



**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, S. Anderson, J. Bickford, J. Tarrant and alternate L. Battis.

L. Battis was appointed to fill in for G. Mudge.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by M. Sconyers.

The January 13, 2026 minutes were approved on Motion of J. Tarrant second by J. Bickford and S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

Botelle Superintendent's Report: Botelle Superintendent Kevin Case reported that John DeShazo was elected chair of the Board of Education. The Superintendent will be meeting with the State before the end of February regarding the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) noncompliance. The BOE budgeted \$53,800 less this year than last year, in budgeting for the needs they currently have. The BOE will need to add the \$53,800 back into its FY 27-28 budget. The potential consequences for noncompliance with the MBR are that the Botelle BOE could be penalized double what the Town receives in ECS funds. The Town receives \$55,000 in ECS, so the potential penalty could be \$110,000.

The Elevator at Botelle School has been repaired, inspected by the State and is back in service. The elevator totaled approximately \$58,000. The BOE utilized \$45,000 from the non-lapsing fund. The Superintendent is still waiting to hear back on the DRIP grant. The State has not yet released the funds; Botelle is expected to receive \$32,000, a portion of which could possibly go towards the elevator. The BOE is working on its budget to share with the BOF at the next meeting scheduled on March 10th.

NVFD Update: The First Selectman relayed that no work has been completed due to the winter conditions. The costs for construction during the extreme weather would have exceeded \$250,000. Work is scheduled to re-start March 16th, weather permitting. The Town is still collecting funds from private individuals, and is expected to receive \$500,000 from the USDA, and \$2,500,000 from the State.

The First Selectman reported the emergency management line is over by approximately \$90,000 due to litigation expenses. The Town is in the midst of mediation. As part of the proceedings, the Board of Selectman would authorize the First Selectman to accept a settlement offer on behalf of the Town.

The Town will be reimbursed 100% for the Mountain Road bridge. There is a new process in effect with the State, with an expected 60-day timeframe for reimbursement. The Town will pay a construction loan for this project. The First Selectman continues researching trucks for the Public Works department, as the Town has two (2) trucks that are over 20 years old. There remains \$600,000 from closing out the defined benefit plan, which could be a potential funding source for the new trucks. Saturday and holiday storms are contributing to winter overtime costs.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote. There was no Public Comment.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by J. Bickford and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary