

TOWN OF PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
March 11, 2025

First Selectman Michael Pelton called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Michael then read the legal notice as follows:

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, CT

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public hearing on the proposed Budget for 2025-2026 to be held by the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Section 1201.3 of the Town of Portland Charter, at the following place and time:

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Buck-Foreman Community Room
265 Main Street, Portland CT
In-person and live streamed on Zoom A

Subject: General Government, Board of Education Budget; and all other Special Revenue Funds

At this hearing, any resident or taxpayer may be heard concerning the proposed budgets. Copies of the proposed budget are available for inspection in the Town Clerk's Office, Public Library and online at www.portlandct.org.

Dated this 28th day of February 2025

Attest: Michael A. Pelton, First Selectman

The meeting format includes a brief review and update, general town government proposal, followed by BOE proposed budget and public comment.

Michael explained the budget process and presented a summary of the past year. He shared the schedule for the budget workshops and the town vote in May. Michael thanked Tom Robinson for his role in the budget process and Ryan Curley as some accomplishments were accomplished during his time as First Selectman. Michael told who the people were who make up the town government.

Accomplishments included the track project at the high school, the Nordic Spa which will start development next month, the Senior Center kitchen/HVAC improvements/generator, the Brainerd Place project, the drilling of the new well to provide water for the town, the

sidewalk project, the riverfront access project near Tilcon, a new 12-passenger bus for the Senior Center, a STEAP grant for water lines on High Street, state and federal grant funding that was obtained to mitigate the flooding at Jobs Pond, remediation of 248 Brownstone Avenue, continued work on the Air Line Trail, a BAR connectivity grant received to develop a downtown master plan, and a solar array display which is coming to the Portland Landfill in 2026.

Proposed budget is \$41,853,226. Michael gave capital items to be funded. Michael then gave the State revenues, proposed town fees, and an estimate of the investment income. The mill rate increase will be 1.49. The State changed the depreciation schedule on motor vehicles.

He then turned the hearing over to Dr. Charles Britton, Superintendent of Schools, who told how the BOE budget is developed. The budget he is proposing tonight has been approved by the BOE. Some hard decisions had to be made in developing it. He told of the achievements in academics, athletics, the arts and the extracurricular experiences.

He gave a breakdown of the budget, funds coming from the local taxes and also from the State. Combined federal and state resources are \$28,058,516. We will receive \$2,084,430 for the excess cost reimbursement for special education expenses.

Dr. Britton then gave staffing profiles and budgets for each of the Portland Schools, costs for student support services, and the various budget categories. He praised the amazing job the Director of Facilities does with the aging schools. He concluded with the activities of the Strategic Capital Improvements Committee as they explore recommendations for the five schools.

Michael Pelton then opened the hearing up for public comment. Having received no comments, Michael told of the upcoming departmental budget workshop tomorrow night at 7:00 PM and then closed the hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hoy

Sharon R. Hoy, Recording Clerk