

**TOWN OF BATH SPECIAL FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes

March 13, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman at 1:30pm.
2. ROLL CALL: Susan Webster (X) Ryan Kessel (X) Mary Lynn Hickey (X) Quorum – Yes
Also present – Mayor Schene, Clerk Corrick, Councilors Skinner and Weber and Chief of Police Gardner and Police Secretary Venuto
3. This Special Meeting purpose was to review the Bath Town Public Safety expenses for the FY 2027 budget purposes and Bath Revenue for FY 2027.
4. The Berkeley Springs Police Department will be recruiting another Police Officer in FY 2027. While FC member Councilwoman Hickey has secured a COPS Grant which will help a great deal, other expenses of a new hire were studied. Another pressing need of the BSPD is one or more additional newer patrol cars. Donations and grants are being sought with the assurance that Bath would be able to supply matching funds to facilitate the acquisition(s) through the Public Safety Depreciation Account.
5. Due to the adjustment of rates, fees and the actual receipt of the new 1% Sales Tax in the past year, a realistic upturn in Bath budgeting for FY 2027 was achieved. While being cautious to not overestimate, the FC proceeded with discussion to increase the budget to accommodate the needs of Bath. Strong consideration was given to lowering the property tax rate. Clerk Corrick will present preliminary account allocations for review to the FC at the up coming Budget Overview meeting.
6. Adjournment

Chairman Susan Webster Date 3-17-2026