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

RECEIVED
SEP 21 2026
1:05pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Tuesday, April 21, 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; Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilors' DeBeatham-Brown, Mahon, Merritt, Oliver & Waterhouse *and* ***via Zoom***: Councilors' Cooper (7:15pm), Goodwin

Councilors absent were: None

Also present were: *In-Person*— Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools; Sharron Tai-Williams- Deputy Town Manager; Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Elizabeth Lane, Director of Bloomfield Public Library; Rosa Matias, Director of Human Resources; David Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Vinci Midodzi, Assessor; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; ***and via Zoom***—Camillia Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services; Glen Garrity, Assistant Director Public Works and Facilities.

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

Discussion and Possible Action regarding the FY 2027 Budget – Council Deliberation/Action (Part 3)

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FY 2027 BUDGET – COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS (PART 3)

Deputy Mayor Lloyd stated that the Council would conduct the evening's budget deliberations in an orderly cadence to allow each Councilor an opportunity to be heard and to consider public comments and concerns received through emails, telephone calls, and other communications. She explained that the Council would first address proposed reductions and restore items of significant concern to the community, followed by consideration of budget modifications identified by department directors, staff, and the Town Manager, while continuing to allow for line-by-line review of the proposed budget.

Finance Director Darrell Hill reviewed the historical adopted budgets for the Town Attorney from 2016 through 2026 and discussed the proposed FY 2027 budget. He also reviewed the Metropolitan

District Commission (MDC) ad valorem assessment, explaining the difference between the MDC calendar-year fiscal structure and the Town's July 1-June 30 fiscal year. Director Hill reported that Bloomfield's quarterly MDC payment had increased from approximately $898,587 to approximately $1.057 million and explained that the higher amount was being carried into the FY 2027 budget based on the current assessment schedule.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown questioned differences between the MDC adopted budget and the figures contained in the MDC memorandum provided to the Council. Director Hill stated that he would review the MDC budget and, if necessary, contact the MDC for clarification. Councilor Oliver also questioned why East Hartford's assessment differed from Bloomfield's, and Director Hill explained that the allocation was believed to be based on assessed values rather than population and that he would confirm the calculation.

Director Hill reviewed the Town's unassigned fund balance. He reported that the audited FY 2024 unassigned fund balance was approximately $21.7 million, representing 19.7% under the Town's fund balance policy. Based on unaudited FY 2025 information, the fund balance was projected at approximately $24.7 million, or 21.7%. For FY 2026, the projected fund balance ranged from 17.9% to 21.1%, depending on whether the $3.75 million appropriated fund balance was utilized. After accounting for the $4 million transfer to the Economic Development Trust, the range was approximately 14.5% to 17.7%. Mr. Hill noted that the FY 2027 calculation was based on the proposed $117.1 million revenue budget and would be updated when the budget was adopted and audited financial information became available.

Director Hill then reviewed the budget deliberation worksheets and Scenario 2. He explained that Scenario 2 included approximately $551,000 in budget modifications and removed the management/non-union general wage increase or COLA of slightly more than $206,000, as well as the 1% management merit increase of $4,671. Scenario 2 resulted in a projected mill rate of 35.51, representing a 6.41% increase.

Director Hill also reviewed individual Councilor scenarios. Councilor Oliver's scenario removed the $19,130 digital forensics program from the Police Department budget modifications, resulting in a projected 6.39% increase. Councilor Merritt's scenario restored $50,000 in Library part-time hours, resulting in a projected mill rate of 35.53 and a 6.46% increase. Councilor Mahon's scenario modified the use of fund balance and Board of Education funding, included a $500,000 restoration to the Board of Education reduction, and included several other proposed reductions and additions, including a police cruiser of approximately $76,000. The scenario resulted in a projected mill rate of 34.8 and a 4.29% increase. A proposed tuition reimbursement cap of $100,000 was also discussed as a future budget concept; Director Hill noted that the amount shown in the scenario would not necessarily be achievable without further review.

The Council then proceeded through reductions and additions in a structured round-by-round process. Councilors discussed reductions involving Public Works, Operations and Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Planning and Zoning, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland Wetlands, the Commission on Aging, Beautification, Public Art, the Health District, Boards and Commissions, and other departmental and committee budgets. Several Councilors stated that reductions would

need to be evaluated based on their impact on services and statutory responsibilities rather than solely on the dollar amount.

Councilors discussed the proposed reduction to the Health District. Town Manager Schwapp stated that he would review the proposed approximately $14,000 reduction to determine whether it would affect the Town's ability to provide necessary services.

The Council also discussed large departmental reductions, including proposed reductions to Finance and Operations and Communications. Director Hill explained that a significant portion of the Finance Department's proposed increase consisted of salaries and fringe benefits for union employees and that an unspecified departmental reduction of approximately $136,000 would likely require identifying specific services or positions to eliminate. He emphasized that reductions should be tied to services the Town no longer wished to provide rather than simply assigning a dollar reduction to a department.

The Council discussed the proposed furlough concept. Town Manager Schwapp explained that implementing furlough days across the workforce would require discussions with the Town's bargaining units and consultation with labor counsel. He stated that the Town would need to account for contractual requirements, staffing levels, overtime, unemployment implications, and the operational impact of employees being absent. Councilor Mahon initially proposed a four-day management-only furlough, while Councilor Goodwin proposed consideration of furlough days for all employees. As the deliberations progressed, Councilor Goodwin requested that the scenario reflect three furlough days for all employees in place of the management-only furlough and indicated that the additional savings could create flexibility to restore resident-facing and volunteer-supported services.

The Council discussed the library's proposed staffing and part-time hour reductions. Director Lane described increased library usage, new library-card registrations, study-room usage, programming, materials circulation, and the workload associated with both public-facing and behind-the-scenes library operations. Director Lane explained that the requested $50,000 in part-time hours remained below staffing levels in comparable communities and was intended to maintain service capacity and support the library's expanded use.

The Council also discussed Operations and Communications, and the support provided to the Town's 48 Boards and Commissions. Director Rodgers explained that her department provides administrative support for the Boards and Commissions, including meeting coordination, appointments, records, compliance with public meeting requirements, communications, special events, and departmental promotional support. She explained that the Town had approximately 150 volunteers serving on 48 Boards and Commissions and that some bodies were required by ordinance or statute.

Director Rodgers also discussed the onboarding software purchased to improve the Boards and Commissions application and appointment process, centralizing agendas and documents, improving transparency, and reducing administrative delays. The Deputy Mayor noted the importance of the related standard operating procedure and the work performed by part-time staff to improve the application and appointment process.

The Council further discussed proposed reductions involving Boards and Commissions, Planning and Zoning, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland Wetlands, the Commission on Aging, Beautification, and Public Art. Councilors raised concerns that reductions in advertising, notices, and other support could interfere with statutory requirements and the ability of volunteer commissions to perform their duties. Councilor Goodwin subsequently indicated that he wanted to restore funding for Planning and Zoning, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Commission on Aging in connection with the proposed workforce furlough alternative.

The Council discussed maintaining the $4 million transferred to the Economic Development Trust. Councilors noted that the Town had pending funding applications and that the Town's existing contribution was part of the financial commitment supporting those applications.

The Council also discussed Police Department equipment and vehicles. Councilor Oliver clarified that the digital forensics request was approximately $20,000 rather than the $300,000 amount initially understood and indicated support for restoring the request. Later, Councilor Cooper requested that one police cruiser be restored, explaining that the Police Department had vehicle replacement needs and that maintaining safe patrol vehicles was important. Director Hill explained that the police administration vehicles were constructed differently from patrol vehicles and might not be suitable as replacements for patrol units. The matter remained subject to final Council action.

Following the discussion of the various scenarios, reductions, additions, and departmental impacts, Deputy Mayor Lloyd stated that the Council had developed a comprehensive list of proposed changes and should next move into establishing consensus and taking formal votes on the remaining items. No final votes were taken on the individual budget additions and reductions during this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Cooper and voted unanimously to recess for ten minutes at 8:10 P.M.

The Council returned to the meeting at 8:35 P.M. Upon returning, the Council continued reviewing and refining proposed additions and reductions. Councilors continued discussing the Library, Public Works, Operations and Communications, Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Boards and Commissions, Police vehicles, employee furlough concepts, and other budget items. The Council agreed that competing proposed additions and reductions would require final Council votes after the remaining items were reviewed.

At the conclusion of the deliberations, Deputy Mayor Lloyd stated that the Council had provided substantial input and developed a robust list of potential additions, reductions, and restored items. She recommended that the Council reconvenes the following day at 6:30 P.M. to continue the process of gaining consensus and taking final votes.

It was moved by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to reconvene the FY2027 Budget Deliberations at 6:30 p.m. the following day.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 p.m.

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT
Estimated Financial Performance

4/21/2026

FY2023 Unassigned Fund Balance (AUDITED):	$19,612,040

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026 (a)	FY2026 (b)
Unassigned Fund Balance Appropriated for Operating Expenses:	$195,000	$2,750,000	$3,750,000	$3,750,000
Unassigned Fund Balance Used:	$0	$0	$3,750,000	$0

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026 (a) ****	FY2026 (b)
Fiscal Year Beginning Unassigned Fund Balance:	$19,612,040	$21,706,594	$24,698,388	$24,698,388
Revenues (Unaudited):	114,341,926 *	111,396,200 **	113,619,271 ***	113,619,271
Expenditures (Unaudited):	(112,289,444)	(108,404,406)	(113,619,271)	(113,619,271)
Net Operating Surplus / (Shortfall):	$2,052,482	$2,991,794	$0	$0
Estimated Fiscal Year End Unassigned Fund Balance (Unaudited):	$21,706,594	$24,698,388	$20,948,388	$24,698,388
Adopted Budget Revenue:		$110,196,930	$113,619,271	$113,619,271
Unassigned Fund Balance Policy Calculation:	*19.7%*	*21.7%*	*17.9%*	*21.1%*
Unassigned Fund Balance Transferred to Economic Development Trust:	--	--	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Estimated Fiscal Year End Unassigned Fund Balance (Unaudited):	$21,706,594	$24,698,388	$16,948,388	$20,698,388
Unassigned Fund Balance Policy Calculation:	*19.7%*	*21.7%*	*14.5%*	*17.7%*

FY2027 Proposed
$117,137,654

Notes: *FY2024 Fiscal Year Beginning Unassigned Fund Balance is audited (i.e., FY2024 ACFR).*

* *Including $195,000 of Unassigned Fund Balance appropriated in the FY2024 Adopted Budget.*

** *Excluding $2.75 million of Unassigned Fund Balance appropriated in the FY2025 Adopted Budget.*

*** *Including $3.75 million of Unassigned Fund Balance appropriated in the FY2026 Adopted Budget.*

**** *FY2026 revenues and expenditures are based on the Adopted Budget.*

MDC

The Metropolitan District

water supply • environmental services • geographic information

This is to certify that, at a meeting of the District Board of The Metropolitan District held a meeting on December 8, 2025 the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved: That, in accordance with Section 3-12 and 3-13 of the District Charter, a tax on the member municipalities comprising The Metropolitan District, in the sum of **$53,076,600**, shall be due and payable in favor of The Metropolitan District in four installments on the following due dates: the first installment, totaling **$13,269,152**, shall be due and payable on January 21, 2026; the second installment, totaling **$13,269,152**, shall be due and payable on April 15, 2026; the third installment, totaling **$13,269,148**, shall be due and payable on July 15, 2026; and the fourth installment, totaling **$13,269,148**, shall be due and payable October 21, 2026. In the event the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection pays the $1.98 million included in the District's 2026 budget related to the groundwater discharge at the Hartford Landfill, said money shall be applied to reduce the member municipalities' 2026 ad valorem taxes. Apportionment of the Fiscal Year 2026 tax among the member municipalities and the amount due on each installment shall be as follows:

Installment Date	1/21/2026	4/15/2026	7/15/2026	10/21/2026	Total
Hartford	$3,476,375	$3,476,375	$3,259,600	$3,259,600	$13,471,949
East Hartford	1,532,604	1,532,604	1,493,744	1,493,744	6,052,696
Newington	1,206,214	1,206,214	1,376,532	1,376,532	5,165,492
Wethersfield	1,051,045	1,051,045	1,074,967	1,074,967	4,252,025
Windsor	1,200,299	1,200,299	1,230,944	1,230,944	4,862,485
Bloomfield	898,587	898,587	1,057,534	1,057,534	3,912,243
Rocky Hill	834,029	834,029	854,883	854,883	3,377,825
West Hartford	3,069,999	3,069,999	2,920,943	2,920,943	11,981,885
Total	**$13,269,152**	**$13,269,152**	**$13,269,148**	**$13,269,148**	**$53,076,600**

Attest:

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
December 9, 2025

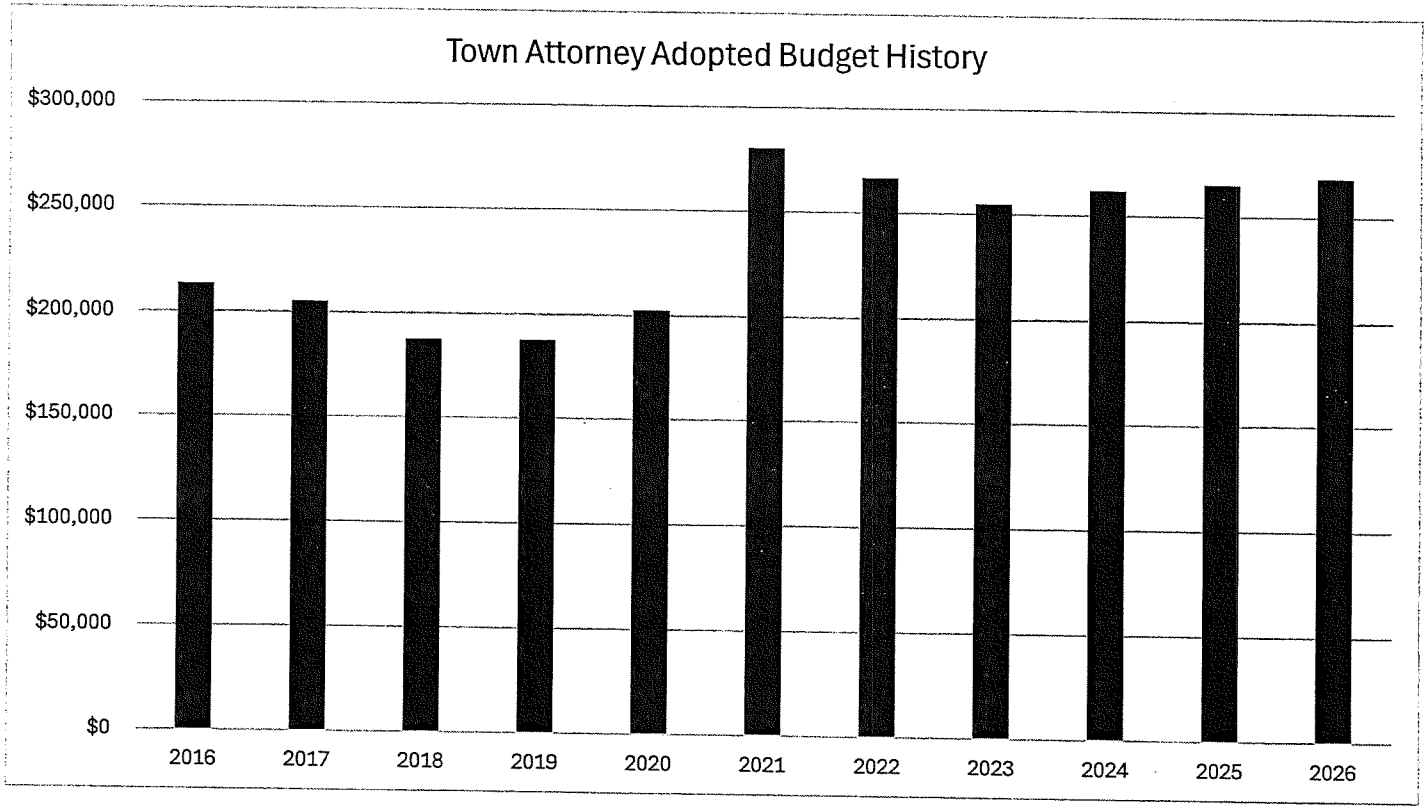
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT INCORPORATED 1929 WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE OF HARTFORD COUNTY CONNECTICUT

555 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 telephone: 860-278-7850 fax: 860-724-2679

An Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer

Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut
Town Attorney - Budget History

4/21/2026



2016	***2017***	***2018***	***2019***	***2020***	***2021***	***2022***	***2023***	***2024***	***2025***	***2026***
$213,136	$205,212	$187,336	$187,337	$202,337	$280,220	$266,565	$254,729	$261,772	$265,047	$268,538