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# BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Tuesday, April 14, 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 Cooper, DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver & Waterhouse; *via Zoom:* Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilor Goodwin

Councilors absent were: None

Also present were: *In-Person*—Angelica Candelaria, Deputy Town Clerk; Dwight Carlson, Chief Building Official; Dan Carter, Director of Public Works; Matt Childress, Facilities Manager; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Ashley DeJesus, Tax Collector; Andrea DiStephan, Town Clerk; Glen Garrity, Assistant Director of Public Works; Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Deputy Chief Stephen Hajdasz Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services; Robert Ike, Republican Registrar of Voters; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Bruce Lajoie, Assistant Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Lynda Laureano, Assistant Director of Building & Land Use; Rosa Matias, Director of Human Resources; Vincentia Midodzi, Assessor; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Sharon O'Connor, Democratic Registrar of Voters; Bart Ritson, Field Operations Manager; Kathy Roberts, Assistant Director of Human Resources; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Sharron Tai-Williams, Deputy Town Manager; Brian Wolff, Community Engagement & Public Relations Coordinator ; *and via Zoom*—Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

## Discussion regarding the FY 2027 Budget Presentation – Public Safety, Public Works, Building & Land Use, General Government/Administration, Boards and Agencies

The Town Manager introduced the meeting, and highlighted that the budget was the Town Manager's proposed budget.

*Public Safety*

Chief Hammick presented the Town Manager's FY2027 proposed operating budget for the Bloomfield Police Department and reported on requested budget modifications.

Council asked a variety of questions, including: the cost of police vehicles; the impact of not filling vacant officer positions; the reduction of the senior administrative assistant position; how the digital forensic program works; if administrative vehicles were in the budget; membership in regional groups/task forces; the impact of overtime on the budget; vehicle repair costs; recruitment efforts; and the possibility of phasing in technological enhancements.

*Public Works*

Mr. Carter presented the Town Manager's FY2027 proposed budget for the Department of Public Works, along with DPW's proposed budget modifications.

Council questions included: the proposed outsourcing of custodians; the reasons for the fleet division budget increase; information about the striping machine; partnering with horticulturalists; how vehicles are purchased; and how fuel use is tracked.

*Building & Land Use*

Ms. Laureano presented an overview of the Building & Land Use department, the proposed FY2027 budget, and proposed budget modification.

Questions from Council included the role of the economic development consultant if an in-house economic development specialist was hired and if there would be potential cost savings. There were a variety of personnel questions, including if the recording secretary position was new and where it was located previously; positions within the part-time line item; the hiring of an environmental planner; the transfer of the GIS specialist to the department; and the increased cost of medical insurance. It was also asked if CRCOG could assist with economic development service.

Mr. Colman spoke to the department's proposed budget and budget modification.

Mr. Schwapp highlighted the money generated by the department.

The importance of making sure companies in Town felt taken care of was mentioned.

There was a five-minute break.

*General Government/Administration*

Ms. Tai-Williams presented the proposed budget for the Town Manager's Office. She noted that the divisions of Operations and Communications and Information Technology fall under the Town Manager's Office, and would be presented by the directors of those divisions.

Ms. Tai-Williams also presented the proposed budget for the Town Council and for the Town Attorney.

Council questions for the Town Attorney budget included: how to decrease the projected FY2026 cost for the Town Attorney to the number in the proposed FY2027 budget; if FOI requests will return to being managed by Town staff; the process for answering FOI requests; the increase in the Town Attorney's rate; and where the cost of other attorneys that work for the Town is documented.

Ms. Rodgers presented the proposed budget for Operations & Communications, including proposed budget modifications.

Questions from the Council for the Operations & Communications budget included: if Boards & Commissions could use part of their budgets to support the Boards & Commissions budget modification; the FOI requests answered by the department; the discrepancy in the numbers in the presentation vs. the numbers in the budget book; the senior administrative position; and what is included in part-time. Concerns shared by Council included the growing budget for the department and the need to right size.

Mr. Plummer presented the proposed budget and proposed budget modifications for Information Technology & Innovation. Mr. Lajoie explained the budget modifications further.

Council questions for Information Technology & Innovation included: the cost benefit of Mr. Plummer's salary being split between the Town and Board of Education; what items fall under contractual services; the status of backup systems; what software was approved by Council the prior year; the number of people in

the department, and if people working on the Board of Education side are included in this department budget.

*Boards and Agencies*

Ms. Rodgers presented the proposed budget for Boards & Agencies and proposed budget modification.

Mr. Ike presented the proposed budget for the Registrar of Voters.

Council questions for the Registrar of Voters included: if any money was included for early voting or included for a potential budget referendum; and costs transferred from the Town Clerk's Office to the Registrar of Voters.

*Human Resources*

Ms. Matias presented the proposed Human Resources budget.

Council questions included: the increase in the training and education line item and policies surrounding tuition reimbursement.

*Town Clerk's Office*

Ms. DiStephan presented the proposed Town Clerk's Office budget.

*Finance Department*

Mr. Hill presented the proposed budget for the Finance Department, along with a proposed budget modification.

Council questions included: the number of FTEs in the budget and the budget development process.

There was a brief discussion about the budget in general and budget modifications.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Oliver, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

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

*The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.youtube.com/live/ZpRY9EPSqKg*