

TOWN OF COLEBROOK
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

BOF Members Present:

Thomas D. McKeon
Charles Buchanan
Diane Johnstone
Kathleen Q. Adams
Mark Masslon at 6:15
Scott Norton

BOF Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Bradley N. Bremer
Robert Gilbert
Board of Education Members

1. The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman T. McKeon.
2. D. Johnstone made a motion, seconded by C. Buchanan, "*Motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance.*" Motion passed unanimously.
3. There were no Reports of Officers.
4. There were no Reports of Committees.
5. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Region 7 Budget draft was reviewed and discussed. The draft 2026-27 budget estimated assessment for Colebrook is \$2,361,698, a reduction of \$37,004 or 1.54% from the 2025-2026 budget year. The Region 7 Budget presentation in Colebrook is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
 - b. The board reviewed and discussed:
 - i. The proposed CIP rate with no further questions.
 - ii. The Selectmen's draft budget with no further questions.
 - iii. The Board of Education draft budget for which R. Gilbert advised of a decrease of \$9,675 in health care costs and various other budget elements from the previous 2026-2027 budget proposal, resulting in a Board of Education draft budget for 2026-2027 of \$2,506,813. Within the draft budget, the 4% wage increase for non-certified personnel was discussed. The Board of Finance expressed a preference that the rate should be reduced to 3% to be in line with the rate afforded Town of Colebrook employees in the Town Hall and the Highway Department. The Board of Finance asked that the Board of Education look at the proposed rate increase structure to align it to a 3% rate.
 - c. The board reviewed the Budget Planning Worksheet figures and made no further changes.

- d. Mill rate options were discussed. Acknowledging potential changes due to the volume of appeals to Board of Assessment Appeals that could change the Grand List amount and the requested alignment of the Board of Education rate increase to 3%, the board will make a final determination at the March 26, 2026, meeting.
6. There was no New Business.
7. Announcements or public comments:
 - a. The Board of Finance Regular meeting scheduled for March 12, 2026, is canceled.
 - b. The Regional School District 7 budget presentation for Colebrook is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.
 - c. The next meeting of the Board of Finance will be March 26, 2026, at 6:00p.m.
 - d. There were no public comments.
8. Motion was made by K. Adams, seconded by S. Norton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott T. Norton
Clerk
Board of Finance