

COPY OF THE WARRANT  
and  
THE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
of the  
FINANCE COMMITTEE



to be acted upon at the

Annual Town Meeting  
Halifax Elementary School  
Monday, May 13, 2024  
6:30 p.m.

Special Town Meeting  
Halifax Elementary School  
Monday, May 13, 2024  
6:45 p.m.

and the

Annual Town Election  
Halifax Elementary School  
Saturday, May 18, 2024  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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*Bring this copy with you to the Town Meeting*

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PLYMOUTH, SS

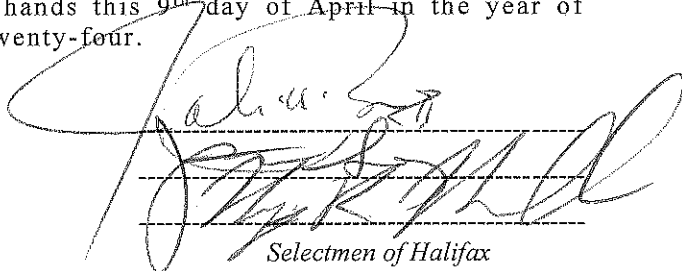
*To either of the Constables of the Town of HALIFAX in the County of Plymouth,*  
GREETING.

IN THE NAME OF The Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **HALIFAX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in said **HALIFAX** on **MONDAY** the **13<sup>TH</sup>** day of **MAY** next, at **6:30 o'clock** in the **afternoon**, then and there to act on the following articles:

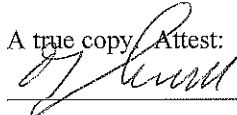
And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the **Town Hall, Halifax Post Office and three other public places** in said Town, seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make do return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectmen of Halifax

A true copy. Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

Plymouth, SS

PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the TOWN OF HALIFAX by posting up attested copies of the same at **Town Hall, Halifax Post Office and three other public places** in said Town, seven (7) days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable of Halifax

## "CITIZEN'S CHECK LIST"

To be considered on each vote:

1. ***IS IT NECESSARY?*** Or is it something that is not really needed or perhaps already being provided by a private or public group?
2. ***CAN WE AFFORD IT?*** Remember, there is no limit to what we would like, but there is a limit to what we can afford.
3. ***WHAT WILL IT COST ULTIMATELY?*** Many proposals are like icebergs - only a small fraction of the total cost is apparent on the surface.
4. ***HOW WILL IT AFFECT BASIC LIBERTIES?*** If it imposes unreasonable or illegal restraints on your life or that of others, it should be vigorously opposed.
5. ***IS IT IN THE BALANCED BEST INTEREST OF ALL?*** If it is designed to benefit a small group of special interests, while taking unfair advantage of others, work for its defeat.
6. ***IS IT A "FOOT IN THE DOOR" PROPOSITION?*** Compromising a little now may bring an oppressive burden later, either in more regulations or more taxes or a combination of both.
7. ***DOES IT PLACE TOO MUCH POWER IN THE HANDS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP?*** Once decisive power is granted to a non-elected public official, a commission or a municipal authority, the private citizens lose effective control.
8. ***DOES IT RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE MINORITY?*** This is a cornerstone of our Republic.
9. ***IS ITS APPEAL BASED ON EMOTIONAL PROPAGANDA OR FACTS?*** The farther a proposition gets away from facts, the more critical one should be.
10. ***DOES IT SQUARE WITH YOUR MORAL CONVICTIONS?*** If so, fight for it. If not, oppose it.



**TOWN OF HALIFAX**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Dear Residents of the Town of Halifax,

The Finance Committee of the Town of Halifax has prepared a detailed balanced budget in advance of the Annual Town Meeting, presenting the anticipated revenue and expenses for the coming fiscal year (FY25) for the voters of the town.

**Estimated Revenues**

Our estimated revenues at time of print are \$29,666,953.67 for the FY25 operating budget, representing a 3.3% increase from FY24. Largely stunted by a 40% reduction in new growth and only a 1% increase in state aid. As the town continues to operate under difficult economic conditions, the Finance Committee was once again unable to meet a goal to provide a \$300,000 buffer to the levy limit. However, the Finance Committee will continue to make every effort to reinstate this practice on an annual basis when financially feasible.

**Expenditures**

The town's expenditures continue to outpace revenue growth which is presenting ongoing challenges to maintain existing service levels to both our schools and town government. In the current highly inflationary environment, our town's fixed expenses have increased 9% over FY24 and represent 13% of our total budget for FY25. For FY25, the education budgets for the Town underwent a reorganization. The initial request from the School Department for their FY25 budget representing more than a 10% increase from FY24 was not something that the Town could absorb. In order to keep pace with revenues and maintain a historical education weighting of 52% of the overall town budget, the Halifax Elementary School was asked to reduce their assessment by \$550K, which results in an overall increase of 3.6% over FY24. Combined with fixed costs, these two categories represent 65% of the Town's Annual operating budget for FY25.

## **Town Budget**

Preparation for the FY25 budget commenced in October where the Finance Committee in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator collectively determined a directive for all Town Departments. With the town's current fiscal condition each Department was asked to submit both a "level service" budget and a secondary budget consisting of a 10% reduction in expenses. Upon submission of both formal budgets, each Department was then scheduled to present to the Finance Committee, Town Administrator and Town Accountant to explain their budget proposals. The Finance Committee placed particular focus on the rationale for any proposed increases year over year outside of contractual or wage and personnel increases. Given the current economic challenges, rising inflation, and general wage & personnel challenges, a level service town budget was once again not feasible in all cases without having a material impact on existing services to the town residents.

## **Capital Planning**

On an annual basis, the Capital Planning Committee receives a series of capital funding requests submitted by the various town departments. The capital planning committee met with each town Department to understand the justification for every request. Each request then undergoes an open cost-benefit discussion, in which the committee carefully evaluates against a series of considerations, inclusive of available funding and long-term benefit. The Finance Committee has provided our recommendations to the capital planning recommendations for the voters of the town.

## **Wage & Personnel**

The Finance Committee currently shares responsibility for non-union Wage and Personnel matters with the Board of Selectmen. For the upcoming fiscal year, we have presented a revised wage and personnel bylaw that will assist the Town's administrative team in effectively operating government operations. In addition, we are recommending a 2% Cost of Living Adjusting for all non-union positions. This is in line with the collective bargaining agreements that the Town has with its unions and will assist in recruiting and retaining quality staff.

## **Tax Rate**

Based on the Finance Committee's recommendations at the time of print, and in order to meet the revenue required to fund the recommended budget, the estimated tax rate would be \$14.83 (this is based on FY 24 total valuation) per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The average single-family home is valued at \$491,227, meaning that the tax bill would be \$7,284.90, an increase of \$.43/\$1,000 or \$211.23.

This year's budget process and core duties of the Finance Committee are detailed below:

1. We are committed to maintaining existing levels of government services in the Town of Halifax, wherever possible, while retaining all existing personnel.
2. We fund our operating budgets from our revenue funds exclusively, and do not use any other sources of funding (such as the Stabilization or Free Cash accounts) to fund the operating budget.
3. We fund capital requests from the Free Cash account, or unrestricted available funds remaining from previous fiscal years.

The Finance Committee would like to thank the town residents, staff, and elected officials for the support and partnership throughout the annual process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Dargie, Chairperson  
Cheryll Zarella-Burke, Vice Chairperson  
Michael Bennett, Clerk  
Frank Johnston  
Jim Walters  
E.J. Bryan  
Bill Smith

HALIFAX SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
BUDGET 2024 – 2025

*Figures were not available at the time of print*

SILVER LAKE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BUDGET 2024 – 2025

*Figures were not available at the time of print*

**TOWN OF HALIFAX  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
MAY 13, 2024**

*Please note that except for Articles 1 through 4, the actual order in which Articles will be voted upon will be determined by lottery under the Town's by-laws, Chapter 47. Articles 1 through 4 will be voted upon first, in that order, then all other Articles will be voted in an order based on a lottery. The Moderator, at the Moderator's discretion, shall determine whether the Article so chosen is contingent upon any Articles yet to be acted upon and, if so, shall determine which Articles must be acted upon and in which order before having Town Meeting act on the Article chosen. Otherwise, the Article numbers shown below are used to identify the Articles.*

PLYMOUTH, SS

To either of the Constables of the Town of Halifax in the County of Plymouth, Greeting.

In the name of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Halifax Elementary School in said Halifax on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, at 6:30 o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1      To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 2      To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wage and Personnel By-Law as presented in attachment A and as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee or take any other action relative thereto:

Proposed by Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee  
**Finance Committee Recommends**



ARTICLE 3      To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws to determine the salaries of several elective Town Officers, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, or take any action thereon:

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
Moderator	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Town Clerk	\$56,623	\$57,190	\$72,390	\$76,857
Selectmen (each)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Treasurer-Collector	\$73,764	\$74,502	\$77,460	\$81,222
Assessors (each)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Highway Surveyor	\$77,184	\$77,956	\$80,884	\$84,913

Proposed by the Finance Committee  
**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 4      Operating Budget.

To see what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, to defray charges and expenses to the Town including debts and interest, for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

**(SEE NEXT PAGES)**

Proposed by the Finance Committee  
**Finance Committee Recommends**

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
<b>General Government</b>					
1	Moderator - Salary	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
2	Selectmen - Salary	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
3	Town Admin. - Salary	\$95,906	\$95,906	\$143,954	\$166,630
4	Selectmen - Clerical	\$85,836	\$89,191	\$95,441	\$100,403
5	Selectmen - Expense	\$3,358	\$3,850	\$3,925	\$4,400
6	Law	\$316,514	\$186,705	\$139,500	\$135,000
7	Town Hall - Electricity	\$14,298	\$15,381	\$16,000	\$19,500
8	Town Meeting Warrants	\$6,904	\$3,515	\$7,000	\$6,000
9	Audit	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$32,500	\$33,500 (A)
10	Fin Comm - Clerical	\$3,438	\$1,407	\$5,106	\$5,370
11	Fin Comm - Expense	\$180	\$184	\$359	\$350
12	Accountant - Salary	\$80,678	\$69,276	\$98,000	\$87,000
13	Accountant - Clerical	\$45,108	\$40,424	\$41,700	\$47,370
14	Accountant - Expense	\$1,554	\$1,973	\$1,625	\$1,970
15	IT - Wages	\$37,645	\$53,504	\$68,542	\$72,133
16	IT - Expenditures	\$116,383	\$116,738	\$143,455	\$165,000
17	Assessors - Salary	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
18	Principal Assessor/Appraiser	\$79,828	\$79,054	\$76,285	\$81,428
19	Assessors - Clerical	\$66,028	\$50,415	\$66,331	\$71,936
20	Assessors - Expense	\$13,102	\$14,092	\$15,160	\$29,400
21	Office Machines - Expense	\$4,653	\$7,081	\$6,000	\$29,500
22	Treasurer/Collector Salary	\$63,214	\$79,111	\$77,460	\$82,222
23	Treasurer/Collector - Clerical	\$137,835	\$108,329	\$118,263	\$124,480
24	Treasurer - Expense	\$7,368	\$6,839	\$7,500	\$5,600
25	Collector - Expense	\$12,798	\$19,487	\$14,922	\$4,922

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY22	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
26	Treasurer - Banking & Payroll Expense	\$7,581	\$7,489	\$8,000	\$13,000
27	Tax Title - Treasurer	\$8,170	\$3,824	\$5,000	\$5,000
28	Town Clerk - Salary	\$56,623	\$57,190	\$72,390	\$76,857
29	Town Clerk - Clerical	\$34,061	\$32,261	\$41,612	\$44,010
30	Town Clerk - Expense	\$3,434	\$3,313	\$4,035	\$3,198
31	Elect/Register	\$10,897	\$29,677	\$18,011	\$18,481
32	Wage & Personnel - Expense	\$225	\$225	\$250	\$250
33	Recruitment & Employment Costs	\$7,260	\$8,239	\$10,000	\$10,000
34	Cons Commission - Expense	\$536	\$765	\$800	\$500
35	Conservation Wages	\$0	\$0	\$28,000	\$41,555 (B)
37	Planning Board - Expense	\$900	\$535	\$2,000	\$1,800
38	Zoning Board of Appeals - Expense	\$272	\$584	\$825	\$625
39	Regulatory - Clerical	\$62,787	\$51,618	\$89,390	\$75,835
40	Building Committee - Clerical	\$12,040	\$12,188	\$13,094	\$13,782
41	Building Committee - Expense	\$386	\$229	\$450	\$450
42	Town Buildings - Dir. of Bldg. Maintenance	\$88,340	\$92,725	\$98,520	\$103,284
43	Town Buildings - Custodial	\$108,492	\$113,977	\$157,938	\$166,210
44	Town Buildings - Expense	\$44,991	\$43,806	\$35,360	\$58,765
45	Town Building Preventative Maintenance	\$65,133	\$52,428	\$53,616	\$30,211
46	Town Buildings - Snow & Ice Expense	\$1,473	\$1,252	\$2,000	\$2000
	<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>\$1,746,919</b>	<b>\$1,602,339</b>	<b>1,822,040</b>	<b>1,949,127</b>
	<b>Public Safety - Police</b>				
47	Police - Chief Salary	\$130,476	\$138,004	\$145,531	\$271,858*
48	Police - Wages	\$1,180,821	\$1,284,782	\$1,586,200	\$\$1,487,468
49	Police - Training	\$9,897	\$9,466	\$10,000	\$10,000

\* This line includes the salaries for both the Police Chief and the Deputy Police Chief

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
50	Police - Clerical	\$48,807	\$49,087	\$52,816	\$56,359
51	Police - Expense	\$66,930	\$68,219	\$70,000	\$70,000
52	Police - Station Maintenance	\$18,713	\$18,052	\$20,000	\$20,000
53	Police - Cruiser Maintenance	\$13,000	\$7,792	\$13,000	\$13,000
	<b>Total Police</b>	<b>\$1,468,644</b>	<b>\$1,575,402</b>	<b>\$1,897,547</b>	<b>\$1,928,685</b>
	<b>Public Safety - Fire</b>				
54	Fire - Chief Salary	\$145,751	\$132,819	\$143,000	\$147,290
55	Fire - Clerical	\$43,473	\$46,086	\$51,638	\$54,868
56	Fire - Wages	\$1,000,942	\$1,036,771	\$1,155,259	\$1,168,471
57	Fire - Training	\$53,344	\$42,251	\$72,898	\$77,800
58	Fire - Expense	\$42,718	\$57,986	\$57,850	\$61,250
59	Fire - Station Maintenance	\$11,711	\$17,579	\$18,500	\$20,500
60	Fire - Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$27,476	\$30,340	\$33,500	\$37,500
61	Fire - Medical Supplies	\$24,382	\$30,882	\$50,000	\$50,000
62	Ambulance Billing	\$25,489	\$27,184	\$28,500	\$32,000
	<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>\$1,375,286</b>	<b>\$1,421,899</b>	<b>\$1,611,146</b>	<b>\$1,649,679</b>
	<b>Public Safety - Other Public Safety</b>				
63	Emergency Management	\$944	\$4,167	\$5,550	\$4,000
64	Building Inspector - Wages	\$75,106	\$58,468	\$90,044	\$93,315
65	Asst Building Inspector Wages	\$1,222	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
66	Building Inspector - Expense	\$4,658	\$6,982	\$6,888	\$6,550
67	Sealer Weights/Measure - Salary	\$2,744	\$2,772	\$2,772	\$2,883
68	Sealer Weights/Measure - Expense	\$32	\$38	\$527	\$527
69	Animal Control Officer - Expense	\$3,516	\$694	\$29,952	\$29,952 (C)
	<b>Total Other Public Safety</b>	<b>\$110,776</b>	<b>\$90,652</b>	<b>\$135,683</b>	<b>\$138,227</b>

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
70	Dispatch Services	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
	<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>\$3,104,706</b>	<b>\$3,3287,954</b>	<b>\$3,844,376</b>	<b>\$3,916,591</b>
	<b>Schools</b>				
71	Elementary - School Costs	\$8,916,907	\$9,090,936	\$9,276,152	\$6,822,138 (D)
72	Silver Lake Assessment	\$5,307,074	5,123,706	\$5,169,829	\$8,130,074 (E)
73	Debt Exclusion Budget Silver Lake	\$450,993	\$457,454	\$458,032	\$485,144 (F)
	<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>\$14,674,974</b>	<b>\$14,672,096</b>	<b>\$14,904,013</b>	<b>\$15,437,356</b>
	<b>Public Works - Highway</b>				
74	Highway - Surveyor Salary	\$77,184	\$77,956	\$80,884	\$84,913
75	Highway - Wages	\$289,582	\$298,610	\$340,116	\$342,931
76	Highway - Clerical	\$50,270	\$46,165	\$48,297	\$55,000
77	Highway - Expense	\$3,765	\$5,960	\$6,771	\$6,771
78	Highway - Barn Maintenance	\$6,679	\$12,364	\$12,750	\$13,750
79	Highway - Equipment	\$52,905	\$36,876	\$52,500	\$52,500
80	Highway - Town Roads	\$57,410	\$58,833	\$58,705	\$58,705
81	Highway Stormwater Management	\$115,617	\$148,225	\$144,400	\$144,400
82	Highway - Snow & Ice	\$187,304	\$117,815	\$177,509	\$177,509
83	Street Lights	\$36,274	\$34,778	\$36,500	\$39,000
84	Traffic Lights	\$2,703	\$3,049	\$7,500	\$7,500
85	Tree Warden Salary	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$1
86	Tree Maintenance	\$3,000	\$4,550	\$7,000	\$7,000
87	Insect & Pest Control	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$1
	<b>Total Highway</b>	<b>\$882,693</b>	<b>\$845,183</b>	<b>\$972,934</b>	<b>\$989,981</b>

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
	<b>Public Works - Cemetery</b>				
88	Cemetery - Supt Salary	\$11,565	\$11,861	\$11,681	\$12,148
89	Cemetery - Wages	\$62,689	\$69,147	\$69,850	\$70,200
90	Cemetery - Supplies & Equip	\$6,195	\$5,748	\$6,195	\$6,195
	<b>Total Cemetery</b>	<b>\$80,449</b>	<b>\$86,576</b>	<b>\$89,822</b>	<b>\$88,543</b>
	<b>Public Works - Water</b>				
91	Water - Supt Salary	\$81,395	\$84,455	\$92,566	\$97,020
92	Water - Wages	\$221,354	\$219,852	\$225,374	\$238,203
93	Water - Clerical	\$49,560	\$49,879	\$52,170	\$59,639
94	Water - Supply	\$182,452	\$182,581	\$193,899	\$220,625
95	Water - Insurance	\$32,742	\$46,230	\$54,000	\$42,000
96	Water - Retirement	\$32,742	\$19,766	\$35,700	\$38,556
97	Water - Legal fees	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
98	Water - Meters	\$27,317	\$75,556	\$50,000	\$50,000
99	Water - Gas & Oil	\$10,926	\$13,679	\$15,600	\$16,500
100	Water - Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance	\$2,972	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
101	Water - Tower/Wells Maintenance	\$55,202	\$72,301	\$125,000	\$110,000
	<b>Total Water</b>	<b>\$711,623</b>	<b>\$767,609</b>	<b>\$860,809</b>	<b>\$889,043 (G)</b>
	<b>Public Works - Solid Waste Management</b>				
102	Recycling Office - Clerical	\$32,346	\$32,977	\$33,758	\$37,209
103	Recycling Office - Expense	\$3,180	\$3,281	\$3,501	\$4,911
104	Recycling Center - Wages	\$63,010	\$55,338	\$78,131	\$78,972
105	Recycling Center - Expense	\$21,324	\$43,522	\$54,780	\$50,670
106	Hazardous Waste Collection	\$14,066	\$4,774	\$19,950	\$19,900
107	Trash Collection/Disposal	\$239,103	\$289,476	\$365,000	\$359,000
	<b>Total Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>\$373,029</b>	<b>\$429,366</b>	<b>\$555,120</b>	<b>\$550,662 (H)</b>
	<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>\$2,047,795</b>	<b>\$2,128,735</b>	<b>\$2,478,684</b>	<b>\$2,518,229</b>

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
<b>Health and Human Services</b>					
108	Health - Clerical	\$44,904	\$40,096	\$48,939	\$52,274
109	Health - Expense	\$5,656	\$7,001	\$10,373	\$7,673
110	Health - Inspections	\$74,618	\$77,493	\$82,885	\$86,910
111	Health - Nursing Service	\$2,333	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
112	Landfill - Engineering & Monitoring	\$15,217	\$15,217	\$19,534	19,534
113	Inspector of Animals	\$3,256	\$3,289	\$3,289	\$3,421
114	Council on Aging Director Salary	\$63,868	\$66,571	\$75,359	\$79,018
115	Council on Aging - Wages	\$78,485	\$59,992	\$127,808	\$132,916
116	Council on Aging - Expense	\$3,962	\$7,252	\$9,075	\$9,625
117	Popes Tavern Electricity	\$3,186	\$2,776	\$4,000	\$4,400
118	Veterans Agent - Salary	\$15,674	\$15,831	\$15,831	\$17,000
119	Veterans Agent - Expense	\$1,001	\$1,311	\$1,350	\$2,500
120	Veterans Benefits	\$157,286	\$160,570	\$188,000	188,000
121	Housing Authority	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$1
122	A.D.A. - Expense	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$1
<b>Total Health and Human Services</b>		<b>\$469,445</b>	<b>\$464,399</b>	<b>\$593,445</b>	<b>\$610,273</b>
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>					
123	Library - Director Salary	\$72,151	\$72,863	\$85,803	\$91,217
124	Library - Wages	\$134,152	\$160,548	\$194,928	\$197,238
125	Library - Expense	\$90,988	\$88,601	\$88,714	\$81,500
126	Youth & Rec - Wages	\$18,080	\$18,388	\$18,448	\$19,186
127	Youth & Rec - Expense	\$10,792	\$12,236	\$13,216	\$13,216
128	Youth & Rec - Director	\$18,521	\$18,387	\$18,387	19,122
129	Parks - Wages	\$0	\$0	\$4,100	\$4,264
130	Parks - Expense	\$550	\$1,415	\$2,000	\$2,000
131	Cable Television	\$193,148	\$195,071	\$198,000	\$198,000 (I)

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Adjusted FY24	Recommended FY25
132	Patriotic Celebrations	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
133	Historical Commission	\$2,186	\$2,574	\$3,500	3,500
134	Historical District Commission	\$0	\$0	\$446	\$450
135	Holidays in Halifax	\$2,545	\$3,354	\$3,395	\$3,395
136	Halifax Fireworks Committee	\$1,779	\$250	\$3,300	\$3,300
137	Beautification Comm - Expense	\$396	\$150	\$500	\$500
	<b>Total Culture and Recreation</b>	<b>\$548,646</b>	<b>\$382,186</b>	<b>\$638,745</b>	<b>\$637,188</b>
	<b>Debt Service</b>				
138	Debt WPAT II	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000 (J)
139	Debt - HES Roof & Repairs	\$317,850	\$308,350	\$300,830	\$295,050 (K)
140	Debt - HES Fire Suppression System	\$214,189	\$175,049	\$169,150	\$163,350
141	Interest on Temporary Loans	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
	<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$542,039</b>	<b>\$493,399</b>	<b>\$484,980</b>	<b>\$473,400</b>
	<b>Fixed Costs</b>				
142	Plymouth County Retirement	\$1,429,623	\$1,579,441	\$1,729,048	\$1,883,248 (L)
143	Group Insurance - Town Share	\$1,052,852	\$953,037	\$1,107,288	\$1,234,030
144	Medicare - Town Share	\$127,859	\$139,535	\$146,468	\$155,000
145	Sick/Vacation Time Payouts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,000
146	Insurance	\$268,006	\$303,223	\$335,000	\$345,000 (M)
147	OPEB Trust	\$38,000	\$39,000	\$44,000	\$45,000
148	Telephone	\$39,856	\$53,412	\$40,000	\$42,000
149	Gas & Oil - All Depts.	\$91,315	\$115,868	\$110,000	\$115,000
150	Heating Oil - All Bldgs.	\$56,720	\$48,365	\$60,000	\$58,000
	<b>Total Fixed Costs</b>	<b>\$3,104,231</b>	<b>\$3,231,881</b>	<b>\$3,571,804</b>	<b>\$3,909,278</b>
	<b>Total General Operating</b>	<b>\$26,238,754</b>	<b>\$26,262,988</b>	<b>\$28,345,565</b>	<b>\$29,451,442</b>



<b><u>Funding Notes</u></b>	<b>Expended FY22</b>	<b>Expended FY23</b>	<b>Adjusted FY24</b>	<b>Recommended FY25</b>
(A) From Solid Waste Retained Earnings	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
From Water Revenues	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
(B) From Wetland Special Revenue Fund				17,000
(C) From Dog Fund	24,038	26,235	27,201	\$29,952
(D) The Elementary School Costs include out of district Vocational Education tuition and transportation, and out of district Special Education Tuition and Transportation for grade K – 6 students.				
\$53,000 of the Elementary School Cost will be funded from the School Use Special Revenue Fund.				
(E) The Silver Lake Assessment now includes out of district Special Education Tuition and Transportation for PreK and 7 <sup>th</sup> grade to age 22 students. This is a change from previous years.				
(F) Under Debt Exclusion	\$450,993	\$457,454	\$457,666	\$485,144
(G) From Water Fund Revenue	\$711,623	\$767,609	\$860,809	\$889,043
(H) From Solid Waste Fund Revenue	\$198,029	\$314,514	\$316,749	\$415,662
From Solid Waste Fund Retained Earnings	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$200,000	\$100,000
From Raise and Appropriate	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
(I) From PEG Access Fund Revenue	\$168,148	\$173,000	\$198,000	\$173,000
From PEG Access Retained Earnings	\$25,000	\$25,000		\$25,000
(J) From WPAT Revenue	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
(K) Under Debt Exclusion	\$317,850	\$308,350	\$300,830	\$295,050
(L) From Water Retained Earnings	\$55,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
(M) From Water Retained Earnings				\$18,000

ARTICLE 5      To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024, for the revolving funds established in town by-laws Section 23-3, for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, or take any other action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer authorized to spend from the fund	FY2025 Spending Limit
Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	\$ 20,000
Board of Health Consulting	Board of Health	\$ 30,000
Recycling Bins	Highway Surveyor	\$ 5,000
Earth Removal Review	Board of Selectmen	\$ 10,000
Planning Board Consulting	Planning Board	\$ 30,000
Building Inspector Consulting	Building Inspector	\$ 15,000
Youth & Recreation Programs	Youth and Recreation	\$ 90,000
Youth & Recreation Advertisements	Youth and Recreation	\$ 40,000
CPR Classes	Fire Chief	\$ 5,000
ZBA Consulting	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 35,000
Library Computer, Printers & Copier	Library Trustees	\$ 5,000
Selectmen Legal Advertising	Board of Selectmen	\$ 1,500
Council on Aging Elder bus	Council on Aging	\$ 15,000
Inspector Wages	Building Inspector	\$ 100,000
Concession Stand	Board of Selectmen	\$ 10,000
Solar Projects	Board of Selectmen	\$ 10,000
Library Book Replacement	Library Trustees	\$ 2,000
Water Tower/Cell Tower Inspections	Board of Water Commissioners	\$ 20,000
Parks Maintenance	Parks Commission	\$ 20,000

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 6 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$75,000 to the Reserve Fund to cover extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during Fiscal Year 2025 in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and to transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to the Water Department Reserve Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee

**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 7 To see if the Town will vote to approve, the Solar PILOT agreement with River Street Associates, LLC, 363 Main Street, P.O. Box 179, Boxford, MA 01921 for a Solar Facility located on Halifax Assessors Map 117 as Lot 1B, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 45th, as amended by Section 61 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021, and to authorize Town of Halifax Board of Selectmen, the Town of Halifax Board of Assessors, and the Town Administrator of the Town of Halifax, collectively, as the “authorized officer” the execute said Solar PILOT Agreement on behalf of the Town, and to take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Finance Committee Recommendation at Town Meeting**

ARTICLE 8 FUNDING OF FY 2025 CAPITAL PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to fund the recommendation of the Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee for the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Plan and fund from the following:

- \$594,400 from Free Cash;
- \$525,000 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings;

Items(s)	Cost	Funding Source
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>		
Turnout Gear	\$ 74,400	Free Cash
Mold Remediation	\$100,000	Free Cash
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$174,400</b>	
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		
Police Vehicles (2)	\$120,000	Free Cash
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	
<b>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT</b>		
Road Maintenance	\$300,000	Free Cash
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	
<b>WATER DEPARTMENT</b>		
Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$500,000	W.E.F. Retained Earn.
Mini Excavator	\$ 25,000	W.E.F. Retained Earn.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$525,000</b>	

**KEY:**

Retained Earn. = Retained Earnings

W.E.F. = Water Enterprise Funds

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Planning Committee

**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 9 To see if the Town will accept Sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, by approving a surcharge on real property for the purposes permitted by said Act, including the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources, the acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use, the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing, and the rehabilitation and restoration of such open space and community housing that is acquired or created as provided under said Act;

that the amount of such surcharge on real property shall be 1.5% of the annual real estate tax levy against real property commencing in fiscal year 2026; and that the Town hereby accepts the following exemptions from such surcharge permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; (3) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property, and class four, industrial property as defined in section 2A of said Chapter 59; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Finance Committee Recommendation at Town Meeting**

ARTICLE 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,500 to be spent by the Board of Selectmen to support South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.'s continued free legal services in civil matters to elders, low-income families and their children including those from the Town of Halifax or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,500 to be spent by the Board of Selectmen to support South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center for domestic violence intervention and prevention services for its residents including those from the Town of Halifax or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by Board of Selectmen

**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150 for the use of the Trustees for County Cooperative Extension Service and authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Town Director within fifteen days as provided in revised Chapter 128, Section 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 13 To see if the Town will vote to charge for each written demand issued by the collector a fee of \$15.00 to be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by M.G.L. c. 60, sec. 15, effective as of July 1, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector  
**Finance Committee Recommends**

ARTICLE 14 To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$39,140 to support a part-time school resource office for the Silver Lake Middle School or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Silver Lake School Committee  
**Finance Committee Does Not Recommend**

ARTICLE 15 To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,000 from the The Stabilization Fund for the replacement of a roof top HVAC unit at the Silver Lake Regional School District (High School) with the Silver Lake Regional School Committee having spending authority or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
**Finance Committee Recommendation at Town Meeting**

ARTICLE 16 To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$75,000 from free cash to the Unemployment Special Revenue Fund to cover unemployment costs associated with the Town or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee  
**Finance Committee Recommends**

And on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to meet at the Halifax Elementary School:

ARTICLE 17 To see if the Town will vote to elect one Board of Assessors member for a term of three years, one Board of Health member for a term of three years, one Halifax Housing Authority member for a term of three years, two Board of Library Trustees members for terms of three years, one Board of Library Trustees member to fill an unexpired term of two years, one Town Moderator for a term of three years, one Park Commissioner for a term of three years, one Planning Board member for a term of five years, two Halifax Elementary School Committee members for a term of three years, one Silver Lake Regional School Committee member for a term of three years, one Board of Selectmen member for a term of three years, one Town Clerk for a term of three years, one Treasurer-Collector for a term of three years, and one Board of Water Commissioner member for a term of three years.

**TOWN OF HALIFAX**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**  
**MAY 13, 2024**

ARTICLE 1     To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget to cover the deficit in the Special Needs Tuition and Transportation or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Halifax School Committee

**Finance Committee Recommendation at Town Meeting**



Town of Halifax  
499 Plymouth Street  
Halifax, MA 02338

Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #42  
Halifax, MA 02338

# HALIFAX RESIDENT “ PATRON”