

Justin Paré, President  
John Simmons, Vice President  
John Costello  
Daniel Donovan  
Mark Gould, Jr.



Darius Gregory  
Andrew Shanahan  
Andrea Slobogan  
Patricia St. Pierre

Town of North Attleborough  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
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4/16/2025 - Minutes

**I. Pledge Of Allegiance**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-President Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and lead the Committee and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**Members Present:**

John Simmons

Craig Cameron

John Costello

Pat St. Pierre

Dan Donovan

John Donohue

Kathleen Prescott

**Staff Present:**

Town Manager Michael Borg

Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito

Town Council Clerk, Kerrin Billinghoff

Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith

Town Accountant Linda Catanzariti

Treasurer/Collector Chris Sweet

NAPD Chief Richard McQuade

NAFD Chief Chris Coleman

NAFD Deputy Michael Chabot

NAFD Assistant Fire Chief George McKinnon

Assistant Accountant Tammy Baillargeon

Animal Control Officer Andrew Dubois

**Residents:**

Laura Wagner

**Invited Guests Present:**

None at this time.

**Documents Reviewed:**

- FY26 MUNIS Sheets for Public Safety (Fire, Police & Animal Control)
- FY26 Final Budget Presentation
- Revenue Projections Update Spreadsheet FY2026-03.31.2025
- Expense Preliminary Projection Spreadsheet FY2026-General Fund-04.14.2025
- FY2026 Animal Control Presentation Slide
- FY2026 Fire Department Presentation Slide
- FY2026 Police Department Presentation Slide
- April 7, 2025 Senior Tax Exemption Proposal
- Measure 2025-077- FY2026 Local Acceptance of Certain Property Tax Exemptions

**II. Approval Of Minutes**

- a. NONE AT THIS TIME

**III. Resident And Community Comment**

None at this time.

**IV. Old Business**

a. NONE AT THIS TIME

Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith and Treasurer/Collector Chris Sweet were both in attendance to discuss the two items that were continued from the 4/15/2025 Meeting.

1. Tax Exemptions

There was discussion amongst Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith, Town Manager Borg, and the Committee. Everyone agreed that they would like to help as many people as possible and get as many as they can to qualify. There was discussion about COLA's. Ms. Smith requested that it be very specific and that we need to keep this very fair and equitable. There was continued discussion about 41D and 41E.

2. OPEB

There was discussion amongst Treasurer/Collector Chris Sweet, Town Manager Borg, and the Committee.

Discussions included:

- S&P gave the Town a AA+ rating again
- S&P felt that the reason that we did not receive the AAA rating is because of the possibility of the MSBA New High School and OPEB
- S&P that because of the pressure put on the residents, they may not be able to pay their real estate taxes and taxes are one of the Town's main sources of Revenue
- We have made a commitment to pay into OPEB, but S&P would like to see a few consistent years of this commitment under our belt

**V. New Business**

a. PUBLIC SAFETY

Animal Control Officer Andrew Dubois, NA Police Chief Richard McQuade, and NA Fire Chief Christopher Coleman were all in attendance to present their FY2026 Budgets to the Finance Sub-Committee and answer any questions they may have had. They each showed their Power Point Slide with their FY2026 Budget Presentation and reviewed with the Committee.

i. Animal Control (292)

- Discussions included:
  - Total budget \$291,793.00
  - 9.5% Increase over last year

- o Additional money was needed for overtime
- o 8 hours a week was added to the Administration position. This will allow for someone to be in the office Monday through Thursday from 12:00PM-2:00PM each day.
- o A lot of bleach and cleaning supplies is needed for the upkeep of the shelter
- o Animals in shelter are down from 91 to 30 at this time
- o Stopped taking animals from other Cities and Towns
- o Now we have room for our Town's animals in need
- o Building maintenance is being taken care of through the remaining \$40,000.00 from the original \$100,000.00 donation that had been received
- o Bottle & can donations totaled \$10,000.00 last year

ii. Police (210)

- Discussions included:
  - o Total budget is \$7,740,438
  - o 1.5% Increase over last year
  - o New Consoles have not been installed yet
  - o Uniform costs have increased 13%
  - o Rising costs in uniforms which are required for all officers and can only be ordered from certain vendors
  - o At this time, not sure if any of our needed items will be affected by tariffs
  - o Turnover has been excellent for the past two years. Officer retention has been much better over the last few years
  - o 52 strong and fully staffed- the most we have ever had
  - o The department has hired 30 people in the last 4 years
  - o There are two SRO's - One at the High Scholl and One at the Middle School
  - o Canine added to the force
  - o 2 more detectives have been added to the department

Vice-President Simmons asked Chief if he has everything he needs in his budget to keep the officers safe. Chief responded that he does!

iii. Fire/Emergency Management (220)

- Discussions Included:
  - o Total Ambulance Budget \$ 2,137,035
  - o Total Fire Budget \$5,183,828
  - o Overall Total Department Budget \$7,320,450
  - o Have the most confident and solid safety team
  - o Fabulous Police & Fire & Ambulance
  - o Ambulance maintenance contract is for \$20,000.00 yearly
  - o Overtime is always an unknown- variable
  - o By 2027, all firefighter gear/uniforms will need to be PFAS free. Price

may increase drastically. Will look at grants to help pay for these new uniforms

- o Senator Feeney is aware of the purchasing of new PFAS free firefighter protective gear
- o Top priority is to keep firefighters safe
- o At this time there are two fully staffed ambulances
- o At this time there are two backup ambulances
- o A new ambulance costs \$420,000.00 with a 2 ½ year lead time to purchase
- o Revolving funds
- o Average turn around time at the hospitals should be 30 to 45 minutes
- o Uniforms cost \$700.00 each

Vice-President Simmons asked Chief if he has everything he needs in his budget to keep the firefighters safe. The chief responded that he does.

iv. Ambulance (231)

Included in discussions above.

**VI. Adjournment**

Mr. Donovan made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.**