

**Minutes**  
**Bar Harbor Town Council Special Meeting**  
**March 12, 2026**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – 6:31 p.m.— In attendance were Councilors Valerie Peacock, Steven Boucher, Earl Brechlin, David Kief, and Joe Minutolo; and Town Manager James L. Smith.

**A. Excused Absence(s)**—Mr. Brechlin, with second by Mr. Boucher, moved to excuse Councilor Caines. Ms. Peacock said attempts had been made to contact Mr. Sprague, and suggested waiting until later in the meeting to excuse him if needed. Roll Call Vote:

Kief \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Boucher \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Brechlin \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Peacock \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Minutolo \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Motion passed 5-0.

**II. READING OF THE MEETING GROUND RULES**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**—None.

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**—Without objection, Mr. Brechlin requested amending the agenda to add a second vote on excused absences before Council Comments. Mr. Brechlin, with second by Mr. Minutolo, moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote:

Kief \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Boucher \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Brechlin \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Peacock \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Minutolo \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Motion passed 5-0.

**V. RESOLVES AND ORDERS**

**A. FY27 Budget**

1. Public Hearing—No comments.

Before calling for action on Order 3, Chair Peacock asked if Councilors had any changes to the budget to propose or discuss.

Mr. Minutolo introduced possible changes to the school Capital Improvement Program accounts, including Furniture & Equipment, Playground, Roof Repair Reserve, Technology Infrastructure, Safety & Access Control, and Building Maintenance. He suggested removing planned current year funding from some accounts, and using fund balance in others to reduce taxes.

At the request of Council, school Principal Heather Webster addressed the proposed cuts. She said funds would be needed in FY27 for furniture, playground and technology.

Finance Director Sarah Gilbert participated in the discussion, noting that the Council has the authority to move funds between accounts, and the school has already requested action to move the balance in the Asbestos Removal account elsewhere.

Following discussion, Mr. Minutolo, with second by Mr. Brechlin, moved to amend the Conners Emerson School CIP by reducing the balance in account 2194-6624 Roof Repair reserve by \$50,000 and reducing the balance in account 2194-6650 Building Maintenance by \$200,000. Roll Call Vote:

Kief            Y

Boucher       N

Brechlin       Y

Peacock       N

Minutolo       Y

Motion passed 3-2.

2. Order 3, adopt the FY27 Budget and recommend it to Town Meeting.

Mr. Brechlin, with second by Mr. Minutolo, moved that Order 2026-03-03 have passage with the following amendment:

... BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, the Town Council hereby adopts the FY27 Municipal Budget: Other Revenues as follows:

- Other Revenues in the amount of \$15,770,898,
- use of Fund Balance – Cruise Ship in the amount of \$111,073, and
- use of ~~Unassigned~~ Fund Balance in the amount of ~~\$500,000~~ \$750,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Kief            Y

Boucher       Y

Brechlin       Y

Peacock       Y

Minutolo       Y

Motion passed 5-0.

**VI.** Excused Absence(s)—Mr. Brechlin, with second by Mr. Boucher, moved to excuse Councilor Sprague. Roll Call Vote:

Kief            Y

Boucher       Y

Brechlin       Y

Peacock       Y

Minutolo       Y

Motion passed 5-0.

**VII. COUNCIL COMMENTS**—None.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**— Mr. Brechlin, with second by Mr. Boucher, moved to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Kief            Y

Boucher      Y

Brechlin     Y

Peacock     Y

Minutolo    Y

Motion passed 5-0.

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Elizabeth N. Graves, Town Clerk