

City of Bristol
Regular Board of Finance Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. The following were in attendance: Chairman Dave Maikowski, Mayor Ellen Zoppo Sassu, Commissioners Jon Mace, Bill Campion, Jane Murdock Mike Massarelli, Mark Peterson. Marie O'Brien and Dante Tagareillo were on Zoom. Also present from the Comptroller's Office: Diane Waldron and Robin Manuele.

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Public Participation**
- 3. Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Regular Meeting – March 24, 2026**
 - b. Budget Hearings –March 16, 24, 25**
 - b. Purchasing: Quarterly Update on the Local Bidding Preference- March 31, 2026**
 - c. Library: Transfer of \$7,500 within the Library's operating budget**
 - d. Fire:**
 - a. Additional appropriation of \$4,875 within the Fire Department's operating budget**
 - b. Transfer of \$10,845 within the Equipment Building Sinking Fund**
 - e. PRYCS:**
 - a. Additional appropriation of \$197,865 within the Parks operating budget**
 - b. Additional appropriation totaling \$9,406 within the Special Grants and Donations Fund**
 - f. School Readiness:**
 - a. Additional appropriation of \$28,029 within the Special Grants and Donations Fund**
 - b. Transfers totaling \$48,127 within the Special Grants and Donations Fund**
 - g. Public Works: Transfer of \$32,000 within the Capital Projects Fund**
- 4. City Council:**
 - a. Additional appropriation of \$380,000 within the Capital Projects Fund**
- 5. Tax Collector:**
 - a. Transfer of \$2,488,176 of uncollectible taxes to the Municipal Suspense List**
- 6. Police Department:**
 - a. Approval of a bid waiver to Axon**
- 7. PRYCS:**
 - a. Additional appropriation of \$197,865 within the Parks operating budget**
- 8. Board of Education:**
 - a. Budget Update**
- 9. Liaison Reports**
- 10. Chairman's Report**
- 11. New Business**
- 12. Old Business**
- 13. Adjournment**

1. Call to order

Chairman Maikowski called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

Michelle Rudy, Henderson Street, spoke in support of the land purchase to support the Save the Hoppers.

Eric Mason, 70 Oak Hill Drive, spoke in support of the Hoppers.

Jerry Albino, 1 Mano Lane, spoke in regards to the purchase of Chippannee Golf Course.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Regular Meeting – March 24, 2026**
- 2. Budget Hearings –March 16, 24, 25**

b. Purchasing: Quarterly Update on the Local Bidding Preference- March 31, 2026

c. Library: Transfer of \$7,500 within the Library's operating budget

d. Fire:

- 1. Additional appropriation of \$4,875 within the Fire Department's operating budget**
- 2. Transfer of \$10,845 within the Equipment Building Sinking Fund**

e. PRYCS:

- 1. Additional appropriation of \$197,865 within the Parks operating budget**
- 2. Additional appropriation totaling \$9,406 within the Special Grants and Donations Fund**

f. School Readiness:

- 1. Additional appropriation of \$28,029 within the Special Grants and Donations Fund**
- 2. Transfers totaling \$48,127 within the Special Grants and Donations Fund**

g. Public Works: Transfer of \$32,000 within the Capital Projects Fund

Mayor Zoppo Sassu made a motion seconded by Commissioner

“To approve the consent agenda and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

4. City Council:

a. Additional appropriation of \$380,000 within the Capital Projects Fund

Commissioner Mace made a motion seconded by Commissioner Campion

“To make an additional appropriation of \$380,000 within the Capital Projects Fund for the purchase of land and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

5. Tax Collector:

a. Transfer of \$2,488,176 of uncollectible taxes to the Municipal Suspense List

Commissioner Mace made a motion seconded by Commissioner Campion

“To transfer \$2,488,176.57 of uncollectible taxes; \$1,712,558.07 for Motor Vehicles, \$408,013.24 for Supplemental Motor Vehicle and \$367,605.26 for Personal Property and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

6. Police Department:

a. Approval of a bid waiver to Axon

Commissioner Campion made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mace

“To approve a bid waiver to Axon Enterprises Inc for a Premium Officer Safety Package for the Police Department.”

Commissioner Campion questioned costs for training this year. Chief Morello stated the training is online and can be completed on shift.

Mayor Zoppo Sassu stated this protects the City and covers the City under the Police Accountability act.

Chief Morello discussed the technology package, which allows the Department to get newer technology sooner than the current contract.

Following a voice vote, the Chairperson declared the motion carried. Commissioner Murdock voted No.

7. PRYCS:

a. Additional appropriation of \$197,865 within the Parks operating budget

Mayor Zoppo Sassu made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tagariello

“To make an additional appropriation of \$197,865 within the parks operating budget funded by Trust revenue and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Chairman Maikowski stated Parks will be using these to purchase the pick-up truck in the Capital Budget and bleachers from Capital Outlay that was requested during the FY27 budget process.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

8. Board of Education:

a. Budget Update

Jodi Bond provided a budget update through March 31, 2026. The BOE is currently in a deficit of (\$3,115,086) with Special Education driving the deficit, at (\$3,951,195). The BOE continues to closely monitor the general education side of the budget, which currently shows \$2,506,310 unencumbered. Based on current spending patterns and needs, the BOE anticipates utilizing all of these remaining funds.

Pending March Federal and State reimbursement, the Cafe snapshot reflects a surplus of \$191,229. 45,665 breakfasts, 107,047 lunches, and 1,797 snacks were served in March.

Amy Martino provided the Special Education budget update. As of April, 2026, 1,821 of the 7,939 enrolled Bristol students are identified as requiring Special Education programming. This enrollment reflects 22.94% of the total BPS student population.

As of April 1st, 126 students with disabilities required out-of-district placements at private special education school programs. There were 91 students requiring special education programming services at other public out-of-district schools, including magnet schools.

During the month of March 36% of the newly registered students were identified as students with special education programming needs at the time of registration with. None of the newly registered students required programming and services at an out-of-district special education school program. During the month of March, there were 49 211 calls and 8 911 calls.

The state placed tuition is 3x higher what was budgeted. The SEED grant is a three-year grant for Special Education programs which can be used for Staff, Paras, Specialist, Intervention etc.

9. Liaison Reports

Commissioner Peterson gave the report of the Edgewood School Building Committee. D'Amato Downes was selected as the Construction Manager for Edgewood School.

Commissioner Mace gave the report of Animal Control Committee. They took a field trip to the current facility and they are looking at all options for the future to meet all the upcoming requirements.

Chairman Maikowski stated the Forestville firehouse is complete, and it is occupied and running. The Open House is Saturday, May 2.

10. Chairman's Report

None

11. New Business

Mayor Zoppo Sassu made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mace

To bring the Fire Department bid waiver to the Table”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

Mayor Zoppo Sassu made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mace

“To approve a bid waiver to Norcomm for the Fire Department.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

Mayor Zoppo Sassu made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mace

“To bring to the table the 100% Disabled Tax Relief Program”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

Mayor Zoppo Sassu stated this is a new program for 100% Disabled Tax Relief mirroring the state program, but will be a local option once approved.

Mayor Zoppo Sassu made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mace

“To approve the 100% Disabled Senior Tax Relief Program”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried

12. Old Business

None

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Mace made a motion seconded by Commissioner Campion

“To adjourn at 5:55 p.m.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Attest:



Diane M. Waldron
Board of Finance Clerk