

Call to Order

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Chair Paula Colby-Clements called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Emran Baqui, William Haskell, Andrew McBrien, Kim Perry, Paula Colby-Clements, Brian Major, Yican Cao and Jerry Pendleton. Also present was Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan.

General Updates from the Town Manager

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan introduced the New Town Accountant, Andrea Dimitriadis, to the committee.

Ms. Dimitriadis joins us from the Town of Wilmington Ma.

CIP Review – Public Safety

Fire Chief, Kyle Murphy gave the committee an overview of his 2027 Capital requests.

FIR-1 is a request for \$2,200,000 for the purchase of a new Pierce 105-foot Aerial Ladder truck to replace Ladder #2 (2005 Pierce). The Town Manager recommends approval of this request.

Delivery of this truck is about 46-49 months out. The height requirements for Andover make it a custom order which results in a longer lead time.

Chief Murphy stated that the plan going forward is to have two ladder trucks. He also noted that engine trucks also have a longer lead time.

FIR-2 is a request for \$63,000 for the purchase of cordless battery-operated rescue tools. The Town Manager recommends approval of this request.

The current hydraulic rescue tools are outdated and need to be upgraded to maintain pace with the new vehicle technology that is developed by the vehicle manufacturers on an annual basis. This technology has increased the tensile strength of the metals used in vehicles and has also added the use of additional plastic and polymers that the current tools have difficulty cutting and removing from around the patient. The new battery powered tool technology would also allow the AFR personnel the freedom to use the rescue tools without having hydraulic hoses and portable hydraulic pumps towed behind them. The battery powered units are all individually self-contained which will increase extrication speed and increase firefighter safety when in use.

Police Chief Patrick Keefe gave the committee an overview of his 2027 Capital requests

POL-1 is a request for \$225,000 for the purchase of marked cruisers and Ford Interceptors. The Town Manager recommends approval of this request. Generally marked cruisers are replaced every three years, and unmarked cruisers and special utility vehicles are replaced every 5-6 years. The determination as to which vehicles are traded each year is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the mileage, hours of use and the overall condition of the vehicle. Purchase of these vehicles will allow the Department to continue with the rotational replacement program and avoid major repair costs and downtime.

POL-2 is a request for \$145,000 for the replacement of Police Cruiser/MC Computers. The Town recommends approval of this request.

The current Police Cruiser computers are over 10 years old and are coming to end of life. Cruiser Computers are vital tools for officers on the road and going to calls. The computer links them to

the Criminal Justice Information Service's (CJIS) to obtain critical information for safety and investigations. The computer also acts as a secondary communication and data point with PSAP. Replacing them simultaneously will allow and ensure the computers are uniformed in all cruisers and allow consistency and standardization for the officers.

Overview of Tax Classification

Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan presented a detailed overview of property tax classification in Andover, including definitions of key tax terms, an explanation of Proposition 2½, and how levy limits, new growth, and debt exclusions affect the total amount of revenue raised through property taxes. The presentation outlined the process by which Town Meeting appropriations, certified property values, and classification decisions ultimately result in tax rates and individual tax bills, and reviewed Andover's use of a split tax rate that shifts a greater share of the tax burden to commercial, industrial, and personal property. A FY 2022 case study was discussed to demonstrate how disproportionate growth in residential property values led to higher-than-anticipated increases in the average residential tax bill, despite no new overrides or debt exclusions, and comparisons were made to North Andover to highlight the mitigating impact of industrial value growth. The presentation concluded with a review of historical trends and peer community comparisons, noting that Andover's average tax bill increases are generally in line with comparable municipalities and would be among the lowest without the inclusion of debt exclusions.

Liaison Updates

Ms. Colby-Clements mentioned that the Budget Committee will be meeting on 1/16/2026.

Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting

Upon motion, duly made by Mr. Major and seconded by Ms. Perry, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025, Finance Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting

Upon motion, duly made by Mr. Major and seconded by Ms. Perry, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025, Finance Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Upon Motion made by Mr. Major and seconded by Mr. Haskell it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:16pm.

Documents:

Tax Classification Overview PowerPoint Presentation
FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Program

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Salvi
Recording Secretary