mill rate +3.25% YtY
3. $500K contribution to Fund Balance – Mill rate +3.69% YtY

Mr. Sanders stated the total expenditure increase for FY 2026-2027 is 4.83%. The proposed Mill Rate assumes a $100,000 contribution to the Unassigned Fund Balance. This results in a Mill Rate increase of 2.98%.

The BOF discussed modifying the contribution to the Unassigned Fund Balance to offset the Capital Projects that were just discussed. Discussion followed concerning the appropriate increase to the Mill Rate.

**5. Other Business.**

The next regular BOF meeting will be held on Monday, 4/27/2026. The Mill Rate meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5/5/2026 after the Town Referendum.

First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton is coordinating a field trip with the Planning Commission and the BOF to see the various bridges across the Town of Redding (Bridge Projects).

**6. Public Comment.**

Chair Mazzucco opened the floor to Public Comment.

Jess Gaspar stated that the forecasted rate of inflation for the Federal Reserve is 3% and the OECD is 4.2%.

**Motion:**

**Vice Chair Gifford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Van Ausdal seconded the motion. There were five yes votes (Mazzucco, Gifford, Dean, Wyss, & Van Ausdal) and one absent (Barickman). The motion carried.**

The Meeting was adjourned at **8:14PM.**

*Submitted by, Zachary Smith*