Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Council Chambers, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Councilors present were: *In-Person:* Mayor Harrington; Councilors DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon (via Zoom from 6:31 – 6:40 p.m., and then joined in-person), Merritt, Oliver & Waterhouse; *via Zoom:* Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilor Goodwin

Councilors absent were: Councilor Cooper

Also present were: *In-Person*—Dan Carter, Director of Public Works; Matt Childress, Facilities Manager; Luz Cora-Small, Assistant Director of Senior Services; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Glen Garrity, Assistant Director of Public Works; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Bruce Lajoie, Assistant Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Lisa Lamenzo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, Bloomfield Public Schools; Dave Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Sly Pereira, Director of Facilities, Bloomfield Public Schools; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Sharron Tai-Williams, Deputy Town Manager; Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent, Bloomfield Public Schools

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Discussion regarding the FY 2027 Budget Presentation – Board of Education and Capital Improvements

Board of Education

Dr. Youngberg presented the FY2027 budget for Bloomfield Public Schools.

There was discussion around potential Board of Education cost savings, and the upcoming move of central office to Carmen Arace Middle School was highlighted. There was a suggestion to move the new alternative learning center to existing space inside the middle or high school and sell the Global Experience Magnet School building.

Council questions included: cost savings from the alternative school; ownership of the school buildings; details of the alternative school, including number of students, opportunities and career paths for alternative learning students; and growth potential in the vocational agriculture program.

Ms. Lamenzo outlined district collaborations, including with the University of Hartford and other local colleges and universities.

Council members asked additional questions, including: when the move from central office would occur; capacity of the alternative learning center; if special ed costs and transportation costs factored into Education Cost Share funding; start-up costs and staffing for the alternative learning center; and the amount of the magnet school grant received for Global Experience Magnet School.

Council members highlighted the student artwork in the budget book and congratulated the Bloomfield High School track team for their accomplishments.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Pereira presented the proposed Board of Education Capital Improvement Projects for FY2027.

Council questions included: if DPW could assist in digging for the pipe replacement needed at Metacomet for cost savings; the type of hot water heater replacements at Bloomfield High School; the cause of the pipe leak at Metacomet; and the number of restrooms and staff members at Metacomet.

Mr. Hill presented the proposed Town Capital Improvement Projects for FY2027, highlighting that all proposed projects would be grant funded.

Questions and comments from Council members included: the impact of deferring purchase of replacement police cruisers; the critical need for a generator for Town Hall; the need for a strategic plan to determine how to fund capital projects; how the importance of an item on the capital plan is determined, particularly between labeling an item as "critical" vs. "important."

Mr. Carter spoke to the capital projects and noted that projects are currently funded based on sources of revenue, and not based on what is critical.

The need to balance priorities was discussed.

Additional Council questions included the number and location of generators in Town.

Mr. Schwapp discussed the need to focus on safety when determining capital project priorities.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary, based on the Zoom Video Recording.

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at https://www.youtube.com/live/d-Cgdmd5Q8A