

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 8, 2023
6:30 p.m.

and the

Annual Town Election
Halifax Elementary School
Saturday, May 13, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bring this copy with you to the Town Meeting

"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 (FY2024) for the voters of the town.

Estimated Revenues

Our estimated revenues at print time are \$28,789,460 with expenditures totaling \$28,746,913 for the FY24 operating budget. Please note that estimates may vary slightly as we get closer to the Annual Town Meeting, and we will ensure that the most up-to-date information is relayed as we receive it.

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. The Finance Committee makes every effort to continue that practice on an annual basis and will continue to attempt to do so in future years.

Tax Rate

Based on the Finance Committee's recommendations at the time of print, the estimated tax rate would be \$15.43 (this is based on FY23 total valuation) per \$1,000 of assessed value. The average single-family home is valued at \$458,202, meaning that the tax bill would be \$7,070, an increase of \$.55/\$1,000 or \$252.01.

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

Town Budget

Planning for the upcoming Fiscal Year town budget begins around November where the committee determines budget assignments for each finance committee member. Each Finance Committee member will then operate as a liaison for their assigned department to hold initial discussions on the department budgets, perform an initial review, and manage the overall timeline in accordance with the budget schedule.

With the town's current fiscal condition and consistent with FY23, the department heads were once again asked to submit a "level funded" budget, where possible. Upon submission of the formal budget each department head is then scheduled to present in a Finance Committee meeting where department heads explain their budget proposals. The Finance Committee placed particular focus on the rationale for any proposed increases year over year. Given the current economic challenges, rising inflation, and general wage & personnel challenges, maintaining a level funded town budget was not feasible in all cases.

Capital Planning

On an annual basis the Finance Committee receives a series of capital funding requests submitted by the various town department heads. The Finance Committee met with each town department head 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 for the voters of the town on each of the warrant articles under consideration.

Wage & Personnel

The Finance Committee currently shares responsibility for non-union Wage and Personnel matters with the Board of Selectmen. In an open public hearing held in January 2023, the town department heads presented a number of proposals inclusive of potential new positions, step changes and general wage increases for the committee's consideration. As many of our town job descriptions and town salaries have become outdated, we as a committee have decided to conduct a wage study to holistically review the existing town's Wage & Personnel structure. As a result, many of the submitted proposals have been deferred until the conclusion of a wage study, for which the town has received a grant to wholly fund the study and plans to undertake in mid-2023. At the conclusion of the study, the recommendations will be reviewed and considered for proper implementation, where possible.

In performing our above referenced duties, the Finance Committee maintained several overarching principals that guide our decisions:

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 the previous fiscal years.

The Finance Committee would like to thank the residents, Town departmental staff, and our support team for their dedication and hard work throughout the process.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Dargie, Chairperson

Cheryll Zarrella-Burke, Vice Chairperson

Michael Bennett, Clerk

Jonathan Schmaling

Frank Johnston

Jim Walters

HALIFAX SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

BUDGET 2023 - 2024

	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	% Change
REGULAR DAY			
1100 School Committee	\$25,975.00	\$26,275.00	1.15%
1200 Shared Cost - Admin. Office	\$170,047.00	\$173,944.00	2.29%
1240 Shared Cost - Utilities/Main. Admin.	\$4,465.00	\$4,984.00	11.62%
2200 Principal's Office	\$312,725.00	\$320,457.00	2.47%
2300 Teaching Services	\$3,148,482.00	\$3,386,657.00	7.56%
2351 Professional Development	\$22,500.00	\$21,000.00	-6.67%
2400 Textbook Programs	\$98,812.00	\$33,700.00	-65.89%
2405 Instructional Software	\$33,706.00	\$41,051.00	21.79%
2451 Technology	\$92,400.00	\$80,988.00	-12.35%
2500 Library Services	\$78,052.00	\$83,214.00	6.61%
2600 Audiovisual Services	\$3,150.00	\$3,150.00	0.00%
3100 Attendance	\$75.00	\$75.00	0.00%
3200 Health Services	\$90,469.00	\$90,469.00	0.00%
3312 Transportation	\$351,044.00	\$367,050.00	4.56%
3202 Nurse Leader	\$5,589.00	\$10,441.00	86.81%
3400 Food Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
4110 Custodial Services	\$252,412.00	\$262,029.00	3.81%
4130 Utility Services	\$117,000.00	\$121,500.00	3.85%
4210 Maintenance of Grounds	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
4220 Maintenance of Buildings	\$117,500.00	\$130,000.00	10.64%
4229 Budget Offset - Room Rental	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	0.00%
4230 Maintenance of Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	-50.00%
4401 SC Tech Professional	\$42,982.00	\$43,747.00	1.78%
4402 SC Tech Other	\$16,939.00	\$17,469.00	3.13%
7300 Acquisition of Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
7400 Replacement of Equipment	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	0.00%
TOTAL REGULAR DAY	\$4,992,324.00	\$5,225,700.00	\$4.67%
9221 Sp. Ed. Supervision - Shared Cost	\$60,340.00	\$62,121.00	2.95%
9223 Sp. Ed. Teaching Services	\$746,920.00	\$873,975.00	17.01%
9227 Sp. Ed. Guidance/Psych Services	\$98,259.00	\$98,259.00	0.00%
9228 Sp. Ed. Contracted Services	\$109,046.00	\$99,792.00	-8.49%
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$1,014,565.00	\$1,134,147.00	11.79%
TOTAL WITHOUT OUT OF DIS. SP ED	\$6,006,889.00	\$6,359,846.00	5.88%
OUT OF DISTRICT SPED EDUCATION			
9233 Sp. Ed. Transportation	\$790,523.00	\$797,759.00	0.92%
9290 Sp. Ed. Tuition	\$2,092,389.00	\$1,962,047.00	-6.23%
TOTAL	\$2,882,912.00	\$2,759,806.00	-4.27%
GRAND TOTAL	\$8,889,801.00	\$9,119,652.00	2.59%
OUT OF DISTRICT VOCATIONAL ED			
9333 Vocational Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
9390 Vocational Tuition	\$156,500.00	\$156,500.00	0.00%
TOTAL OUT OF DISTRICT VO. ED	\$156,500.00	\$156,500.00	0.00%

SILVER LAKE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET 2023 - 2024

		2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	% Change
REGULAR DAY				
1101	School Committee	\$158,700.00	\$161,450.00	1.73%
1201	Office of the Superintendent	\$1,118,730.00	\$1,167,409.00	4.35%
1241	Utilities/Main.- Superintendent	\$29,375.00	\$33,450.00	13.87%
2101	Supervision Services	\$1,314,620.00	\$1,374,483.00	4.55%
2201	Principal's Office	\$921,310.00	\$977,396.00	6.09%
2301	Instruction Services	\$11,113,132.00	\$11,688,860.00	5.18%
2351	Professional Development	\$81,212.00	\$73,562.00	(9.42)%
2401	Textbook Programs	\$35,555.00	\$20,500.00	(42.34)%
2405	Instructional Software	\$32,121.00	\$29,021.00	(9.65)%
2451	Instructional Hardware/Software	\$441,883.00	\$547,961.00	24.01%
2501	Library Services	\$212,607.00	\$214,336.00	0.81%
2601	Audiovisual Programs	\$12,207.00	\$6,707.00	(45.06)%
2701	Guidance Services	\$1,259,689.00	\$1,312,422.00	4.19%
3201	Health Services	\$177,141.00	\$179,141.00	1.13%
3302	Nurse Leader	\$36,771.00	\$70,074.00	90.57%
3301	Transportation	\$59,200.00	\$75,700.00	27.87%
3311	Transportation - Base Contract	\$1,155,795.00	\$1,209,164.00	4.62%
3371	Transportation - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
3400	Food Services	\$49,114.00	\$51,888.00	5.65%
3511	Athletic Services	\$72,100.00	\$124,100.00	72.12%
4111	Custodial Services	\$1,217,353.00	\$1,262,596.00	3.72%
4131	Utility Services	\$902,175.00	\$939,475.00	4.13%
4211	Maintenance of Grounds	\$160,850.00	\$172,330.00	7.14%
4221	Maintenance of Buildings	\$486,765.00	\$521,747.00	7.19%
4231	Maintenance of Equipment	\$198,113.00	\$206,613.00	4.29%
4401	SC Tech Professional	\$282,774.00	\$293,604.00	3.83%
4402	SC Tech Other	\$145,300.00	\$148,949.00	2.51%
5101	Employee Benefits	\$1,245,581.00	\$1,298,244.00	4.23%
5201 *	Insurance Services	\$3,356,840.00	\$3,351,672.00	(0.15)%
5301	Rental - Lease Equipment	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	0.00%
7301	Acquisition of Equipment	\$0.00	\$30,586.00	0.00%
7401	Replacement of Equipment	\$52,739.00	\$63,593.00	20.58%
TOTAL REGULAR DAY		\$26,342,752.00	\$27,620,033.00	4.85%
SPECIAL EDUCATION				
9221	Sp. Ed. Supervision - Shared Cost	\$330,810.00	\$347,429.00	5.02%
9223	Sp. Ed. Teaching Services	\$1,304,408.00	\$1,299,184.00	(0.40)%
9227	Sp. Ed. Behaviorist	\$24,000.00	\$29,688.00	23.70%
9228	Sp. Ed. Psych Services	\$35,354.00	\$41,813.00	18.27%
9233	Sp. Ed. Transportation	\$229,117.00	\$261,852.00	14.29%
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION		\$1,923,689.00	\$1,979,966.00	2.93%
GRAND TOTAL		\$28,266,441.00	\$29,600,000.00	4.72%

*Includes an OPEB allotment of \$28,000 Capital Plan 2023-2024 \$573,683 fully funded by E&D Account

**TOWN OF HALIFAX
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MAY 8, 2023**

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 8th 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 recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee or take any other action relative thereto:

(A) Amend the compensation range for the below as shown:

Call Firefighter EMT-P Step 4: From \$24.02 To \$26.00

Geriatric Nurse: From \$19.45 To \$26.00

Assistant Outreach Worker: From \$16.11 to \$18.00

(B) Amend the classification of a Police Lieutenant/Deputy Chief from Grade 14 to Unclassified.

Proposed by Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to determine the salaries of several elective Town Officers, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto:

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Moderator	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Town Clerk	\$56,062	\$56,623	\$57,190	\$70,720
Selectmen (each)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Treasurer-Collector	\$72,033	\$73,764	\$74,502	\$74,502
Assessors (each)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Highway Surveyor	76,419	\$77,184	\$77,956	\$77,956

Proposed by the Finance Committee
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 4 Operating Budget.

To determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, including appropriations from available funds, to defray charges and expenses to the Town, including debts and interest or take any other action relative thereto:

(SEE NEXT PAGES)

Proposed by the Finance Committee
Finance Committee Recommends

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
General Government					
1	Moderator - Salary	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
2	Selectmen - Salary	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
3	Town Admin. - Salary	\$111,250	\$95,906	\$125,000	\$136,475
4	Selectmen - Clerical	\$85,121	\$85,836	\$86,619	\$88,289
5	Selectmen - Expense	\$3,639	\$3,358	\$3,925	\$3,925
6	Law	\$100,885	\$316,514	\$124,500	\$139,500
7	Town Hall - Electricity	\$14,177	\$14,298	\$15,000	\$16,000
8	Town Meeting Warrants	\$5,333	\$6,904	\$6,600	\$7,000
9	Audit	\$25,500	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$32,500 (A)
10	Fin Comm - Clerical	\$4,104	\$3,438	\$5,140	\$5,010
11	Fin Comm - Expense	\$255	\$180	\$359	\$359
12	Accountant - Salary	\$80,078	\$80,678	\$81,664	\$98,000
13	Accountant - Clerical	\$42,992	\$45,108	\$47,273	\$39,977
14	Accountant - Expense	\$307	\$1,554	\$1,625	\$1,625
15	IT – Wages		\$37,645	\$52,297	\$52,354
16	IT – Expenditures	\$100,885	\$116,383	\$110,191	\$143,455
17	Assessors - Salary	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
18	Principal Assessor/Appraiser	\$78,979	\$79,828	\$80,617	\$71,586
19	Assessors - Clerical	\$65,374	\$66,028	\$69,634	\$66,331
20	Assessors - Expense	\$12,020	\$13,102	\$15,160	\$15,160
21	Office Machines – Expense	\$5,614	\$4,653	\$6,000	\$6,000
22	Treasurer/Collector Salary	\$73,033	\$63,214	\$74,482	\$75,502
23	Treasurer/Collector - Clerical	\$138,018	\$137,835	\$154,379	\$115,000
24	Treasurer - Expense	\$7,495	\$7,368	\$7,500	\$7,500
25	Collector - Expense	\$14,850	\$12,798	\$14,850	\$14,922
26	Treasurer - Banking & Payroll Expense	\$7,451	\$7,581	\$8,000	\$8,000

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
27	Tax Title - Treasurer	\$313	\$8,170	\$5,000	\$5,000
28	Town Clerk - Salary	\$57,062	\$56,623	\$57,190	\$70,720
29	Town Clerk - Clerical	\$19,643	\$34,061	\$42,133	\$40,086
30	Town Clerk - Expense	\$3,728	\$3,434	\$4,035	\$4,035
31	Elect/Register	\$29,461	\$10,897	\$37,200	\$18,011
32	Wage & Personnel - Expense	\$225	\$225	\$250	\$250
33	Recruitment & Employment Costs	\$3,921	\$7,260	\$7,500	\$10,000
34	Cons Commission - Expense	\$758	\$536	\$800	\$800
35	Conservation Agent – Wages				\$28,000
36	Planning Board – Wages			\$16,888	\$0
37	Planning Board - Expense	\$720	\$900	\$2,000	\$2,000
38	Zoning Board of Appeals - Expense	\$441	\$272	\$825	\$825
39	Regulatory - Clerical	\$74,874	\$62,787	\$67,325	\$85,500
40	Building Committee - Clerical	\$11,879	\$12,040	\$12,142	\$12,100
41	Building Committee - Expense	\$202	\$386	\$450	\$450
42	Town Buildings - Director of Building Maintenance		\$88,340	\$92,718	\$94,617
43	Town Buildings - Custodial	\$187,864	\$108,492	\$137,230	\$153,338
44	Town Buildings - Expense	\$34,145	\$44,991	\$35,360	\$35,360
45	Town Building Preventative Maintenance	\$53,373	\$65,133	\$52,616	\$53,616
46	Town Buildings - Snow & Ice Expense	\$0	\$1,473	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Total General Government	\$1,466,215	\$1,746,919	\$1,705,177	\$1,770,378
	Public Safety- Police				
47	Police - Chief Salary	\$120,403	\$130,476	\$137,500	\$145,531
48	Police - Wages	\$1,103,039	\$1,180,821	\$1,240,965	\$1,540,000
49	Police - Training	\$14,865	\$9,897	\$10,000	\$10,000

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
50	Police - Clerical	\$48,529	\$48,807	\$49,087	\$49,881
51	Police - Expense	\$69,792	\$66,930	\$70,000	\$70,000
52	Police - Station Maintenance	\$15,898	\$18,713	\$20,000	\$20,000
53	Police - Cruiser Maintenance	\$15,904	\$13	\$13,000	\$13,000
	Total Police	\$1,388,430	\$1,468,644	\$1,540,552	\$1,848,412
	Public Safety - Fire				
54	Fire - Chief Salary	\$127,444	\$145,751	\$140,000	\$143,000
55	Fire - Clerical	\$38,118	\$43,473	\$44,273	\$49,420
56	Fire - Wages	\$957,604	\$1,000,942	\$1,082,804	\$1,121,611
57	Fire - Training	\$28,749	\$58,758	\$59,007	\$70,775
58	Fire - Expense	\$46,240	\$42,718	\$46,750	\$57,850
59	Fire - Station Maintenance	\$15,232	\$11,711	\$17,000	\$18,500
60	Fire - Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$32,452	\$27,476	\$33,500	\$33,500
61	Fire - Medical Supplies	\$29,986	\$24,382	\$29,500	\$50,000
62	Ambulance Billing	\$25,887	\$25,489	\$27,500	\$28,500
	Total Fire	\$1,301,711	\$1,375,286	\$1,480,334	\$1,573,156
	Public Safety- Other Public Safety				
63	Emergency Management	\$629	\$944	\$4,550	\$5,500
64	Building Inspector - Wages	\$75,965	\$75,106	\$71,496	\$79,617
65	Asst Building Inspector Wages	\$2,238	\$1,222	\$0	\$0
66	Building Inspector - Expense	\$2,688	\$4,658	\$6,988	\$6,888
67	Sealer Weights/Measure - Salary	\$2,716	\$2,744	\$2,772	\$2,772
68	Sealer Weights/Measure - Expense	\$28	\$32	\$527	\$527
69	Animal Control Officer - Salary	\$17,809	\$22,555	\$22,825	\$0
70	Animal Control Officer - Expense	\$2,776	\$3,516	\$4,600	\$29,952 (B)
	Total Other Public Safety	\$104,849	\$110,776	\$113,758	\$125,256

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
71	Dispatch Services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Total Communications	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Total Public Safety	\$2,944,990	\$3,104,706	\$3,334,644	\$3,746,824
	Schools				
72	Elementary - School Costs	\$5,650,356	\$5,956,288	\$6,006,890	\$6,359,846
73	Vocational – Education	\$116,454	\$87,367	\$156,500	\$156,500
74	Special Needs – Tuitions	\$1,857,349	\$2,105,416	\$2,092,389	\$1,962,047 (C)
75	Special Needs – Transportation	\$494,866	\$767,836	\$790,523	\$797,759
76	Silver Lake Assessment	\$4,632,541	\$5,307,074	5,123,706	\$5,169,829
77	Debt Exclusion Budget Silver Lake	\$463,867	\$450,993	\$457,454	\$457,666 (D)
	Total Schools	\$13,215,432	\$14,674,974	\$14,627,462	\$14,903,647
	Public Works- Highway				
78	Highway - Surveyor Salary	\$76,419	\$77,184	\$77,956	\$77,956
79	Highway - Wages	\$305,695	\$289,582	\$321,054	\$330,210
80	Highway - Clerical	\$42,814	\$50,270	\$47,615	\$46,890
81	Highway - Expense	\$5,631	\$3,765	\$6,771	\$6,771
82	Highway - Barn Maintenance	\$11,185	\$6,679	\$11,610	\$12,750
83	Highway - Equipment	\$49,242	\$52,905	\$52,500	\$52,500
84	Highway - Town Roads	\$49,027	\$57,410	\$58,705	\$58,705
85	Highway Stormwater Management	\$82,669	\$115,617	\$144,400	\$144,400
86	Highway - Snow & Ice	\$147,541	\$187,304	\$177,509	\$177,509
87	Street Lights	\$34,786	\$36,274	\$32,500	\$36,500
88	Traffic Lights	\$2,348	\$2,703	\$7,500	\$7,500
89	Tree Warden Salary	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
90	Tree Maintenance	\$3,315	\$3,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
91	Insect & Pest Control	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1
	Total Highway	\$810,672	\$882,693	\$945,122	\$958,693
	Public Works - Cemetery				
92	Cemetery - Supt Salary	\$11,450	\$11,565	\$11,861	\$11,681
93	Cemetery - Wages	\$65,204	\$62,689	\$69,329	\$69,850
94	Cemetery - Supplies & Equip	\$5,145	\$6,195	\$6,195	\$6,195
	Total Cemetery	\$81,799	\$80,449	\$87,205	\$87,726
	Public Works - Water				
95	Water - Supt Salary	\$99,857	\$81,395	\$84,632	\$88,350
96	Water - Wages	\$189,052	\$221,354	\$234,283	\$218,810
97	Water - Clerical	\$44,078	\$49,560	\$49,983	\$50,650
98	Water - Supply	\$176,956	\$182,452	\$182,600	\$193,899
99	Water - Insurance	\$32,744	\$32,742	\$50,000	\$54,000
100	Water - Retirement	\$21,629	\$32,742	\$20,000	\$35,700
101	Water - Legal fees	\$-	\$-	\$1,500	\$1,500
102	Water - Meters	\$19,980	\$27,317	\$50,000	\$50,000
103	Water - Gas & Oil	\$8,108	\$10,926	\$13,000	\$15,600
104	Water - Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance	\$7,574	\$2,972	\$15,000	\$15,000
105	Water - Tower/Wells Maintenance	\$99,994	\$55,202	\$125,000	\$125,000
	Total Water	\$699,973	\$711,623	\$829,598	\$848,509 (E)

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
Public Works - Solid Waste Management					
106	Recycling Office - Clerical	\$32,443	\$32,346	\$32,533	\$32,663
107	Recycling Office - Expense	\$2,869	\$3,280	\$3,501	\$3,501
108	Recycling Center - Wages	\$71,626	\$63,010	\$76,024	\$75,855
109	Recycling Center - Expense	\$45,918	\$21,324	\$39,046	\$54,780
110	Hazardous Waste Collection	\$8,308	\$14,066	\$5,950	\$19,950
111	Trash Collection/Disposal	\$218,293	\$239,103	\$332,460	\$365,000
	Total Solid Waste Management	\$379,458	\$373,029	\$489,514	\$551,749 (F)
	Total Public Works	\$1,971,901	\$2,047,795	\$2,351,439	\$2,446,677
Health and Human Services					
112	Health - Clerical	\$43,279	\$44,904	\$46,057	\$45,500
113	Health - Expense	\$8,028	\$5,656	\$7,873	\$10,373
114	Health - Inspections	\$68,478	\$74,618	\$77,493	\$79,617
115	Health - Nursing Service	\$143	\$2,333	\$7,000	\$7,000
116	Landfill - Engineering & Monitoring	\$15,216	\$15,217	\$15,217	\$19,534
117	Inspector of Animals	\$3,223	\$3,256	\$3,289	\$3,289
118	Council on Aging Director Salary		\$63,868	\$67,872	\$67,856
119	Council on Aging - Wages	\$151,194	\$78,485	\$119,587	\$124,085
120	Council on Aging - Expense	\$2,702	\$3,962	\$9,450	\$9,075
121	Popes Tavern Electricity	\$2,862	\$3,186	\$3,300	\$4,000
122	Veterans Agent - Salary	\$15,518	\$15,674	\$15,831	\$15,831
123	Veterans Agent - Expense	\$1,202	\$1,001	\$1,350	\$1,350
124	Veterans Benefits	\$164,932	\$157,286	\$205,225	\$188,000
125	Housing Authority	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
126	A.D.A. - Expense	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1
	Total Health and Human Services	\$475,776	\$469,445	\$579,546	\$575,512
	Culture and Recreation				
127	Library - Director Salary	\$66,923	\$72,151	\$72,863	\$73,113
128	Library - Wages	\$137,209	\$134,152	\$180,377	\$182,964
129	Library - Expense	\$79,256	\$90,988	\$86,951	\$88,714
130	Youth & Rec - Wages	\$18,051	\$18,521	\$18,387	\$18,448
131	Youth & Rec - Expense	\$11,077	\$10,792	\$13,216	\$13,216
132	Youth & Rec - Director	\$18,023	\$18,521	\$18,387	\$18,387
133	Parks - Wages	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$4,100
134	Parks - Expense	\$201	\$550	\$1,562	\$2,000
135	Cable Television	\$193,925	\$193,148	\$198,000	\$198,000 (G)
136	Patriotic Celebrations	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
137	Historical Commission	\$2,204	\$2,186	\$3,500	\$3,500
138	Historical District Commission	\$0	\$0	\$446	\$446
139	Holidays in Halifax	\$0	\$2,545	\$3,395	\$3,395
140	Halifax Fireworks Committee	\$0	\$1,779	\$3,300	\$3,300
141	Beautification Comm - Expense	\$388	\$396	\$500	\$500
142	Agricultural Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
143	Website Committee Expense	\$2,850	\$2,993	\$3,050	\$3,308
144	Music Rights	\$364	\$366	\$366	\$400
	Total Culture and Recreation	\$533,451	\$548,646	604,761	\$614,091
	Debt Service				
145	Debt WPAT	\$10,200	\$0	\$0	\$0
146	Debt WPAT II	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000 (H)

Item#	Account Description	Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
147	Debt - Landfill Capping	\$99,281	\$95,569	\$91,857	\$0
148	Debt - HES Roof & Repairs	\$327,350	\$327,350	\$308,350	\$300,830 (I)
149	Debt - HES Fire Suppression System	\$17,250	\$214,189	\$153,275	\$169,150
150	Interest on Temporary Loans	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Total Debt Service	\$453,881	\$637,608	\$568,482	\$484,980
	Fixed Costs				
151	Plymouth County Retirement	\$1,277,154	\$1,429,623	\$1,579,441	\$1,729,048 (J)
152	Group Insurance - Town Share	\$1,052,498	\$1,052,852	\$1,054,560	\$1,107,288
153	Medicare - Town Share	\$129,205	\$127,859	\$144,303	\$146,468
154	Insurance	\$256,439	\$268,006	\$315,741	\$335,000
155	OPEB Trust	\$37,000	\$38,000	\$39,000	\$44,000
156	Telephone	\$40,305	\$39,856	\$40,000	\$40,000
157	Gas & Oil - All Depts.	\$63,632	\$91,315	\$110,000	\$110,000
158	Heating Oil - All Bldgs.	\$35,043	\$56,720	\$60,000	\$60,000
	Total Fixed Costs	\$2,891,275	\$3,104,231	\$3,343,045	\$3,571,804
	Total General Operating	\$23,953,922	\$26,334,323	\$27,114,556	\$28,113,913

<u>Funding Notes</u>		Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Budget FY23	Recommended FY24
(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 Dog Fund	24,112	24,038	26,235	27,201
(C)	The total Special Education Tuition amount is \$2,808,026 for special needs students who need out of district placements, this number is reduced by \$845,979 in Circuit Breaker Money from the State, leaving a balance of \$1,962,047 to be paid by the Town.				
(D)	Under Debt Exclusion	463,867	450,993	457,454	457,666
(E)	From Water Fund Revenue	699,973	711,623	829,598	848,509
(F)	From Solid Waste Fund Revenue	239,458	198,029	314,514	316,749
	From Solid Waste Fund Retained Earnings	140,000	140,000	140,000	200,000
	From Raise and Appropriate		35,000	35,000	35,000
(G)	From PEG Access Fund Revenue	193,925	168,148	173,000	198,000
	From PEG Access Retained Earnings		25,000	25,000	
(H)	From Abatement Trust Revenue	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
(I)	Under Debt Exclusion	327,350	317,850	308,350	300,830
(J)	From Water Retained Earnings	55,000	55,000	75,000	75,000

ARTICLE 5 To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023, 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	FY2024 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 Elderbus	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

**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 2024 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 appropriate a sum of money to pay the costs of water treatment plant upgrades, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise provided; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$260,000 to fund the anticipated provisions of various collective bargaining agreements and Wage & Personnel amendments for Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 9 FUNDING OF FY 2024 CAPITAL PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, transfer from free cash, or to authorize the Town Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow (and issue bonds or notes therefore) any sum or sums of money, or by any combination of these methods of financing, as may be necessary or desirable, make available funds for the purpose of funding the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Plan:

Highway

Road Maintenance:	\$300,000
Wheeled Excavator:	\$150,080

Municipal Maintenance

ADA Compliance Projects:	\$500,000
Town Hall Portico Repair:	\$ 50,000
Library Window Replacement:	\$ 45,000

Fire Department

Fire Command Vehicle:	\$ 80,000
Motorola Minitor Pagers:	\$ 4,576

Police Department

Two Police Cruisers:	\$110,000
Bullet Proof Vests:	\$ 5,000
Portable Radios:	\$ 15,789

Accounting

GASB Study:	\$ 7,300
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Or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$18,660 for the Assessors' Recertification Account or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

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 Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.'s continued free legal services in civil matters to elders, low-income families and their children or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the 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 \$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 or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$38,000 to support a part-time school resource officer for the Silver Lake Middle School or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$202,458.79 for the replacement of two (2) Roof Top Units at the Silver Lake Regions School District (High School) or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by Silver Lake Regional School Committee
Finance Committee Recommendation at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 15 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 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$69,500 for the Highway Department to purchase a woodchipper or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor
Finance Committee Does Not Recommend

ARTICLE 17 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from surplus revenue for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 5B, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 18 To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 40, Section 5B, to establish a Stabilization Fund, to be called the “Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund”, for the purpose of funding and implementing the strategies for responding to the opioid epidemic as set forth in detail in the portion of the Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements that is entitled “Municipal Use of Abatement Funds” or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 19 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the General Fund to the Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund, being the amount of abatement funds currently apportioned to and received by the Town for Fiscal Year 2023 from all Statewide Opioid Settlements or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 20 To provide the authority for the Board of Selectmen, or their designee (The Board of Assessors) to negotiate a proposed Solar Energy PILOT Agreement between the Town of Halifax and River Street Associates LLC for 115 River Street on behalf of the Town or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 21 To see if the Town will vote to approve an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes (“PILOT”) with Halifax Solar LLC for all real and personal property located at 107 River Street in the amount of \$83,000 each year through Fiscal Year 2040 or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 22 To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 3, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the terms and conditions of, and enter into, a lease, license, or other contractual agreement of not more than 30 years in duration, at the 5.2 acre site of the Hemlock Lane Landfill located at 60 Hemlock Lane for the purpose of granting access to, and allowing the installation of solar generating facilities, at this site or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 23 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to enact legislation to expand the membership of the Board of Selectmen from three to five, substantially in the form below, and further to authorize the selectmen to approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or to take any other action relative thereto:

**AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN THE TOWN OF
HALIFAX**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The number of members of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Halifax shall be increased to five (5). Each selectman shall serve for a three (3) year term with not more than two (2) selectmen’s terms to run concurrently.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, at the next annual town election following at least 65 days after the effective date of this act, one (1) additional member shall be to an initial two (2) year term and one (1) additional member shall be elected to a three (3) year term. Nothing in this act shall affect the terms of these members serving as selectmen on the effective date of this act.

Proposed by John Gravinese and nine others.

Finance Committee Does Not Recommend

ARTICLE 24 To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to request to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact legislation which would make the positions of Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector and Highway Surveyor appointed, rather than elected, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

Proposed by John Gravinese and nine others.

Finance Committee Has No Recommendation

ARTICLE 25 To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 97A, commonly known as the “strong chief” section, concerning Police Chiefs, which reads as follows:

In any town which accepts this section there shall be a police department established by the selectmen, and such department shall be under the supervision of an officer to be known as the chief of police. The selectmen of any such town shall appoint a chief of police and such other officers as they deem necessary, and fix their compensations, not exceeding, in the aggregate, the annual appropriation therefor. In any such town in which such appointments are not subject to chapter thirty-one, they shall be made annually or for a term of years not exceeding three years, as the selectmen shall determine, and the selectmen may remove such chief or other officers for cause at any time after a hearing. The chief of police in any such town shall from time to time make suitable regulations governing the police department, and the officers thereof, subject to the approval of the selectmen; provided, that such regulations shall become effective without such approval upon the failure of the selectmen to

take action thereon within thirty days after they have submitted to them by the chief of police. The chief of police in any such town shall be in immediate control of all town property used by the department, and of the police officers, whom he shall assign to their respective duties and who shall obey his orders. Section ninety-seven shall not apply in any town which accepts the provisions of this section. Acceptance of the provisions of this section shall be by a vote at an annual town meeting.

And to see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 11 of the Town Meeting Vote of 1924, accepting the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Sections 100 and 97 commonly known as the “weak chief” section which reads as follows:

In towns which accept this section or have accepted corresponding provisions of earlier laws there shall be a police department established under the direction of the selectmen, who shall appoint a chief of police and such other police officers as they deem necessary and fix their compensation in an amount not in the aggregate exceeding the annual appropriation therefor. In any such town in which such appointments are not subject to chapter thirty-one, they shall be made annually or for a term of years not exceeding three years, as the selectmen shall determine, and the selectmen may remove such chief or other officers for cause at any time during such appointment after a hearing. The selectmen may make suitable regulations governing the police department and the officers thereof. The chief of police shall be in immediate control of all town property used by the department, and of the police officers, who shall obey his orders.

Proposed by Barbara J. Gaynor and nine others.

Finance Committee Has No Recommendation

And on Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to meet at the Halifax Elementary School:

ARTICLE 26 To see if the Town will vote to elect one Board of Assessor member for a term of three years, one Board of Health member for a term of three years, one Highway Surveyor 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 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 Halifax Elementary School Committee member to fill an unexpired term of one year, one Silver Lake Regional School Committee member for a term of three years, one Board of Selectmen member for a term of three years and one Board of Water Commissioner member for a term of three years.

Town of Halifax
499 Plymouth Street
Halifax, MA 02338

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HALIFAX RESIDENT “PATRON”