

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF BELLINGHAM**



**FALL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
7:30 p.m.**

BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

John Allam, Chairman
Joseph Collamati, Jr., Vice Chair
Kevin Keppler
Jennifer Kuzmeskas
Brian Post
Wayne Poitras
Evan Laroche
Tina Griffin, Clerk

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
COMMITTEE**

Roland Lavallee, Chairman
Joseph Collamati, Jr., Vice Chair
Cody Spencer
Jennifer Kuzmeskas
Wayne Poitras
Tina Griffin, Clerk

MODERATOR

John Keeler

TOWN CLERK

Amy Bartelloni

SELECT BOARD

Michael Hennessey, Chairman
Jennifer Altomonte, Vice Chair
Ann Odabashian
Don Martinis
Cody Spencer

Hilarie Allie, Administrative Assistant

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Michael J. Reed, Jr., Chairman
Erik Ormberg, Vice Chair
Jennifer Altomonte
Courtney Cartier
Bev Pierce

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Heidi Chuckran

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Jospeh Laydon

TOWN MEETING GLOSSARY

CHERRY SHEET	A financial statement from the State that itemizes State aid and assessments to the Town.
ENTERPRISE FUND	A fund where expenditures are restricted for operating, capital, and debt costs of a particular service (such as water, sewer, trash, and stormwater). It allows a community to recover the total costs of a service through user fees, or the user fees may be supplemented by taxation. The budget for an enterprise fund is not autonomous; it must be voted annually at Town Meeting. An enterprise fund balance can be carried over from year to year.
FISCAL YEAR	The Town operates on a fiscal year that begins on July 1 st and ends on June 30 th .
FREE CASH	Funds certified by the state as appropriated in previous years but not expended. It can result from higher than anticipated revenue and/or lower than anticipated expenditures.
OVERLAY RESERVE	A Board of Assessors fund used to cover tax abatements and statutory exemptions.
RESERVE FUND	A Finance Committee fund used for extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures during the year.
REVOLVING FUND	A fund created to allow specific programs to use fees collected to defray the expenses of the program. A revolving fund does not have to be appropriated each year

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF BELLINGHAM
WARRANT FOR FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Norfolk, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Bellingham, in the County of Norfolk;

GREETINGS:

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

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Located at 60 Blackstone Street in said Bellingham, on Wednesday, the nineteenth day of November 2025, at 7:30 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. AMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 1 – OPERATING EXPENSES AND SALARIES

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 1 of the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting establishing the FY2026 Town operating budget, by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending appropriations or transferring funds from various sources into items within said Article 1; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 2. AMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 2 – TRASH ENTERPRISE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 2 of the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting establishing the FY2026 Trash Enterprise budget, by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending appropriations or transferring funds from various sources into said Article 2; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 3. AMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 3 – WATER ENTERPRISE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 3 of the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting establishing the FY2026 Water Enterprise budget, by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending appropriations or transferring funds from various sources into said Article 3; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 4. AMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 4 – SEWER ENTERPRISE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 4 of the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting establishing the FY2026 Sewer Enterprise budget, by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending appropriations or transferring funds from various sources into said Article 4; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 5. AMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 5 – STORMWATER ENTERPRISE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 5 of the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting establishing the FY2026 Stormwater Enterprise budget, by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending appropriations or transferring funds from various sources into said Article 5; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 6. CAPITAL OUTLAY – (Expenditures \$50,000 & Over)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer of available funds, by taxation, by borrowing or otherwise, and if by borrowing to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the purpose of financing the purchase and equipping, construction, reconstruction and/or engineering costs associated with various capital outlay items or improvements proposed by Town Departments, Boards or Committees, and, as may be appropriate, to authorize the Select Board to enter into lease/purchase agreements of up to or exceeding three years; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

RECOMMENDED unanimously by the Finance Committee, except for 215 Depot Street DPW Backup Generator recommended by the Finance Committee 4-0-1, with one abstaining, as listed below:

RECOMMENDED unanimously by the Capital Improvements Committee, except for 215 Depot Street DPW Backup Generator recommended by the Capital Improvements Committee 4-0-1, with one abstaining, as listed below:

Department	Description	Amount	Funding Source	Finance Committee	Capital Imp. Committee
DPW	215 Depot Street DPW Backup Generator	\$165,745	25% From each: Free Cash, Sewer Retained Earnings, Stormwater Retained Earnings, Water Retained Earnings	4/0 1 abstained	4/0 1 abstained
Fire	Replace Breathing Air Fill Station	\$70,000	Free Cash	6/0	5/0
Police	Portable Radios	\$288,756	Free Cash	6/0	5/0
School	Various HVAC Upgrades/Replacements	\$100,000	Free Cash	6/0	5/0
School	District Feasibility Study	\$130,000	Free Cash	6/0	5/0
Sewer	Replace Sewer Grinders at North Main Sewer Station	\$77,640	Retained Earnings	6/0	5/0
Trash	Compliance Engineering Services	\$51,700	Free Cash	6/0	5/0
Water	Well #10 Access Road	\$300,000	Retained Earnings	6/0	5/0
TOTAL: Capital Projects Over \$50K		\$1,183,841			

ARTICLE 7. NON-CAPITAL OUTLAY – (Expenditures of Less Than \$50,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer of available funds, by taxation, by borrowing or otherwise, and if by borrowing to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the purpose of financing the purchase and equipping of various non-capital outlay items or improvements proposed by Town Departments, Boards or Committees, and, as may be appropriate, to authorize the Select Board to enter into lease/purchase agreements of up to or exceeding three years; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

RECOMMENDED unanimously by the Finance Committee as listed below:

Department	Description	Amount	Funding Source	Finance Committee
Building Commissioner	Municipal Center Roof Replacement	\$49,800	Free Cash	6/0
Building Commissioner	Municipal Center Cupola Repair	\$16,200	Free Cash	6/0
Conservation	Sonar ONE Treatment at Silver Lake	\$26,285	Free Cash	6/0
COA	Repairs to Siding and Windows	\$16,000	Free Cash	6/0
DPW	Vegetation Management Plan	\$27,500	Free Cash	5/0
Library	Commercial Carpeting/Floor Cleaner	\$3,975	Free Cash	6/0
Parks	Playground Repairs	\$25,000	Free Cash	6/0
School	Equipment Trailer	\$7,600	Free Cash	6/0
School	DiPietro Elementary Entry Hallway	\$44,876	Free Cash	6/0
TOTAL: Capital Projects Under \$50K		\$217,236		

ARTICLE 8. AMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 15 CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR THE PFAS/TTHM DESIGN/ENGINEERING FOR HARTFORD AVE TREATMENT PLANT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 15 of the May 24, 2023 Annual Town meeting, under which \$2,100,000 was appropriated for PFAS/TTHM Design/Engineering for Hartford Ave Treatment Plant (HAFP) to allow for such appropriation to also be used to pay for a portion of construction costs, including all incidental and related costs, so that the project description in such vote shall now read “PFAS/TTHM Design/Engineering and Construction Costs for Hartford Ave Treatment Plant (HAFP)”; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

RECOMMENDED unanimously by the Finance Committee 5/0

ARTICLE 9. TRANSFER TO GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the Group Health Insurance Trust Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

*RECOMMENDED unanimously by the Finance Committee 5/0
Funding as listed below:*

Description	Amount	Funding Source
Group Health Insurance Trust Fund	\$1,000,000	Free Cash
TOTAL	\$1,000,000	

ARTICLE 10. TRANSFER TO CAPITAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the Capital Investment Trust Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 11. TRANSFER TO COMPENSATED ABSENCES FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the Compensated Absences Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

*RECOMMENDED unanimously by the Finance Committee 5/0
Funding as listed below:*

Description	Amount	Funding Source
Compensated Absences Trust Fund	\$75,000	Free Cash
TOTAL	\$75,000	

ARTICLE 12. TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the Stabilization Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 13. UNPAID BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate or transfer a sum of money for the payment of certain unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Select Board)

The Finance Committee took No Action on this Article. The Finance Committee was informed this Article would be passed over at Town Meeting

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE NOVEMBER 2025
FALL TOWN MEETING**