

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING- MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

The council met on Monday, April 13, 2026, for the purpose of a Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 Town Budget, in the Town Hall, Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 PM, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

PRESENT: Council Chairman, Nathan Calouro
Vice-Chairwoman, Mary Parella,
Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira
Councilman, Timothy Sweeney
Councilman, Aaron Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, Steven Contente
Treasurer, Carl Carulli

1. Public Hearing on Budget 2026-2027

Chairman Calouro opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Town Administrator and department heads in preparing the budget. He extended thanks to the Town Council for their continued dedication throughout the budget process.

Sweeney/Teixeira-Voted unanimously
to close the public hearing

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro opened the public hearing.

Chairman Calouro took a moment to thank his colleagues on the Council, department heads, the Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, and Town Clerk for their diligent and collaborative work in preparing the Town budget.

Mr. Alan Spen, 133 Ferry Road, Bristol, spoke before the Council and noted his appreciation for the work the Town had done in preparing the budget. He inquired whether other municipalities operate with a similar level of fiscal responsibility, referencing the Barrington, which he noted may exceed the 4% tax

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING- MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

cap and potentially increase up to 8% due to school bond obligations.

Chairman Calouro responded that the Town is also mindful of the potential impact of future school bond obligations and emphasized that such financial decisions are not arbitrary. He stated that, to his knowledge, Bristol has rarely exceeded the 4% tax cap. He further noted that the Town benefits from a diverse revenue base, including residential and commercial properties, the university, and hotel and meal tax revenues, all of which contribute to the Town's fiscal stability.

Town Treasurer Carulli explained that Barrington's debt service related to school capital projects significantly impacts its budget. He noted that the State allows certain exceptions to exceed the tax cap, including for debt service. He also stated that the Town implements cost-saving measures to help offset its own debt obligations.

Chairman Calouro added that the Town anticipates feeling the financial impact of its own school bond in the coming years.

Councilman Teixeira referenced his experience as a former administrator in Little Compton, noting that the municipality exceeded the 4% tax cap to 12.5% in the prior year due to resistance to incremental tax increases in earlier years to support capital improvements.

Mr. Spen shared that, based on his experience working in a rating agency, fiscal outcomes often reflect the quality of management. He expressed that he was very impressed with the Town's strong management and overall fiscal oversight.

Vice Chairwoman Parella stated that Bristol is a well-run community, as reflected in its bond ratings and public safety. She noted that the Town is fortunate to have dedicated and capable staff.

Councilman Sweeney thanked Mr. Spen for attending the public hearing and highlighted that long-term capital planning and responsible budgeting practices is one of the key contributors to the Town's continued success.

Town Administrator Contente noted that the Town is fully aware of the anticipated bond impact in Fiscal Year 2028 and is proactively planning to scale back certain capital projects in

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING- MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

preparation. He stated that, over the years, the Town has conducted departmental operational reviews to better position itself for future financial obligations. He also highlighted the significant financial benefit of the Town's volunteer fire department, noting that it contributes meaningfully to overall cost savings. He emphasized that the Town has remained conscientious in its spending in anticipation of future fiscal pressures.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 7:13 pm

Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk