



Town of Bridgewater **Budget & Finance Committee**

February 9, 2026

6:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor

and via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84339327555>

Meeting ID: 843 3932 7555

MEETING AGENDA

A Quorum of the Town Council May Be In Attendance

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Discussion**
 - a) Discussion of FY27 Budget
- D. Legislation Referred**
 - a) General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)
 - b) Order O-FY26-049: Acceptance of Donation – High Pond Residents Association
- E. Public Comment**
- F. Adjournment of Meeting**



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

WHEREAS, the HERO Act provides for increased property tax exemptions to service-connected disabled veterans to further recognize and support their service; and

WHEREAS, Clause 22J of the Act authorizes municipalities to double current exemption amounts for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater seeks to offer enhanced financial relief to those with service-connected disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22J – INCREASED EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Pursuant to Clause 22J, the Town of Bridgewater shall increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans by up to 50% of their current exemption amount, effective FY26.

- **Veterans with a 10%-90% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$400 to \$600.
- **Veterans with a 100% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
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SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions.
- (b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.
- (c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.
- (d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/20/25: First Reading - referred to Rules & Procedures, Budget & Finance and Finance Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules & Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
 Date Introduced: 2/3/2026
 First Reading: 2/3/2026
 Second Reading:
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-049: Acceptance of Donation – High Pond Residents Association

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53A, states as follows: “An officer ... of any city or town ... may accept grants or gifts of funds from ... from the commonwealth ... or an agency thereof, ... and may expend such funds for the purposes of such grant or gift ... with the approval of the city manager and city council...;” and

WHEREAS: The Town of Bridgewater has received a Donation from the High Pond Residents Association in memory of David Fraher, a veteran who recently passed away, for the Bridgewater Veterans for \$25.00 to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Chapter 44, §53A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Council votes to take the following action:

ORDERED that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept and to expend the grant in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Explanation:

The High Pond Resident Association has graciously donated \$25 in Memory of David Fraher to the Bridgewater Veterans Office to be used at the sole discretion of the Veteran's Agent to support the mission of the Veteran's office.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
 REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Attachments:

1. Veterans Donation from High Pond Estates Jan 2026
2. Letter from High Pond Residents Association



January 22, 2026

Town of Bridgewater Veteran's Council

Town Council (Attn: Deb Ward)
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 2025

Municipal Office Building

66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0908

Dear Mrs. Ward,

I am requesting Town Council acceptance of a donation of \$25.00 from the High Pond Residents Association in honor and memory of Mr. David Fraher, recently deceased WW2 veteran and Bridgewater resident. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the Veteran's Agent to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office.

Sincerely,

Gregory Martin
Bridgewater Veteran's Services Officer

January 15, 2026

Mr. Gregory Martin, Veterans Agent

Veterans Services

66 Central Square

Bridgewater MA 02324

Dear Mr. Martin:

Enclosed please find a donation (\$25.00) made in memory of David Fraher of Bridgewater MA who recently passed. David was a loyal Veteran, a devoted husband, and a dedicated member of our community who loved to play cards, shuffleboard, bocce, dance, took long walks daily, exercised, participated in senior trips etc. He lived a long life into his nineties and had a keen sense of humor and was loved by all those he met and touched. Dave enjoyed his living here at High Pond Estates.

Please accept this donation from the members of the High Pond Residents Association in his beautiful memory.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marian L. Sears". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marian L. Sears

Treasurer