

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH, MAINE

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 25, 2026 4:30 PM

Zoom Conference Room

In Attendance

1. Holly Korda - Finance Committee Vice Chair
 2. Tim Bollea - Finance Committee Chair
 3. Terry Gallagher
 4. Reza Namin
 5. Brynn Patenaude - Finance Director
 6. Elise Chard - Police Chief
 7. David Hemingway - Police Deputy Chief
 8. Anthony Ciampi - Police Captain
 9. John Gilboy - Fire Chief
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1. Call to Order: 4:29 pm
 2. Radio Infrastructure Project
 - a. The Finance Committee was briefed at a high level on the radio infrastructure project during the CIP process. The issue of the Radio infrastructure is longstanding, with repeated conversations held with the committee on radio challenges throughout the years. Council has voted that this project will be going to the ballot in November. The project will require a bond, and accordingly, it will require a Finance Committee recommendation. In the Finance Committee's Capital Improvement Plan transmittal letter this year it expressed its support of this critical infrastructure project with respect to its approximate cost (3.3 million dollars).
 - b. In prior discussions, key drivers of the project are dead zones throughout Old Orchard Beach; the dead spots, including some high-rise buildings, mean reduced availability and clarity of radio communications, which can pose significant safety risks for our first responders.
 - c. The committee asked if a presentation was given to the town council about the project:
 - i. Chief Chard indicated that a joint presentation on the project was provided to the town councils of Scarborough and Old Orchard Beach this spring. Scarborough hosted the brief.
 - d. Additional context was provided by Brynn:
 - i. The bond is for an amount up to \$3.3 million. Brynn also indicated that there have been talks of seeking congressional funding to help reduce the total cost.
 - ii. Due to the project's joint nature, many costs will be shared across municipalities. Scarborough will be taking on the bulk (~75%) of the project and will subsequently also be taking this project to the ballot this November. Old Orchard Beach's pursuit of bond funding is not contingent

upon Scarborough's vote, but the project will be contingent upon this passing the ballot in both towns.

- iii. In the case that the ballot initiative fails in either town, but passes in the other, the town whose initiative passed would retain the funding in the hopes that an initiative would pass the following November.
 - iv. To clarify, this indicates that Old Orchard Beach could not complete the project in isolation, but could bond the money and prepare funding authorization for the joint project regardless of Scarborough's vote.
 - e. Holly indicated to the committee that due to the safety issues at play here, there is an urgency for this request. But she asked that Brynn make a list for the Finance Committee of our bond obligations. It seems that every year we have had some considerable expenses get bonded, and we don't want to lose sight of the totals. She also requested information on the tax impact of our total bond exposure.
 - i. Brynn indicated she could provide these via email and that they would be indicated on upcoming tax bills.
 - f. Holly asked about the tax implications and if there are other ways we might consider financing this.
 - i. Quick research indicated that it is a reasonable estimate that the increase in taxes will be approximately \$0.08 to \$0.15 per \$1,000 of assessed value annually. Brynn was unable to confirm these exact numbers. The tax implications would begin in 2028, appearing first on the 2029 tax bills.
 - ii. Alternative financing options were not discussed in detail.
 - g. The Committee briefly discussed the importance of educating voters that the project is contingent on the corresponding initiative passing in Scarborough; they also briefly discussed the ballot language before deeming it out of scope for this call.
 - h. It was identified that there will be a public hearing on October 20th.
 - i. The Committee and key stakeholders indicated that we are fortunate to have a great partner in Scarborough.
3. Vote:
- a. Reza Namin moved for a vote that the Finance Committee of Old Orchard Beach recommends seeking bond funding up to 3.3 million dollars to fund their portion of the radio infrastructure project.
 - i. Holly seconded the motion.
 - ii. Vote passes unanimously.
4. The Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm