

Call to Order

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

Emran Baqui was absent.

General Updates from the Town Manager

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan announced that Keith Taverna has been appointed as the interim Superintendent of Andover Public Schools effective March 1, 2025.

Hayley Green has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Britney Lavoie has been promoted to Director of Administration.

CIP Review – Technology

The committee was given an overview three Innovation & Technology capital requests as part of the FY2027–FY2031 Capital Improvement Program. Chief Innovation Officer, Ryan Knowles discussed The Annual Staff Device Refresh (IT-1) was presented, outlining the need to replace aging staff laptops, desktops, and peripherals to maintain security, productivity, and operational efficiency. The plan includes transitioning from a leasing model to direct purchase through FY29, extending device life to five years, stabilizing annual replacement cycles, and reducing long-term operational and staffing costs. The Town Manager recommended funding of \$300,000 for FY27, with consistent funding levels projected through FY31.

The committee was also given a review of the Annual Student Device Refresh (IT-2), which supports the Town's 1:1 student technology initiative and continued access to student computing devices across all grade levels. The presentation highlighted the hybrid device model by grade, cost efficiencies through selective purchasing and leasing, repair and reuse practices, and sustainability efforts. The Town Manager recommended full funding of \$178,000 for FY27, with modest increases in subsequent years.

Lastly, Mr. Knowles discussed IT Infrastructure (IT-3). This will provide funding for the entire IT infrastructure encompassing both hardware and software platforms. These resources are integral and shared across all Town and School department.

CIP Review – Parks and Recreation

Deputy Town Manager, Mike Lindstrom and Director of Recreation, Joe Connelly gave an overview of the Andover Recreation Department's proposed Capital Improvement Plan for FY2027–FY2031. The presentation outlined major capital priorities focused on park improvements, accessibility, traffic safety, and facility upgrades.

For FY2027, the Department presented funding requests for several projects, including Chandler Road Phase II, Poms Pond Bathhouse, Dale Street Recreational Area feasibility study, targeted recreational improvements, Penguin Park accessibility and parking, Recreation Park playground and amenities, and traffic improvements. It was noted that a portion of the Poms Pond Bathhouse and future Recreation Park improvements would be supported through repayment of annual bond costs using recreation programming receipts.

The Committee was also presented with out-year requests spanning FY2029 through FY2031, which include continued accessibility improvements at Penguin Park, major upgrades to Recreation Park facilities (playgrounds, basketball courts, restrooms), traffic improvements, tennis court renovations, and pickleball court and lighting upgrades.

Committee members asked questions and discussed project scope, funding strategies, and long-term planning considerations. No votes were taken at this meeting.

Budget Update

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan informed the Committee that the Town is on track with the budget. Mr. Flanagan has met with Department heads and is in the process of holding second rounds. The Saturday Tri Board meeting has been pushed out and will not be held on Saturday, March 14th.

Liaison Updates

Ms. Colby-Clements shared that The Long-Range Financial Plan Sub Committee held their first meeting. Ms. Colby-Clement and Ms. Perry attended. They are going through section four of the CIP Bylaw. There is future meeting dates scheduled, and the Finance Committee will be updated.

Public Comment

Kristin Wise of 8 Inwood Lane made comments regarding the Chandler Road Recreation project. Ms. Wise supports the project but does not think this will be ready for Aprils Town Meeting. There are concerns about traffic and pedestrian issues. Ms. Wise suggested that this project is slowed down and there be an extensive traffic study done.

Kathy Grant of 83 Morton Street also made comments regarding the Chandler Road Recreation project. Ms. Grant was at the meeting last week. Ms. Grant is also concerned about pedestrian safety as well as the lack of bike lanes for those kids that bike to the fields.

Ms. Grant believes that the infrastructure should be put in place. There are concerns about what material the fields are made of as well as the size of the playgrounds as well as after-hour use.

Mr. Flanagan stated that a traffic study had been done and the data came back that the entrance was in a good area.

The Town gets more emails and requests about field space and use. Surveys were done and phase 1 was done without using taxpayer dollars.

While every detail may not be ironed out, we will have the resources to make it happen.

Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting

Upon motion, duly made by Mr. Major and seconded by Ms. Lockhart, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2025, Finance Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Upon Motion made by Mr. Major and seconded by Ms. Lockhart it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:23pm.

Documents:

FY2027-FY2031 Capital Improvement Program

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Salvi
Recording Secretary