

Warrant Committee Meeting Monday, 9 February 2026

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** 6:31 pm by Chair Smith; with Secretary Lopez taking roll call. Fourteen voting members were present at the start of the meeting in attendance however B. Chaplain could not attend the whole meeting.

Present: T. Bloom, B. Chaplain, C. Chappell, E. Chesler, K. DesVeaux, S. Farrar, J. Kelly, M. Kelly, K. Knopp, L. Lopez, A. Sasner, C. Smith, V. Smith, B. Stillman.

- 2. Opening Remarks:**

Chair Smith thanked Town Clerk L. Graves for joining our meeting. Chair thanked subcommittees for their work and attention to the review process.

Chair noted that we will be reviewing the budget and the Town Council will formally adopt a budget on 12 March (tentative adoption 24 February). After that, we will vote on whether to adopt that final adopted budget as a whole.

- 3. Approval of prior WC Meeting Minutes:**

Chair Smith moved and Ms. Kelly seconded a motion to approve the minutes from: 25 August 2025, and 5 January 2026.

The motion passed (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain).

- 4. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Ambulance Revenue and CIP Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

Bar Harbor Finance Director, Treasurer, Sarah Gilbert, informed S. Farrar that Tab 5, Page 2, in our FY2027 Draft Budget did not reflect the intention of replacing one of the ambulances at a cost of \$450,000 leaving a balance of \$24, 943.

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Ambulance Department Budget including revenues and CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

- 5. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Fire Department Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the

Fire Department Budget including revenues, expenses and CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

6. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Public Fire Protection Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Public Fire Protection Budget that includes only revenues. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The Committee discussed what the line item represented. The increase is due to new water prices and Chair Smith referred to past minutes from a 15 March 2021 meeting where this expense was discussed and explained the expense is for water to be ready to be used whenever it is needed and however much is needed. This also affects Fire Department insurance and homeowners' insurance rates in a positive way.

It was decided to withdraw this motion to understand the expense more thoroughly. The committee was asked to forward specific relevant questions to Chair Smith by noon on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 and she will send them to the town manager.

This line item is tabled until the Warrant Committee's next meeting on 12 February 2026.

Later in the meeting L. Graves received information pertaining to the discussion from S. Gilbert, Bar Harbor Finance Director, and the Committee was agreeable to hear it. The town of Bar Harbor is assessed a water rate based on the pipe/hydrant diameter for water that may be needed. In addition, Ms. Gilbert advised that the increase is based on the upcoming water rate increase.

The Committee felt all their questions were answered, thanked L. Graves and S. Gilbert, and voted to withdraw the motion to table the original motion.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

Continuing with a vote on the original Public Fire Protection Budget motion from the Public Works Subcommittee recommending with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Public Fire Protection Budget including revenue, expenses and CIP not including line 5924.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

7. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Police Department Budget that includes revenues, expenses and CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

8. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Dispatch Department Budget that includes revenues, expenses and CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

9. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2027:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Harbor Department Budget that includes revenues, expenses and CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

10. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Public Safety & Town Hill Buildings Line Item that includes only expenses. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

11. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Street Lights Line Item that includes only expenses. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

12. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Public Safety Building Line Item in the CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, 2 recused).

13. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Parking Fund Budget including revenue, expenses and CIP. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The Committee discussed the Island Explorer, line 5924, Budget Request of \$310,544. The Committee discussed whether the Island Explorer was truly a community transportation system, why was there such a jump in funding level and it was noted that no other community our size has a free public transportation system. In addition, there is no memorandum of understanding to assist in understanding what the Island Explorer will provide for the town's investment. The committee asked should users of the Island Explorer bear the expense instead of town taxpayers.

C. Chappel made a motion to remove the Island Explorer line item 5924 from the Public Works Subcommittee motion regarding the Parking Fund Budget until we have more information to decide. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Discussion included a request to send questions pertaining to the Island Explorer's Expense line to Chair Smith by noon on 10 February 2026.

The motion passed (8 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstain).

Continuing with a vote on the original Parking Fund Budget motion from the Public Works Subcommittee recommending with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Parking Fund Budget including revenue, expenses and CIP not including line 5924.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

14. Presentation of the Public Safety Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Safety Chair S. Farrar moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Cruise Ship Fund Revenues, Expenses and CIP to include Shellfish Revenues and Expenses, Dog Control Reserve Fund Revenues and Expenses. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

15. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Parks & Rec, Highway, and Environmental Services Revenues for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by C. Smith.

The motion passed (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

16. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Parks, Comfort Stations, Public Works, Highway and Environment Services Expenses for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Ms. Sasner pointed out that there was a new part time position in the Parks section of the budget and a new foreman position in Environment Services. The Committee discussed the new positions and voiced concerns about their effect on the budget this year and going forward. The Environmental Services position was thought to possibly benefit by funds generated by a new solid waste disposal payment program but that is not in effect yet so cannot be considered helpful when looking at an additional wage line item.

The new foreman position also increases the Training/Workshops/Etc. line item. The Committee reminded themselves that Town Manager Smith had cautioned that a tighter budget may be expected next year.

It was decided to amend the motion to exclude the Cost Centers under discussion and vote on Comfort Stations, Public Works and Highway Expenses.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

17. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Parks Expenses less costs associated with the additional part-time position, Line 5115 for fiscal year 2027. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

18. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Chair Smith moved that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Parks Expenses line item 1059 5115 Part Time Wages for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Discussion included all the parks the position would cover. It was not known if town part-time employees receive benefits, which would be an additional cost in addition to wages. A committee member mentioned that there are no town employees designated to help with our parks. Concern was reiterated from the earlier discussion that our town budget is expected to get tighter and this hire could be laid off in the near future. It was not known what part time means as to schedule, hours, etc. The Committee said they would be agreeable to the position if the town budget found fungible funds to cut from another cost center to fund this position.

The motion fails (6 in favor, 7 opposed, 0 abstain).

19. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

S. Farrar moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Environmental Services Expenses with the exception of any costs associated with the proposed new foreman position for fiscal year 2027. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

It was reported that the temp help line item was reduced in the budget and the increase in Training/Workshops/Etc are both based on filling the foreman position.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

20. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Chair Smith moved that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of 1079 Environment Services Expenses that are associated with the hiring of a

new foreman who would begin work on 1 January 2027. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Discussion that Tab 4 Page 15 does not show the position Annual Base Wages instead it just shows the amount associated with a hire that begins 1 January 2027. The Committee reiterated that the position being filled lowered the expense for Temp Help and increased the expense of Training/Workshops/Etc. against an increase of a half year wage of \$34,663 plus benefits. Discussion noted that future solid waste needs, possibly more transfer station open hours and more permit checking could benefit from the foreman hiring.

The Committee said there did not seem to be a plan or a revenue stream to help this position be affordable for the town.

The motion fails (3 in favor, 10 opposed, 0 abstain).

21. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Recreation Expenses comprised of Community Events, Bar Harbor Band and YMCA, for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Committee noted that Community Events could now be open for other vendors to bid on but is usually handled by the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce and they must use the money for the stipulated events, holiday decorations, fireworks, etc.

It was noted that the Chamber since 2023 has been a dues member of the APPL the organization that is currently suing the town.

C. Chappel to amend the original motion and remove line item 5926. Seconded by K. Knopp.

Discussion continued and noted that without the MOUs supporting information we cannot know how these funds would support the town. It was agreed that it would be better to vote on the 1060 Recreation line items separately.

Amended motion was withdrawn by C. Chappel and K. Knopp.

Original motion was withdrawn by A. Sasner and M. Kelly.

22. Conflict of Interest:

Chair Smith moved that S. Farrar has a conflict of interest related to the 1060 Recreation Expense line item 5926 Community Events. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Discussion included points that there is an assumed, not a direct COI in this case however, out of an abundance of caution S. Farrar is recusing himself.

The motion passed (7 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstain).

23. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Recreation Expenses line item Community Events for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Discussion included the question could we vote for the amount and ask that the Chamber of Commerce not be considered as a vendor. The presumption is that this is not a profitable endeavor and there would not be other entities to take it on.

The motion fails (3 in favor, 9 opposed, 0 abstain).

24. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Recreation line item 5928 Town Band for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

25. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Recreation line item 5930 Jesup Library for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

C. Smith recused herself as a Jesup Memorial Library board member.

Discussion included the lack of MOU in support of the budget amount and in general feeling of a rushed budget review schedule without access to information or having

information provided to make a decision such as supporting Jesup for the amount of \$312,756.

C. Chappel made a motion to table the original motion until more supporting information can be received. Original motion and second both approved the amendment.

The motion fails (6 in favor, 6 opposed, 0 abstain, 1 Recused).

26. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Recreation line item 5930 Jesup Library for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

C. Smith recused herself as a Jesup Memorial Library board member.

Discussion touched on Jesup's service to the community and that they do not charge for their services. Genuine discomfort was discussed of the lack of supporting information for the budget line and the perceived deterioration of the review process afforded the Warrant Committee this year. Members who had gone through the process last year noted the Jesup provided excellent information. It was noted that we will have another opportunity for discussion during our budget review process.

The motion passes (11 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain, 1 Recused).

27. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of Recreation line item 5934 YMCA for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

Discussion included discomfort in the lack of supporting information. Discussion included a request to send questions pertaining to the YMCA Expense line to Chair Smith by noon on 10 February 2026.

K. Knopp made a motion and M. Kelly seconded to table the original motion until more supporting information can be received. Original motion and second both approved the amendment.

The motion passes (9 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstain).

28. Presentation of the Public Works Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:

Public Works Chair A. Sasner reported that the subcommittee recommends, and she moves that the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of CIP Parks Section, Comfort Stations, Highway Section and Environmental Services for fiscal year 2027 as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Kelly.

It was noted that we were voting on the funding column and that well over a million dollars of the funding will go to purchasing vehicles – also noted was a brought forward balance showing fiscal prudence toward this expense. A question about Comfort Stations confirmed that the Athletic Field comfort station would be replaced. A good majority of these purchases are fully funded by the Parking Revenue Fund.

The motion passed unanimously (13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).

29. Closing Remarks/Adjournment:

Chair Smith expressed her gratitude to Warrant Committee members and Ms. Graves and said she would provide the Committee with FY26 information in support of last year's expenses and Ms. Graves offered to send the 990 forms for the applicable agencies.

Chair Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lopez
Secretary, Warrant Committee