

## **Warrant Committee Meeting Thursday, 12 February 2026**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** 6:34 pm by Chair Smith; with Secretary Lopez taking roll call. Twelve voting members were present at the start of the meeting in attendance.

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

- 2. Opening Remarks:**

Chair Smith thanked Town Clerk L. Graves for joining our meeting.

- 3. Presentation of the Education Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 Connors Emerson School Expenses, Revenue and CIP Budget as presented on 27 January 2026:**

Education Subcommittee Member L. Lopez moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 3 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the Connors Emerson School Budget including expenses, revenues and CIP. The motion was seconded by S. Farrar.

*The motion passed (12 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain).*

- 4. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Revenue Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 3 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Revenue Budget Sections 1014 Town Clerk, 1016 Finance, 1024 Municipal Building, 1030 Code Enforcement and 1034 Planning. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee noted that fees were reassessed in 2025 and the revenue projections are conservative amounts.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

- 5. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Revenue Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 3 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Revenue Budget Sections 1082 Unclassified, 1088 Oper Transfers

In/Out, 1090 Tax Revenues, 1092 Intergovernmental and 1093 Beg Fund Balance Used. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee shared that questions were asked about 1082 4700 and 4702 investments and the answers helped them understand and support these lines.

1082 4703 Cruise Ship Funds is a guaranteed amount from the ACL contract.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**6. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Expenses Budget Sections 1010 Town Council, 1012 Town Manager, 1014 Town Clerk, 1016 Finance lines 5105 through 5846. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee reported they asked about pay scales and the answers assisted with understanding the many factors that are considered. Grants are not included in FY2027 wages but could be used for seed money in the future.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**7. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Expenses Budget Sections 1016 5100 Wages at \$314,031 which is the requested amount less \$80,000 for a new hire Purchasing Agent, along with the associated reduction in 1028 Employee Benefits associated with this position. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee noted that removing this open position from the budget would reduce the total by \$80,000, the salary for the proposed Purchasing Agent position. If position is removed from the budget section 1028 Employee Benefits will need to be reduced accordingly.

*The motion passed (11 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**8. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Expenses Budget Sections 1018 Legal Counsel, 1020 Elections, 1022 Technology, 1024 Municipal Building, 1026 Town Offices, 1030 Code Enforcement, 1032 Assessing, 1034 Planning, 1036 Miscellaneous. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee relayed the following points:

We will vote on 1028 Employee Benefits in March.

The 1018 Legal Counsel legal expenses may be an underestimation but there is sufficient buffer in fund balance to cover any additional expenses.

1020 Elections expense line is for leasing ballot tabulation machines from the state.

1022 Technology line is the switch from Assessing Deputy Assessor to Technology GIS position.

1034 Planning existing Staff Planner position has been replaced with Sustainable Economic Tourism Development Coordinator, which is a monetary wash.

The subcommittee supports the resources needed for Planning given the complexity of issues and needs in the town at this time.

The subcommittee noted the goals outlined in the narratives look good and it would be nice to talk with the Planning Director to better understand what is being worked on so the Warrant Committee can be better ambassadors for the Town's projects.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**9. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 4 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Expenses Budget Sections 1036 Miscellaneous. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee requests that the Town Council consider alternatives to POLCO.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**10. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund Expenses Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 3 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund Expenses Budget Sections 1066 General Assistance, 1068 Cooperating Agencies, 1086 Assessments. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

The subcommittee provided the following information:

We will vote on 1088 Operation Transfers Out in March

1068 Cooperating Agencies budgeted amount of \$16,655 is less than last budget year due to American Red Cross, Downeast Transportation and Northern Light Homecare not putting in requests. In addition, Downeast Community Partners asked for a lesser amount based on the number of Bar Harbor clients served in 2025.

When needing additional information the subcommittee looked at last budget year's information provided in cooperating agencies requests.

HOME was added to Cooperating Agencies last year at Town Meeting.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**11. Presentation of the General Government Subcommittee recommendations on the FY2027 General Fund CIP Budget as presented on 22 January 2026:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell moves that the subcommittee recommends with a vote of 3 to 0, the Warrant Committee recommend to the voters of Bar Harbor adoption of the General Fund CIP Budget Sections 2122 Technology Division, 2124 Municipal Building, 2130 Code Enforcement, 2132 Assessing, 2134 Planning, 2184 Town Debt Service, 6190 Bond Premium Interest Only Payment in the amount of zero. The motion was seconded by J. Kelly.

*The motion passed unanimously (12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain).*

**12. General Government Subcommittee Upcoming Votes:**

General Government Chair C. Chappell reminded the Warrant Committee that we would vote on the following budget items in March:

Expenses:

1028 Employee Benefits

1088 Operation Transfers Out

CIP

21 Ending Fund Balance  
21 Revenues CIP Fund

Other:

Prepayment of Taxes (Item 1)  
Tax Due Date and Interest Rate (Item 2)  
Overpayment of Taxes (Item 3)  
Municipal Budget: Grants and Donations

**13. Closing Remarks/Adjournment:**

Chair Smith expressed her gratitude to Warrant Committee members and Ms. Graves and noted the Committee would need to use the reserve meeting scheduled for Monday, 23 February 2026 and reminded everyone we would meet with the Town Council on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

Chair Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Lopez  
Secretary, Warrant Committee