Town of Townsend Finance Committee Meeting
May 22nd, 2026 @ 9:30am
VIA Conference Call & Town Hall
141 Main St. Townsend, DE 19734

9:30am Finance Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order: Approximately 9:31am.

II. Opening Ceremonies

- **a.** Roll Call: Mayor Lobdell, CM Bangura, TM Goodyear, & FO Helms.
- **b.** Pledge of Allegiance: None.
- **c.** Recognition of Visitors: None.
- **d.** Announcements: TM Goodyear shared that there is an additional finance request from the Public Safety Committee.

III. Citizens Comments & Participation.

- **a.** None.

IV. Adoption of Agenda.

- **a.** *All agreed to adopt the agenda as written*.

V. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval/Rejection of Finance Committee meeting Minutes from October 10th, 2025.

- **a.** *All agreed to approve the meeting minutes from October 10th, 2025*.

VI. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval/Rejection of Finance Committee meeting Minutes from December 17th, 2025.

- **a.** *All agreed to approve the meeting minutes from December 17th, 2025*.

VII. **ACTION ITEM**- Discussion and Review of FY27 Budget.

- **a.** FO Helms has shared a few updates since the last meeting. The deficit that was discussed at the last meeting has since increased from about $15,000 to $143,437. She also shares that the Town may need to reduce their estimated revenue for the year as well.
    1. TM Goodyear added that there have been some hold ups regarding the anticipated construction of new housing in Town, so they don't want to overestimate their revenue.
- **b.** FO Helms suggested cutting items from the Public Works and Police Department budgets due to their high budget requests this year.
    1. The Committee brainstormed effective ways they could cut from the budget to minimize the deficit.
    2. FO Helms expressed that the budget will not be ready to present to Council by the June meeting.

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   I. Mayor Lobdell stated that the budget can be presented in July's meeting to give the committee more time to work numbers.

3. TM clarified the items that the committee has potentially decided to change in the Budget. First, the Townsend Green project will be placed on hold until next year. The UTV for PW will be removed and the amount for the PW truck will be reduced. Finally, the PD building reno budget will be reduced by $10,000 to put towards the deficit without changing to tax rate.
   I. Mayor Lobdell asked if the taxes could be raised to cover the remaining deficit of $60,000.
      a. TM Goodyear expressed that this is a good idea, however, she does not want this to be something that happens every year.
      b. Mayor Lobdell re-iterated that taxes have not been raised in the Town for 7 years and a lot of the larger expenses this year are one-time expenses. He explained that if the Town were to raise the taxes to cover the remaining deficit, each property's tax would only be raised by about $5 per month each and would still be less than the county.
4. FO Helms shared that she would like to wait until the July Council meeting to present the budget so she can present with the most accurate numbers possible.
   I. *All agreed with this.*

VIII. Ongoing Business Updates.

a. None.

IX. New Business.

a. None.

X. Discussion regarding next meeting date.

a. A Special Council Meeting will be held at the end of June so the budget can be presented at the July Council Meeting.

XI. Adjourn.

a. *All agreed to adjourn the meeting.*

1. *Meeting adjourned approximately 11:01am.*

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