

**FY2026 WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

TO: S. Clyde Ross, a Resident of the Town of Farmington in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

GREETING: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 2026, at 12:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon Articles 1 and 2. The polls will open at 12:00 in the afternoon and close at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon Article Second.

And also, notify and warn the said Inhabitants to meet at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to hear the results of the secret ballot on Articles 1 and 2 and to act on Articles 3 through 33, all the Articles being set out below, to wit:

FIRST - To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

SECOND - To choose by ballot, according to the provisions of Title 30-A, M.R.S. Section 2528 as amended, two Selectmen for a term of three years, and two School Directors for a term of three years.

NOTE ON ARTICLES THIRD THROUGH NINETEENTH: The FY2026 budget only covers the six-month period from January 2026 to June of 2026 as the Town transitions from a calendar year budget to a fiscal year budget. Only expenses required during that time are included. Department budgets are at less than 45% of 2025 without exception due to transfer of town-wide personnel and operating expenses to Fixed Assessments. Correspondingly the Fixed Assessments have gone up significantly. This is a transfer of expense from one cost center to another and does not change the overall budget appropriation request. This is discussed in more detail in Article Tenth.

THIRD - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,021,477	\$373,437
Selectmen Recommended	1,021,477	373,437
Budget Committee Recommended	1,030,353	367,889
Town Meeting Approved	1,030,353	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>Appropriated 2025</u>	<u>Requested FY2026</u>	<u>Budget Comm Recommend</u>	<u>Selectmen Recommend</u>
1. Administration	\$332,260	\$119,320	\$118,740	\$119,320
2. Assessor	163,617	61,678	57,915	61,678
3. Treasurer / Clerk	410,895	152,604	151,399	152,604
4. Municipal Building	81,906	27,050	27,050	27,050
5. Committees & Events	5,750	2,200	2,200	2,200
6. General Assistance	35,925	10,585	10,585	10,585
7. Conservation Comm.	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$1,030,353	\$373,437	\$367,889	\$373,437

The \$5,548 variance between the Manager and Selectmen and the Budget Committee results from non-discretionary budget adjustments made by the Select Board on February 24, following receipt of initial 2026 invoices. Most of this increase is attributable to TRIO financial system software costs within the Assessor and Treasurer/Clerk budgets. The Budget Committee was advised of these changes and made the decision not to reconvene.

The Administration Budget covers salaries and wages for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Executive Assistant, and half of the Planning Assistant position. It includes a

\$0.45-per-hour COLA adjustment for full-time staff and reflects a 9% increase in health insurance premiums. Operating expenses include office supplies, equipment, and professional services such as Town Report printing, public notices, and routine legal services. The \$580 increase in this cost center is due to higher Maine Municipal Association dues and adjustments to the town-wide copier contract.

The Assessor's Department budget includes salaries and wages for the full-time Assessor, half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk's wages, and expenses for office supplies, software licenses, GIS mapping, and association dues. It reflects a \$0.45-per-hour COLA adjustment. The \$3,763 increase results from continuing the TRIO property tax modules, which were expected to be discontinued with the rollout of the Patriot assessing system.

The Town Clerk/HR & Treasurer budget includes salaries for the Town Clerk and Treasurer, as well as wages for the AP Counter Clerk and half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk position. It incorporates a \$0.45-per-hour COLA adjustment for all employees. The budget also provides funding for election administration, financial software, the annual audit, tax bill printing, legal services related to liens and foreclosures, and payroll and benefits processing for all Town departments. The \$1,203 increase is attributable to higher TRIO financial software licensing costs and increased payroll processing fees.

The Municipal Building budget covers all routine maintenance and daily operating costs of the Town Office, including utilities, waste removal, and mechanical and plumbing services. It also includes wages for the part-time Custodian, reflecting a \$0.45-per-hour COLA adjustment.

The Committees and Events budget includes Memorial Day Flags, the Planning Board, and Special Projects—a discretionary account that allows the Selectmen to authorize expenditures for appropriate projects, promotions, and events.

The General Assistance program provides essential support to eligible applicants and covers related administrative expenses, including required training, the mandated 24-hour GA cell phone, and office supplies. Program costs for direct services are partially offset by a state reimbursement equal to 70% of eligible expenditures; *administrative expenses are not reimbursable*.

FOURTH – To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CODE ENFORCEMENT** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$215,754	\$94,434
Selectmen Recommended	215,754	94,434
Budget Committee Recommended	210,404	94,334
Approved	215,754	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

This budget request supports the operating costs for 2.5 staff positions responsible for Code Administration, Planning, and Community Development. It includes salaries and wages for the Code Enforcement Officer, the Code Assistant/LPI, and half of the Planning Assistant, and incorporates a \$0.45-per-hour COLA adjustment. The \$100 variance between the Manager/Selectmen recommendation and the Budget Committee's recommendation reflects a budget adjustment made by the Select Board on February 24, following receipt of initial 2026 invoices, specifically an increase in the copier contract. The Budget Committee was advised of this change and made the decision not to reconvene.

FIFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,884,440	\$693,527
Selectmen Recommended	1,884,440	665,287
Budget Committee Recommended	1,910,190	662,687
Town Meeting Approved	1,884,440	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

The Police Department budget includes contractual obligations for union personnel, training and development, and a \$0.45 per-hour COLA for all staff. There are 13 full-time sworn staff, including the Chief and Deputy Chief, two part-time sworn officers, one full-time Office Manager and a part-time dispatcher,. The budget provides continuous 24/7 police coverage and funds Animal Control, Parking Enforcement, and School Crossing Guard services. It also supports facility and vehicle maintenance, specialized equipment, and the K-9 program. A modest increase to legal services is included in anticipation of upcoming union negotiations with the Maine Association of Police. The original Manager's request fully funded all positions in the six-month budget. The Budget Committee and Selectmen reduced funding for the vacant Detective position by two months (33%) and for the vacant Patrol position by three months (50%). The \$2,600 variance between the Selectmen and Budget Committee reflects an adjustment made on February 24 following receipt of initial 2026 invoices, specifically increased cell phone service costs and the addition of Wi-Fi hotspots in patrol vehicles. The Budget Committee was advised of these changes and made the decision not to reconvene.

SIXTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,035,524	\$392,260
Selectmen Recommended	1,035,524	392,260
Budget Committee Recommended	999,794	392,260
Town Meeting Approved	1,035,524	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget funds salaries and wages for the Fire Chief, 75% of the Fire/Public Works Administrative Assistant, eight full-time firefighters, and a call force and per-diem staff. It includes a \$0.45 per-hour COLA for all personnel and increased per-diem hours to reduce full-time overtime. Operating expenses cover fire and EMS services, including equipment, software, training, vehicle and equipment maintenance, and required firefighter health assessments. The budget also provides for the operation and maintenance of the Farmington Falls Fire Station.

SEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,768,951	\$701,098
Selectmen Recommended	1,768,951	701,098
Budget Committee Recommended	1,784,891	700,498
Town Meeting Approved	1,768,951	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

The Public Works Department budget supports the maintenance of the Town's 120 miles of roads and drainage infrastructure, and funds salaries and wages for eleven full-time and one part-time employees, including a \$0.45 COLA adjustment. It also covers operating expenses for the Public Works Facility, all cemeteries, the line-striping contract, street sign replacements, and required staff training and licensing. The \$600 variance between the Manager/Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations reflects an adjustment made on February 24 following receipt of initial 2026 invoices, specifically an increase in monthly US Cellular charges. The Budget Committee was advised of this change and made the decision not to reconvene.

EIGHTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **RECYCLING DEPARTMENT** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$190,908	\$87,175
Selectmen Recommended	190,908	87,175
Budget Committee Recommended	190,908	87,175
Town Meeting Approved	190,908	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station and two part-time employees with a \$.45 COLA adjustment. It also covers all costs associated with maintaining the facility and equipment.

NINTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PARKS AND RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENTS** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$483,333	\$156,897
Selectmen Recommended	483,333	156,897
Budget Committee Recommended	482,326	156,507
Approved	483,333	

	<u>Appropriated</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Requested</u> <u>FY2026</u>	<u>Budget Comm</u> <u>Recommend</u>	<u>Selectmen</u> <u>Recommend</u>
Parks and Recreation	\$305,175	\$86,025	\$85,635	\$86,025
Community Center	<u>\$178,158</u>	<u>\$70,872</u>	<u>\$70,872</u>	<u>\$70,872</u>
TOTAL	\$483,333	\$156,897	\$156,507	\$156,897

STATEMENT OF FACT:

The Parks and Recreation budget funds the operation and maintenance of all recreational facilities and grounds, including all structures at Hippach Field, Walton Mill Park, Russell Mills Park and various smaller parks and playgrounds. It covers salaries and wages for the full-time Director, half of the full-time Maintenance position, and seasonal part-time staff. The Community Center budget includes all building operating and maintenance expenses, as well as salaries and wages for the full-time Assistant Director, half of the full-time Maintenance position, and several part-time clerical and event support staff. All staff receive a \$0.45 COLA adjustment.

Both budgets are reduced significantly due to the transfer of all paid program staff and program-related expenses to a new special revenue account. Program revenues, including registration and jersey fees, will also move to this account, ensuring these activities are self-funded and outside the tax levy. Any remaining balance will carry forward annually.

The \$610 variance between the Manager/Selectmen recommendation and the Budget Committee is the result of non-discretionary adjustments made on February 24 following receipt of initial 2026 invoices. The change reflects continued wi-fi service at Hippach Field and increased MyRec software fees. The Budget Committee was advised of these changes and made the decision not to reconvene.

TENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **FIXED ASSESSMENTS** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$181,255	\$868,920
Selectmen Recommended	181,255	846,300
Budget Committee Recommended	181,255	846,300
Town Meeting Approved	181,255	

	<u>Appropriated</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Requested</u> <u>FY2026</u>
1. Insurance	\$181,255	\$ 97,600
2. FICA	0	138,235
3. PFML	0	2,000
4. Retirement	0	178,645
5. Health Insurance	0	351,100
6. Workers Comp	0	54,680
7. Telephone (landlines)	0	6,190
8. IT Network Management	0	6,550
9. Application Software	<u>0</u>	<u>11,300</u>
TOTAL	\$181,255	\$846,300

In 2025, this budget included only the Insurance line and appeared under the Other Protections article. For FY2026, town-wide expenses previously allocated across individual departments have been consolidated into the Fixed Assessments category. This change does not affect the overall FY2026 appropriation; it simply centralizes these costs within a single cost center.

Fixed Assessments now include payroll taxes and benefits, Workers' Compensation, the Town's landline contract (with long-distance and cellular charges remaining in departmental budgets), IT management services, and subscription costs for Office 365, Power DMS, email security, server backup, and antivirus protection. These expenses are outside departmental control and historically required significant staff time to allocate. Aside from payroll-related items, distributing these costs by department is largely arbitrary and often results in posting errors that require additional correction.

In 2025, \$1,426,145 was budgeted for employee-related fixed assessments, \$12,973 for landline service, \$33,788 for IT management, and \$14,523 for town-wide software, totaling \$1,487,429. The FY2026 request reflects a 50.3% reduction in these costs (50.8% for employee costs), consistent with the shift from a twelve-month to a six-month budget.

The \$22,620 variance between the Manager's request and the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations is due to reduced funding for vacant Police Department positions, as referenced in Article 5.

ELEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **OTHER PROTECTIONS** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$716,095	\$274,590
Selectmen Recommended	716,095	274,590
Budget Committee Recommended	716,095	273,290
Town Meeting Approved	716,095	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated	Requested
	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
1. Streetlights	\$77,600	\$ 38,600
2. Fire Hydrants	395,200	200,600
3. Ambulance	<u>62,040</u>	<u>35,390</u>
TOTAL	\$716,095	\$274,590

The Street Light budget covers electricity costs for approximately 400 streetlights in Farmington. The Fire Hydrants budget is just over half of last year's amount due to a 1.5% Water District increase, with hydrant charges set by the Maine Public Utilities Commission based on the Water Company's operating expenses. The Ambulance subsidy is governed by a contract with MaineHealth EMS and reflects a 17% increase negotiated previously. The amount in the 2026 budget reflects half of the contract amount for the period of July 2025 to June 2026. The \$1,300 variance between the Manager/Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations is the result of non-discretionary adjustments made on February 24 following receipt of initial 2026 invoices, specifically higher CMP delivery and service fees effective January 1. The Budget Committee was advised of these changes and made the decision not to reconvene.

TWELFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Funds.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Admin Computer & Office Equip Capital	\$ 1,200	\$0
Assessor Compr & Office Equip Capital	700	0
Treasurer/Clerk Comp & Office Equip Capital	2,000	0
Vital Records Books Preservation	3,000	0
Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve	10,000	0
Municipal Buildings Equipment & Grounds	6,000	0
CEO Computer & Equip Capital	2,000	0
Revaluation Capital Reserve	35,000	0

Police Dept Building Capital Reserve	20,000	0
Police Dt Equipment Capital Reserve	14,500	0
Police Dept Vehicle Capital Reserve	136,000	0
Police K-9 Reserve	1,250	0
Police Department Grounds & Lots	2,500	0
Police Academy	10,000	0
Fire Dept Equipment Capital Reserve	8,000	7,500
Fire Dept Apparatus Capital Reserve	150,000	0
Fire Dept Rescue Equipment Capital	8,000	0
Fire Dept Computer & Equip Capital	2,800	0
Fire Dept Facility Capital Reserve	5,000	0
Public Works Computer Capital Reserve	1,500	0
Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve	200,000	0
Public Works Facilities Capital Reserve	50,000	0
Public Works Roads Capital Reserve	800,000	293,350
Public Works Sidewalks Capital Reserve	20,000	0
Public Works Emergency Rds Cap Reserve	14,550	0
Municipal Landfill Capital Reserve	10,000	0
Recycling Equipment Capital Reserve	5,000	0
Cemetery Infr/Headstone Capital Reserve	5,000	0
Hippach Field and Parks Capital Reserve	5,000	0
Parks Vehicle and Equip Capital Reserve	5,000	0
Parks Playground Capital Reserve	5,000	0
Parks Land Improvement Capital Reserve	6,000	0
Parks Computer & Equip Capital Reserve	1,000	0
Community Center Capital Reserve	25,000	0
Community Center Rec Equip Capital	0	0
Total	\$1,564,800	\$300,850

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,564,800	\$300,850
Selectmen Recommended	\$1,564,800	\$300,850
Budget Committee Recommended	\$1,574,800	\$300,850
Approved	\$1,564,800	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

This six-month budget has been reduced wherever possible to limit the tax impact during the transition from a calendar-year to a fiscal-year budget. Nearly all capital spending has been removed, with two exceptions.

First, the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve includes \$7,500 to purchase equipment for the new Engine scheduled for delivery in March.

Second, the Public Works Roads Capital Reserve requires a correction for a \$293,350 deficit created in 2022 and 2023, when Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) revenues were both recorded as income and deducted from the capital budget. Resolving this shortfall is necessary to fully fund the Main Street MPI project beginning this spring.

THIRTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$90,567	\$49,974
Selectmen Recommended	90,567	49,974
Budget Committee Recommended	90,567	49,974
Town Meeting Approved	90,567	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	Appropriated <u>2025</u>	Requested <u>FY2026</u>	Recommended <u>FY2026</u>
Fire Engine 1	\$54,800	\$ 0	\$ 0
Police Building	35,767	34,267	34,267
Community Center	0	15,707	15,707
TOTAL	\$90,567	\$49,974	\$49,974

The amount in this Article reflects the debt service (principal and interest) for bonds due before June 30, 2026, including the Police Building payment and half of the Community Center bond interest payable in May.

FOURTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **LEGAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the purpose of funding costs associated with actual or potential litigation for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$5,000	\$0
Selectmen Recommended	5,000	0
Budget Committee Recommended	5,000	0
Town Meeting Approved	5,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT:
This six-month budget has been reduced wherever possible to limit the tax impact during the transition from a calendar-year to a fiscal-year budget. Nearly all capital spending has been removed, including the Legal Reserve capital account.

FIFTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,500	\$0
Selectmen Recommended	1,500	0
Budget Committee Recommended	1,500	0
Town Meeting Approved	1,500	

STATEMENT OF FACT:
This six-month budget has been reduced wherever possible to limit the tax impact during the transition from a calendar-year to a fiscal-year budget. Nearly all capital spending has been removed, including the ADA Reserve capital account.

SIXTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FARMINGTON LIBRARY** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$299,270	\$153,215
Selectmen Recommended	299,270	153,215
Budget Committee Recommended	299,270	153,215
Town Meeting Approved	299,270	

STATEMENT OF FACT:
The amount requested represents approximately 50% of the Library's annual budget and provides funding for staff (including a 2.5% COLA), building operations and maintenance, and books, materials, and technology.

SEVENTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **GAY CEMETERY** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,000	\$1,000
Selectmen Recommended	1,000	1,000
Budget Committee Recommended	1,000	1,000
Town Meeting Approved	1,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Gay Cemetery, named after the Gay family, is located on South Strong Road. It is a 100-plot cemetery (including 16 veteran graves) maintained by the Gay Cemetery Association.

EIGHTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER** for the year FY2026.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$22,776	\$0
Selectmen Recommended	22,776	0
Budget Committee Recommended	22,776	0
Town Meeting Approved	22,776	

STATEMENT OF FACT:
The State of Maine mandates that all municipalities designate a shelter that will accept stray animals. Farmington contracts with the Franklin County Animal Shelter for this service. This item is due in November and will be included in the FY2027 Budget.

NINETEENTH - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 100% of the refund of snowmobile registrations received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the **SHIRETOWN RIDERS, NORTHERN LITES, AND NEW SHARON SNOW RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUBS**, to be distributed to the clubs on the basis of mileage of trails each maintains in Farmington.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$12,700	\$12,000
Selectmen Recommended	12,700	12,000
Budget Committee Recommended	12,700	12,000
Town Meeting Approved	12,700	

STATEMENT OF FACT:
Based on the trail mileages, funds are distributed as follows: Shiretown Riders - 58%, Northern Lites - 21%, and New Sharon Snow Riders - 21%. NOTE – the FY22026 request is an estimate of the snowmobile revenue for the year. Regardless, the amount actually received will be returned to the clubs if this article passes.

TWENTIETH – To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in Articles 2 through 18 by **\$1,578,873**, based on estimates for non-tax municipal revenues.

<u>Estimates</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Excise Taxes	\$1,154,500	\$ 653,300
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	143,350	63,698
Intergovernmental	1,969,200	719,000
Charges for Services	97,000	37,775
Other Revenues	191,200	105,100

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	\$3,555,250	\$1,578,873
Selectmen Recommended	\$3,555,250	\$,578,873
Budget Committee Recommended	\$3,555,250	N/A
Approved	\$3,555,250	

STATEMENT OF FACT:
Revenue estimates are based on state projections and four-year internal trends. State Revenue Sharing is expected to decline in this six-month budget due to income tax refunds issued in March and April. LRAP funding is not included, as it is received in November. The transfer of Program Fees to the Recreation Programs account reduces General Fund revenue but is fully offset by the corresponding removal of program-related expenses from the Parks budget.

TWENTY-FIRST - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to reallocate budgeted amounts from budget lines that have unexpended appropriations to other budget lines, as they deem necessary, to avoid individual budget lines being over-expended. Approval of this warrant article does not increase the overall appropriations approved for the Town.

TWENTY-SECOND - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance those funds deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen to reduce the amount of property taxes to be collected to fund the FY2026 budget in an effort to stabilize the tax rate in a manner consistent with prudent fiscal management.

STATEMENT OF FACT:
The Town's auditing firm estimates the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) at the end of 2023 to be \$3,250,000. Following voter approval at the November 2025 Special Town Meeting, up to \$700,000 was authorized to reduce the mil rate, lowering the estimated balance to \$2,500,000. Audits for 2023 and 2024 are still pending, but no reduction is expected for 2024, as expenditures did not exceed revenues. The 2025 ledger also remains open, so the actual amount used from the \$700,000 cannot yet be confirmed. Auditors recommend maintaining a minimum UFB sufficient to cover three months of expenditures, approximately \$3,800,000. Approval of this Article would allow the Selectmen to allocate UFB, if necessary, to reduce the property tax commitment while preserving adequate reserves. However, using UFB during the FY2026 budget is not advisable.

TWENTY-THIRD - To see what amount, if any, of the FY2026 Spectrum Contract Franchise Fee and equipment and facilities fund the Town will vote to appropriate for the **CABLE FRANCHISE FEE RESERVE FUND** for the benefit of Spectrum Cable subscribers, to be expended or allocated at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>
Amount Requested	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Selectmen Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Budget Committee Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Town Meeting Approved	Full Franchise Fee	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Cable Television Franchise granted to Spectrum by the Town of Farmington requires Spectrum to pay the Town 5% of its gross annual revenues as compensation for the rights and privileges granted by the Agreement. In 2025, that amount was \$31,543.45 This payment is used to support the operations of the Public, Educational, and Governmental channel, Mount Blue TV (Channel 11). The Franchise Agreement also allows for a \$7,500 annual payment for Mount Blue TV's equipment and facilities. The full franchise fee for 2026 is expected to be an amount roughly half or slightly less than that received in 2025.

TWENTY-FOURTH - To see if the Town will vote to make property taxes due and payable on June 30, 2026, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later and, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4), charge interest on overdue taxes at the rate of 0% per annum after June 30, 2026.

TWENTY-FIFTH - To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 506-A, to pay interest on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes at the rate of 4.00% per annum after June 30, 2026, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later.

TWENTY-SIXTH - To see if the Town will vote to accept prepayment of taxes to the Tax Collector prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon.

TWENTY-SEVENTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

TWENTY-EIGHTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to replace and/or purchase additional services or equipment for the Town at such times as the Board of Selectmen deems necessary or in the best interest of the Town, but only at such times as sufficient funds are available in reserve accounts to pay for such equipment or services.

TWENTY-NINTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the State, federal or other governmental units or private sources that become available during the year, and to authorize the Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, any and all

unconditional gifts of any type of property.

State funds include the following categories: Maine Emergency Management Agency funds, General Assistance Reimbursements, Municipal Revenue Sharing, Urban/Rural Initiative Program funds for road improvements, State Aid to Education, Snowmobile Registration Reimbursements, Tree Growth Program Reimbursements, Education Tax Relief Block Grant, Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement, Maine State Housing Authority, Public Library State Aid per Capita and Library Stipend, Property Tax Relief Funds, Homestead Act Funds, State grants, and other State funds.

Federal funds include the following categories: Community Development Block Grant funds, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, Housing and Urban Development funds, Economic Development Administration funds, USDA Rural Development funds, federal grants, and other federal funds.

THIRTIETH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, equipment purchasing, leasing, and maintenance and collective bargaining agreements.

THIRTY-FIRST - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Downtown Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Downtown Omnibus Development Program established in October 2013 and subsequently amended.

THIRTY-SECOND - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Franklin Printing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Franklin Printing Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program established in June 1998 and subsequently amended.

THIRTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to enact the Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

STATEMENT OF FACT:

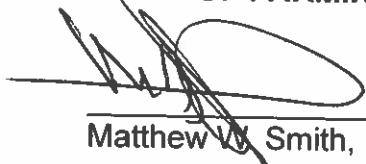
Several community members have requested that the attached Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance be presented to voters. The ordinance would permit direct producer-to-consumer sales of certain foods at the site of production without State licensure or inspection. It does not apply to meat, poultry, their products, or any products containing THC.

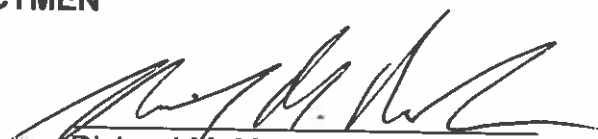
The Registrar of Voters will be in session at the Community Center on March 23, 2026, at the time of the meeting to add new names to the voting list or make changes to the voting list.

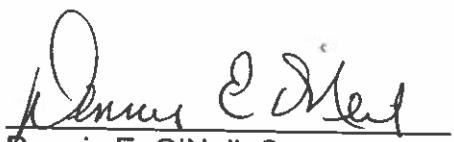
Notice is hereby given that the Town Clerk intends to begin the process of casting absentee ballots at 5:00 P.M. on Town Meeting day.

Given under our hands at Farmington, Maine, this tenth day of March, A.D. 2026.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Matthew W. Smith, Chairman


Richard M. Morton, Vice Chairman


Dennis E. O'Neil, Secretary


Randall D. Gauvin

H. Scott Landry, Jr.

ORIGINAL:



OFFICER'S RETURN

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Farmington of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant at the **FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at 12:05p; at the **WEST FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at 12:11p; at the **FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at 12:15p; at the **FARMINGTON FALLS POST OFFICE** at 12:35p; and at the **FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** at 12:23p, all being conspicuous public places within the Town of Farmington on March 13, 2026, which is a least 7 days prior to the day of said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine this 13 day of March 2026.

S. Clyde Ross
Resident of Farmington
True copy:


Diane Dunham
Town Clerk

