

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOROUGH

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 FEBRUARY 2026

Attendees: Jim Murphy (minutes), Mike Albanese, Bob Dewing, John Kaplan, Lauren Barnett, Melissa Muilenburg, Khizar Sheikh, Jennifer Semler, Mitchell Stern.

See meeting Agenda which is attached as the last page.

Current Budget

- Excess collections in the Amount to Be Raised by Taxation of \$1.034 million for the 2025 fiscal year driven by 99.2% tax collection rate plus the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes.
- Discussion regarding our collection rate on non-tax levies excluding MRNA (total raise was \$4.96 million which was 102.4% of budget).
- Discussion regarding expenditures (Total Activity + Encumbered = \$11.6 million) is modestly different from amount in final Current Budget. The reason is a timing difference.
- Discussion regarding the interplay of MRNA, tax collections, prior year fund balance lapsing and anticipated surplus under various scenarios.

Water Budget

- Fund balance is well in excess of target due to excess revenue collection.

Sewer Budget

- Same comment as above.

Reserve Accounts

- Reserve for tax appeals may be overfunded at \$420,000 relative to an estimated maximum exposure of \$175,000.
- While most of our reserve accounts are well funded, we could redirect some of the tax appeals reserve to storm recovery and capital improvement fund.
- The storm recovery fund maximum may need to be increased as the Federal FEMA reimbursements may not be at the same level as they have in the past.
- We should revisit this discussion after this winter is over and we have final costs.

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- Discussion regarding lapsing funds in past capital expenditures to address current capital items.

Next Meeting

1 April 2026, Wednesday

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Finance Advisory Committee

Agenda - 02/11/2026

1. Approval of January 19 minutes. Minutes for current meeting - J. Murphy.
2. Review any updates to Current, Water, Sewer and Capital Expenditure budgets.
3. Reserve replenishment recommendations.
4. 4th Quarter budget and trust account review.
5. Other business.
6. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00pm, Zoom. Minutes - J. Kaplan.

To Dos:

- Circulate any updates to Current, Water, Sewer and/or Capital Expenditure budgets.
- 4th Quarter budget and trust account review, 2/11 meeting - J. Semler.
- Tax appeal exposure update from tax assessor, 2/11 meeting - M. Stern.
- Recommendations for reserve replenishment and/or increases after update from tax assessor 2/11 meeting - M. Stern, J. Semler.
- Water usage analysis, 3/4 meeting - J. Semler.
- Update and distribute Surplus Account / Fund Balance Forecast analysis, include dam financing for 4/1 meeting- J. Semler.
- Updated bond model - J. Kaplan.