

**Minutes of the Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct
Budget Public Hearing**

Location of Meeting: 9 Woodbury Lane
Boscawen, N.H. 03303

Present at Meeting: Nathan Young, Commissioner Chair
Bill Murphy, Commissioner
Frank Dineen, Commissioner
Lauen Hargrave, Clerk
Cheryl Mitchell, Administrative Consultant

Public Present: Barbara Randall
Laurie Murphy
Ted Morrill

The budget public hearing of the Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct was called to order at 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, N.H. of, March 19, 2026, 5:34 p.m. by Commissioner Nathan Young, Chair.

Commissioner Nathan Young welcomed the public to the hearing. Commissioner Nathan Young explained that the budget will be gone through tonight, but the important thing for this is the USDA loan which the Precinct held a public hearing on last week. Everything discussed at the last public loan hearing and at this public budget hearing will be voted upon at the Precinct's Annual Meeting. Commissioner Nathan Young reported that DRA instructed the Precinct to put forward a budget as if the USDA loan project was going through and if the project does not go through to amend the budget after the meeting has passed. Commissioner Nathan Young noted to make things as straight forward as possible with color coding. The orange verses the yellow (Page #1) will be explained first. If the USDA loan were to pass the Precinct would need to increase the water rates by 29.81% to cover that loan. There is also a breakdown (Page #1) so the customers can look at the sample difference in pricing between the current water rates and proposed budget rates if the USDA loan is approved. If, however, the Precinct voters decide to vote down the USDA loan article then the budget will need to be amended from the orange amount down to the yellow amount. (Page #1). On the back of Page #2 is the entire budget which shows the 2-line items having to do with the USDA loan. On the first Page of Page there is a yellow box which shows no rate increase which would make the revenue from the actual rates remain the same as last year. The total on the bottom of that page also shows what the total budget would be without the USDA loan being approved. Other than that, it is individual line items which Commissioner Nathan Young will go through. Commissioner Nathan Young questioned if everything he just discussed makes sense and wants to make sure that during the meeting that the budget lines up with the Warrant Articles which pass. Commissioner Nathan Young proceeded to go through the budget line by line and for this hearing we will look at the budget under the constants of USDA loan passing.

Revenue: (Page) Overall the meter watered use goes up by 29.81% (Page). Some things changing on the first couple line items on Page are interest rates with the bank, projected in general and not necessarily true interest rates. The budget number reflects assuming that the bank interest rates are slightly lower than in years past. So, the returns are a bit lower than last year. Commissioner Nathan Young noted that under the Sprinkler Charges line item that this year will end up with a slight increased revenue just as it was last year. Commissioner Nathan Young noted that under the Strategic Planning Grant 2024-T18445 line item for \$18,275.99 is because the grant in 2024 had some of the grant money taken out in last year's budget. It originally started as a \$30,000 line-item last year but the \$18,275.99 is in this year's budget. Directly underneath you will see the Strategic Planning Grant 2025 will be totally in this year for \$30,000. It is the same grant twice over both with a \$15,000 input from the Precinct and \$30,000 grant from the State for the work. The last line item is for the \$60,000 Lead Service Grant, which is a 100% funded grant to work on the lead service.

Expenses: (Page) Commissioner Nathan Young reported that a lot of the line items in this area did stay the same, noting that Pennichuck Line item stayed the same because the Precinct is still under a current contract with them. Snow removal and mowing line item went up slightly due to having an increase in snow removal this year. Moderator line item has gone up a bit due to a few extra meetings this year. That concludes the total differences in line items for the Outside Services/Stipends. There is expected to be a slight increase in auditing services, noting that currently everything has increased in cost, so that line items have increased a bit. The Strategic Planning Grant 2024-line item is the matching and \$11,724.01 was in last year's charge. Strategic Planning Grant 2025-line item for \$45,000 is due to the \$15,000 input to the States \$30,000. In other words, a \$30,000 revenue but a \$45,000 expense. Lead Service Grant 2025-line item is a \$60,000 full grant with no input from the Precinct. The Computer Expenses line item went up this year due to the Precinct having to make a full replacement for the Precinct computer system.

(Page) Annual Subscriptions line item is new due to ARC-GIS, which is an online system which allows the Precinct to keep track of all the hydrants, services, etc. all of which are now mapped out. Engineering line items have increased as there are a lot of projects happening within the Precinct and it is most likely increasing this year. Administrative Services - Accounting line item has also increased due to the amount of work expected to take place this year. A new line item is for Water Operations Advisor is going to be a contacted-out position which will help with all the additional work being done by the Lead Service Grant, State requirements, and additional projects. Barbara Randall asked if this will be another member of the Precinct Board or will it be an independent person. Commissioner Nathan Young reported it will be an independent contractor. Main Repairs/materials and Meter Repairs/Material line items have a slight increase due to materials being more expensive. Pumping Station Electricity line item also has a slight increase due to the cost of electricity increasing. The Pump Station Generator line item will hopefully be replaced under the grant. It has cost the Precinct this year to keep it up and running. Commissioner Nathan Young noted "no generator, no power, no water" and there is a water supply problem. There are two new line items which are broken out of previous line items. The Booster Station Generator has been broken down to keep track

of how much the Booster Station Generators costs compared to the Corrosion Building Generator. There are 2 separate generators and 2 separate line items will help so going forward with separating the costs of repairs/upkeep for each generator. Also, it is the same with the Generator Diesel Fuel, this line item will help the Precinct keep track of things separately. The Well Maintenance line item has gone up slightly. It was noted that the Special Projects line item is staying where it has been so the Precinct can continue with Well #4 and other things such as filtration for the system, etc. Also, noted by Commissioner Bill Murphy was the Controls/Instrumentation line item which Commissioner Nathan Young reported is a new line item as well as it has not been broken out in the past and has just been taken out of general project funds, but, it is something that needs to be kept track of, such as level sensors in tanks and wells, to chlorine analyzers, pH probes, plc control units, and telemetry systems. All the controls and instrumentations which are a large part of the system. There are AA & BB with explanation underneath. AA is the USDA loan and the ones under labeled BB are what the lead service line loan would be under the maximum amount. It is factored in at the 1 million dollars of borrowing and is absorbed into the current budget without any individual increase. Commissioner Frank Dineen questioned how much longer the Precinct is with Pennichuck. Commissioner Nathan Young explained the Precinct is currently under contract with Pennichuck and the contract runs for 3 years. This is the last year of this contract and it will need to be renegotiated for 2027-2030. Unfortunately, there is no competition and there is no one that offers as much as Pennichuck. A brief discussion took place regarding Pennichuck and it was noted the they have been decent with negotiation and the Precinct does have negotiating power. For instance, when there will be a markup the Precinct is allowed to handle in house and direct contracting without their fee involved.

Commissioner Nathan Young made a motion to accept the budget to move it forward to the annual meeting. Seconded by Frank Dineen. Passed Unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Commissioner Nathan Young. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Murphy. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m. by Commissioner Nathan Young, Chair.

Next Meetings:

The Next Regular Meeting Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct, 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, NH on March 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lauren Hargrave, Recording Clerk on March 30, 2026

Minutes approved by: _____ on April 8, 2026

_____ on April 8, 2026

_____ on April 8, 2026