

October 8, 2025

Budget and Finance Minutes

Present: Nancy Woolley, Pat Harvey, Julie Smith, Michael Teetsel, Chad Richardson, Barb Dehart, & Lois Bond, Kristen LaPell, Greg White, & Louis Donnet

The meeting was called to order at 5pm.

Approve October 1, 2025, minutes: Pat moved to approve the October 1, 2025, minutes as presented. Lois seconded. All in favor.

Lister's Proposed Budget: Louis Donnet presented Lister's proposed budget for FY27, totaling \$5, 927, which includes salaries, mileage and supplies.

Louis informed the committee that he is nearing retirement from his role as a Lister but plans to renew his term at the next Town Meeting in March to assist with the upcoming reappraisal process.

He explained that beginning January 1, 2026, the State of Vermont will require all listers to complete certifications through the Vermont Property Assessor Program, which must be renewed every three years. Louis has completed Level 1 certification, noting the program requires approximately 50 hours of training, including both online and in-person sessions.

The committee discussed future planning for this position, as any newly elected lister would need to complete the certification program by 2028. Louis advised that, alternatively, the Town could consider hiring an outside assessor, with current rates estimated at \$21-\$22 per parcel. Given Rochester's approximately 900 parcels, this service could cost over \$20,000 annually.

Planning and Zoning Proposed Budget: The Planning and Zoning budget will remain level funded for FY27, covering primarily advertising costs. There are no anticipated expenses for plan or bylaw updates in the upcoming fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, to review the Highway Department Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith