FY26 Budget Process

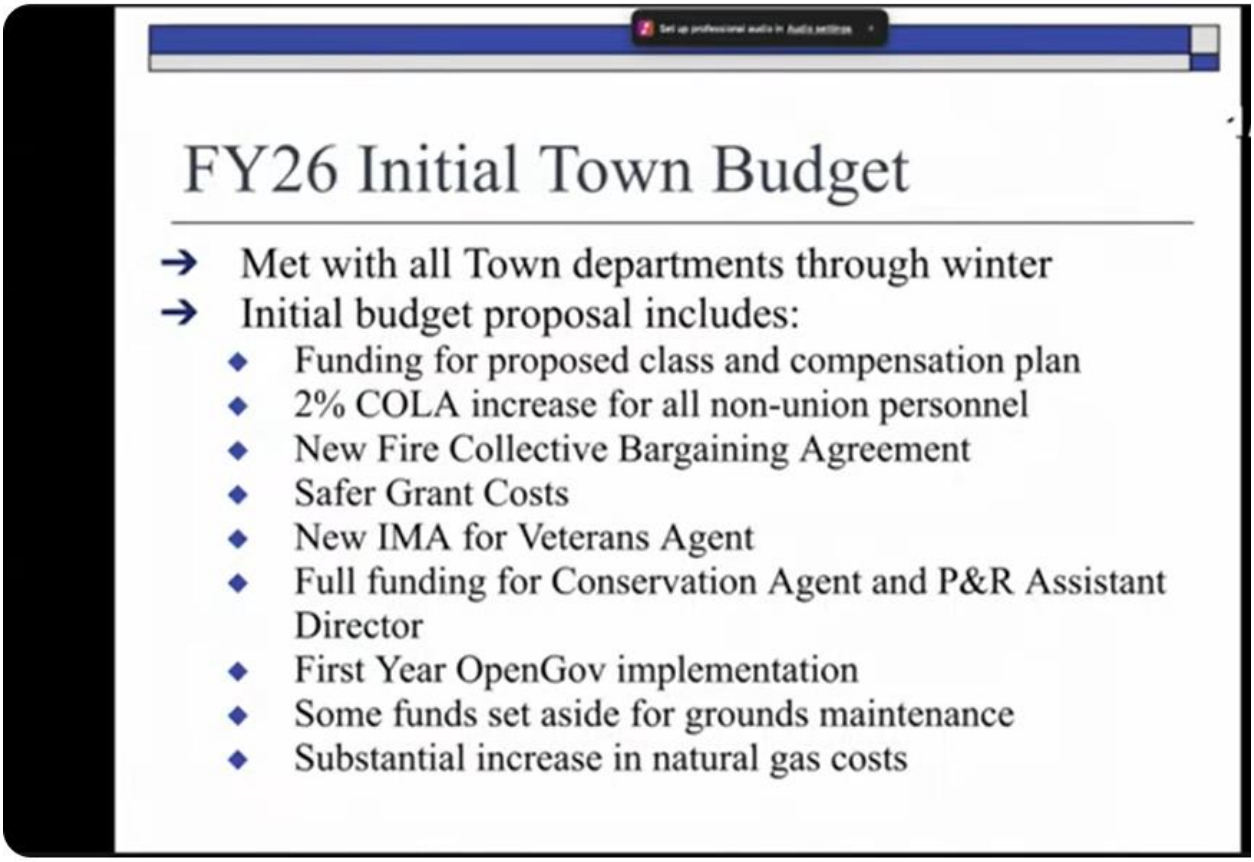
- Developed Revenue and Fixed Costs Forecast
  - Warrant Committee recommends 75/25 revenue split between School/Town after fixed costs considered
  - Initial guidance issued to Town/School on available revenue prior to submission of budgets
    - Goal to provide Proposition 2 ½ compliant budget

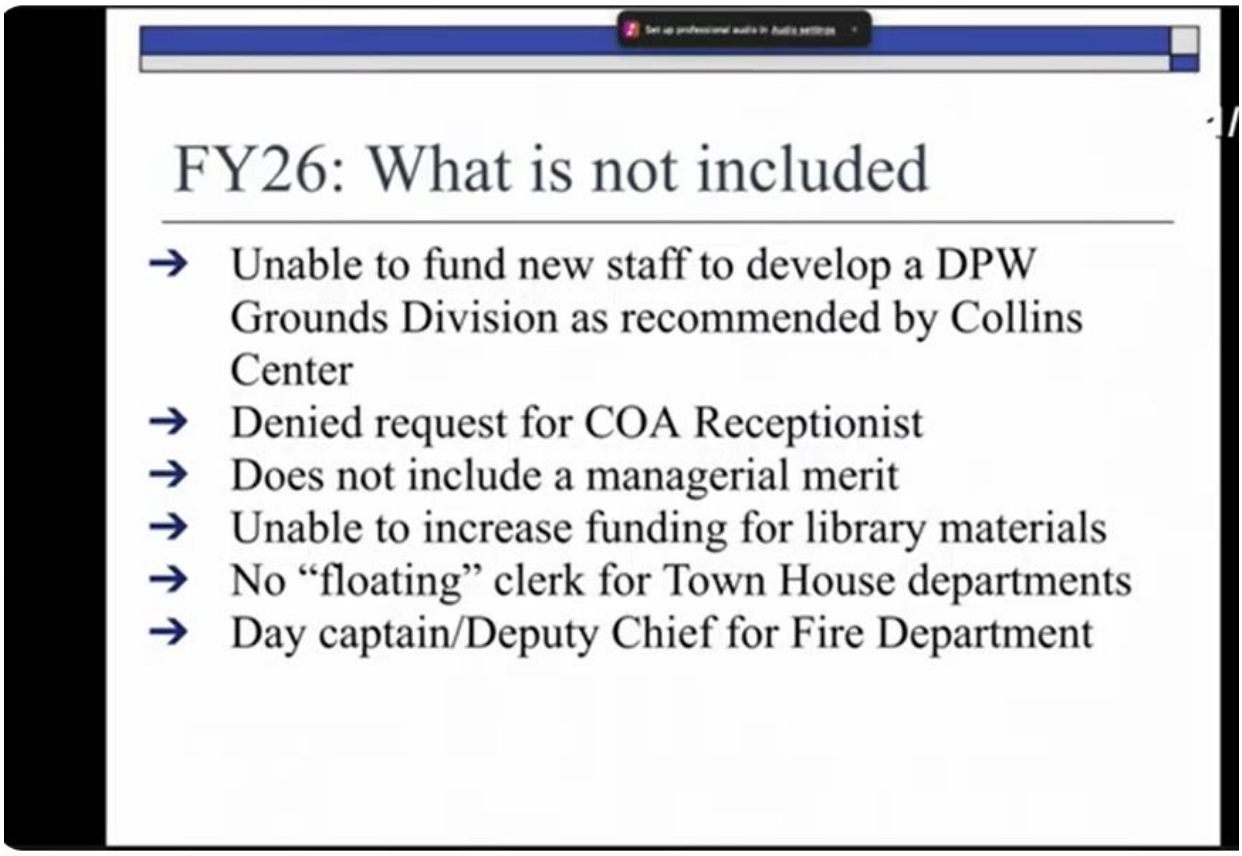
Warrant Committee Initial Budget Guidance: December 2024

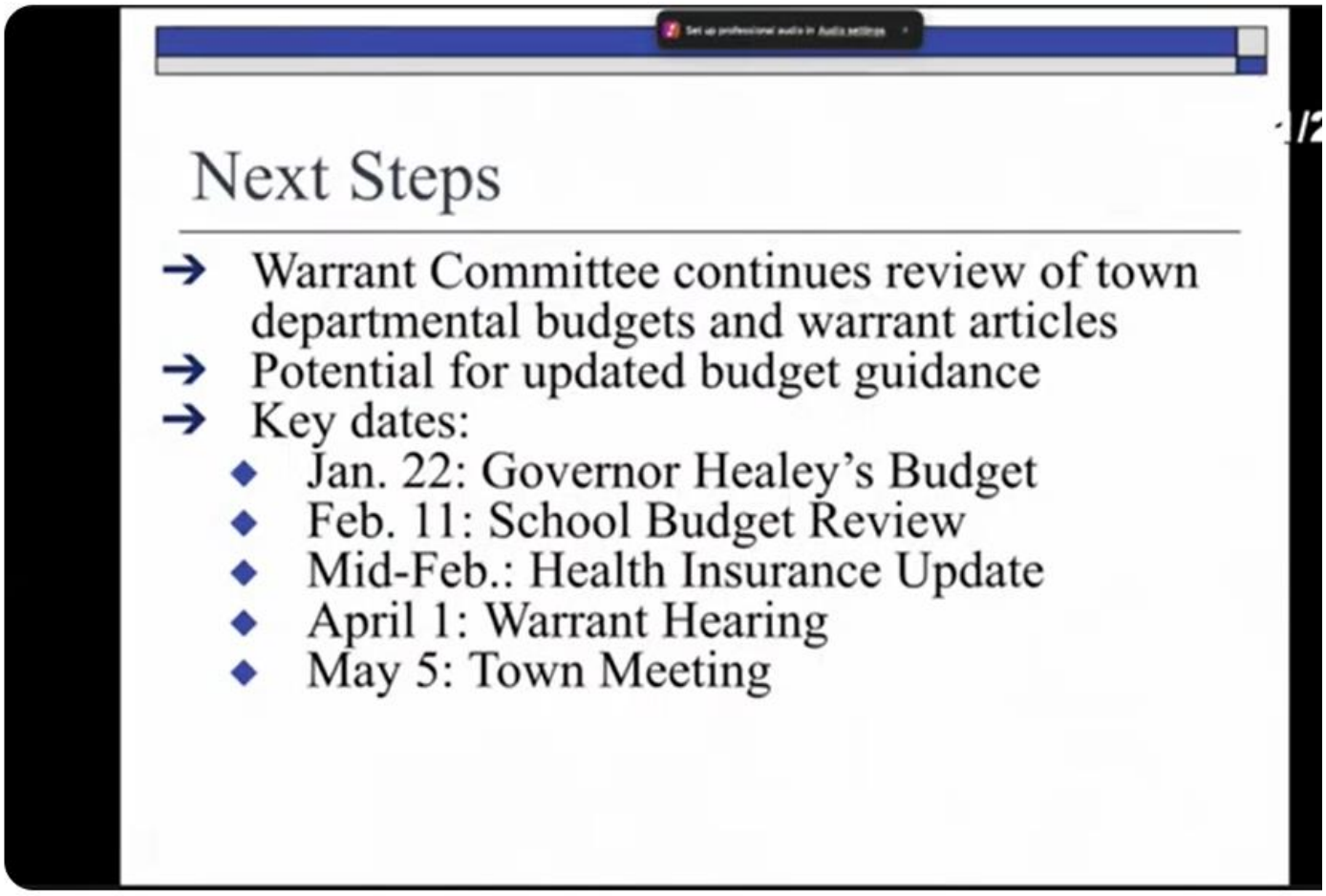
- After estimating all shared revenues and fixed costs, Warrant Committee distributed 75% of remaining revenues to the School Department and 25% to Town Departments:

FY26 Revenue Forecast for Operating Budgets	$73,944,205
FY26 Fixed Cost Forecast	($14,782,033)
FY25 Town and School Operating Budgets	($57,101,155)
Additional Revenue Available	$2,061,016

Department	$ Change	% Change
School	$1,545,762	3.6%
Town	$515,254	3.7%
Total	$2,061,016	3.6%


FY26 Initial Town Budget
Met with all Town departments through winter
Initial budget proposal includes:
Funding for proposed class and compensation plan
2% COLA increase for all non-union personnel
New Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement
Safer Grant Costs
New IMA for Veterans Agent
Full funding for Conservation Agent and P&R Assistant Director
First Year OpenGov implementation
Some funds set aside for grounds maintenance
Substantial increase in natural gas costs


FY26: What is not included
Unable to fund new staff to develop a DPW Grounds Division as recommended by Collins Center
Denied request for COA Receptionist
Does not include a managerial merit
Unable to increase funding for library materials
No "floating" clerk for Town House departments
Day captain/Deputy Chief for Fire Department


Next Steps
Warrant Committee continues review of town departmental budgets and warrant articles
Potential for updated budget guidance
Key dates:
Jan. 22: Governor Healey's Budget
Feb. 11: School Budget Review
Mid-Feb.: Health Insurance Update
April 1: Warrant Hearing
May 5: Town Meeting