

RTM WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Town of Branford

Peter Black, Josh Brooks, Chris Hynes, Alisa Waterman
John Hartwell, Chair



REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
7:00 PM, Community House, 46 Church Street

RECEIVED
2024 DEC - 3 1 P 3:17
Moi Stimpson
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

1. Roll Call
2. **ARPA Fund Resolution:**
Resolved: That the Ways & Means committee recommends to the full RTM passage of an increase in the cumulative ARPA fund appropriations from \$ 8,185,500 to \$ 8,257,021. This appropriation will fund a variety of projects to close out the fund.
3. To consider, and if appropriate, recommend a request to transfer previously appropriated funds between existing ARPA projects to create new projects, with a final accounting to be provided at a future meeting as to how the reallocation transfers were done.

a. Recreation

From		
260-43050-579480-24804	Branford Point Wharf Replacement	175,000
To:		
260-45010-579400-25xxx	Vets' Park Playground	175,000

b. Finance Department

From		
260-43050-579480-24804	Branford Point Wharf Replacement	38,602
To:		
260-41040- 579200-25xxx	Software (Pension Administration)	38,602

4. Lapsing Capital Balances Transfer FY 2024

- a. To consider, and if appropriate, recommend to the full RTM the following capital projects transfer requests.

WAYS & MEANS						
FUND 700 - CAPITAL FUND						
FROM:						
Treasurer/Finance	7004104 0	57920 0	22317	Cleargov Budget Solutions	Transfer/Combine	8,493.33
Treasurer/Finance	7004104 0	57945 0	22318	Financial System Upgrades & Projects	Transfer/Combine	4,932.09
					Total	13,425.42
TO:						
Treasurer/Finance	7004104 0	57945 0	25xxx	Finance - System Upgrades & Projects	New Project	13,425.42
					Total	13,425.42

5. Review of Branford's Athletic Facilities Strategic Master Plan

- a. <https://www.branford-ct.gov/community-0>
 b. Memo from Finance Director Jim Finch

Respectfully Submitted
 John Hartwell
 Chair, RTM Ways & Means Committee

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Date: December 3, 2024

To: John Hartwell
Ways and Means

From: James Finch, Finance Director

Re: Field Study

Maia Stappin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

2024 DEC - 3 1 P 3:48

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I am writing pursuant to your request to provide some thoughts on future funding allocations related to the field study. It is important to underscore that the approach I am outlining is not cast in stone and therefore I will advise folks not to be married to this plan.

I think it is important to remember that the study identified a variety (15) "recommended improvements" and prioritized these recommendations to include their top five:

- Walsh (WIS)
- Veterans' Park
- Branford Hills
- Youngs Pond
- Sliney/Foote Park

As we know, the WIS project is ongoing and reflects a major commitment on behalf of the town. As it relates to the other 4 priorities, I suspect there is a long road ahead until these items evolve into projects. This is not to suggest that they should be ignored or discarded, however they do face the following headwinds:

- Alex is retiring this month, and it will take some time for the new director to develop his/her list of capital priorities and to obtain support from the recreation board and first selectman.
- The prevailing thoughts among various town boards and leaders are to focus on public safety including additional firefighters and a station on the eastern end of town.

- The Board of Education recently hired a firm to conduct a facility study which, among other things, should provide some guidance as to the future of John B Sliney Elementary School.

As a result, I see this as an exercise where the town sets an allocation of future bonding for these projects while seeking to leverage this bonding through state grants and reserves. It is also worth reminding folks that we received permission from the Foote Trust to use trust dollars for debt payments on certain projects.

Therefore, at this point my best guess is that we plan on allocating 3-5 million for park improvements at various locations over the next few years. As the study noted there are many opportunities to improve the user experience through site and drainage improvements, additional pickleball courts, splash pads, parking lot expansions, lighting, benches and bleachers etc.

I ran an estimate on debt service costs for 5 million in bonds payable over 15 years at 4%. The total costs for this financing are approximately 6,538 million, which averages about \$436k per year.



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2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 7:00 pm at the Community House, 46 Church Street.

Wednesday, February 5

Wednesday, March 5

Wednesday, April 9

Wednesday, May 7

Wednesday, June 4

Wednesday, July 9

Wednesday, August 6

Wednesday, September 3

Wednesday, October 8

Wednesday, November 5

Wednesday, December 3

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2024 DEC - 3 1 P 3 48
Mia Spina
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Other meetings may be held as Special Meetings if required. Special Meetings, when scheduled, are limited to items on the published agenda, posted at least 24 hours in advance.

Items not on a regularly scheduled agenda may be added to the agenda by a 2/3 vote of the Committee. The Town Budget will be discussed in the April meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
John Hartwell
Chair, RTM Ways & Means Committee