

Marion Finance Committee - Meeting Minutes

Date: February 5th, 2026

Start Time: 7pm

Location: Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Rd, Marion, MA

Committee Members Present: Sean Healy, Dave Herron, Fred Mock, Tom Crowley, Mal Durkee, GR Pittman

Additional Attendees (town officials): John Hoagland (Select Board), Heather O'Brien (Finance Director), Richard Nighelli (Police Chief), TJ Walker (Chair, Board of Assessors)

Committee Members Absent: Mike Sudofsky, Shay Assad

Notes:

- **Meeting Called to order at 7:03pm**
- **Approval of Minutes from January 7th, 2026 meeting pending final review of text**
- **Review of Police Budget**
 - o **Questions around overtime and how to decrease in future**
 - o **Explanation by Heather and Chief Nighelli about breakdown in cost between Marine Resources Commission (MRC) Budget and Police Budget for Harbormaster, Deputy and Admin salaries.**
 - o **Efficiencies can be found by using Harbormaster and Deputies to fill in on police staff during winter months**
- **Review of MRC budget**

- o Discussion of responsibilities between waterways fund and general fund, given transition of Harbormaster to Police Department
- o Discussion of Harbormaster vehicles, replacement costs, necessity of 3 vehicles, potential to move to 2 vehicles as older vehicles age out
- o Discussion of Fork Lift – buy vs lease, and ability to share with Barden’s
- Review of Animal Control Budget
- o No major changes or questions
- Discussion of how to balance the MRC budget
- o Estimated \$70k shortfall given expenses compared with total amount billed to users
- o In financial year 2027 the \$70k shortfall will be with funds in the Waterways account but this highlights the need for a long term plan to avoid such shortfalls
- o Resolution to work with MRC, Selectboard, Town Administration and Harbormaster during 2026 to develop the community model for Harbor Operations including the right-sizing of the financial model by focusing on fees, expenses and long term sustainability
- Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm Motion-Dave Herron

Second-GR Pitman

Date Approved: 2/12/2026

Submitted by: David Herron

**RCVD MARION TOWN CLERK
2026 FEB 18 PM 1:07**