

Town of Panton

Informational Town Meeting

March 2nd, 2026

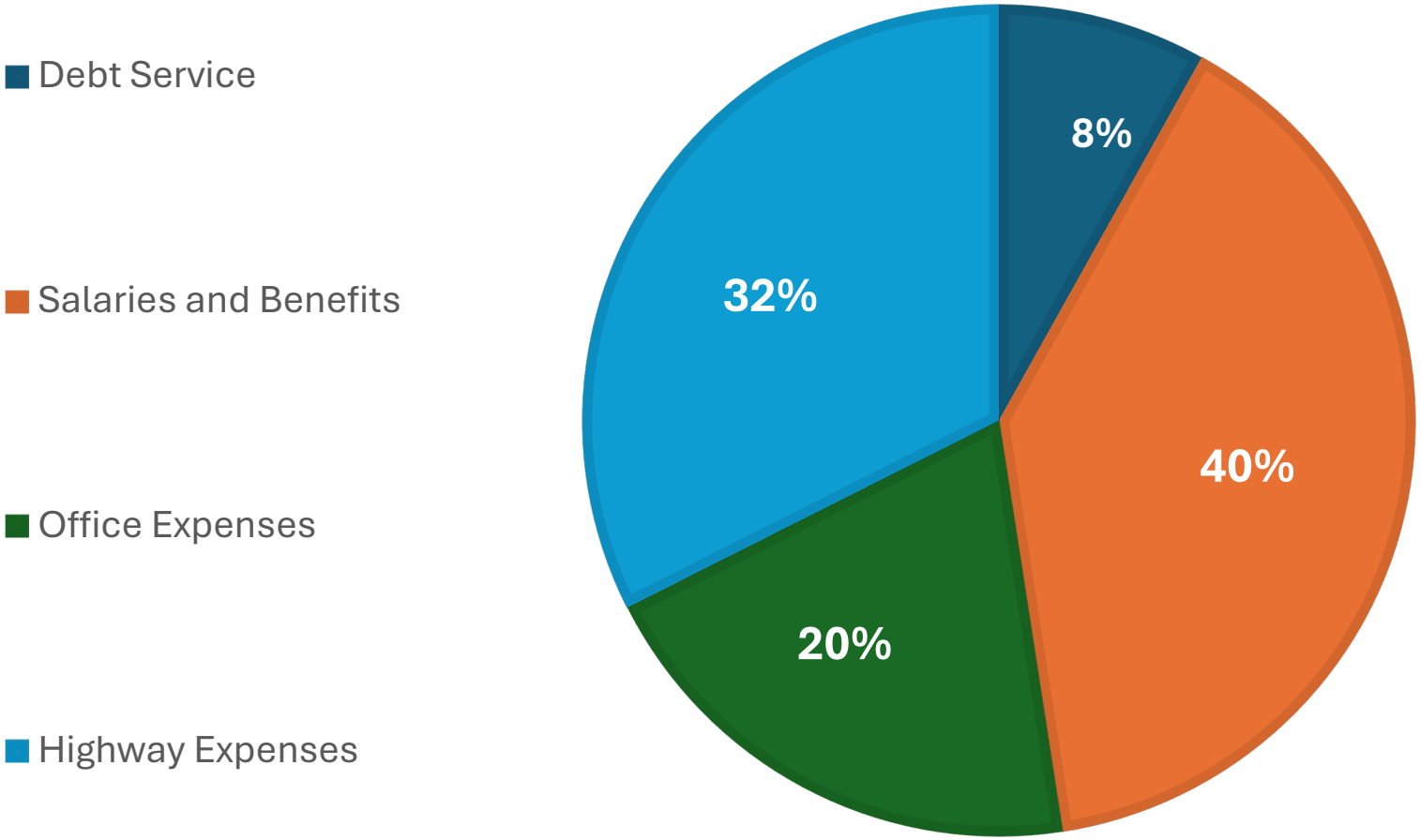
Selectboard Overview

- No Updates on the Viridis Solar Project
- VARS board change has allowed more Town Input on VARS Budget and services
- Grand List stabilized after reappraisal-benefited from Utility Valuation Changes
- Operating budget level with last year, total budget/amount to be raised by taxes level/slightly reduced from FY26
  - Will continue to work to reduce expenditures, and maintain services
- Thanks to All who work and volunteer for the Town, we are all better because of it

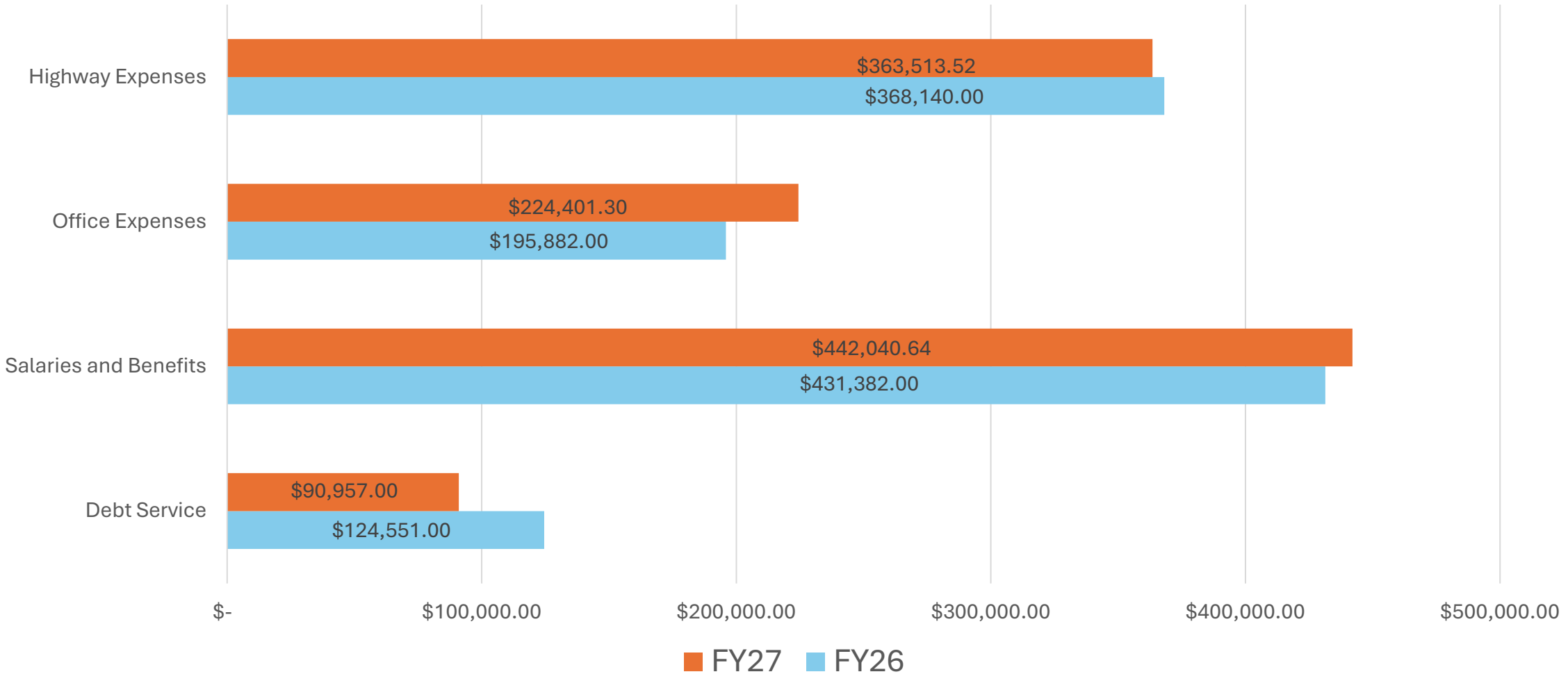
Clerk/Treasurer's Office

- 1 Year anniversary of Clerk/Treasurer
- Challenges
  - Town Records-auditing and long term storage
  - Grand List maintenance
  - Finding funding in increasingly limited grant world
- Opportunities
  - Variety of projects to continually improve Town
  - Improve services to residents while finding areas to reduce costs and keep budget and tax rate stable

FY27 BUDGET


Debt Service
Salaries and Benefits
Office Expenses
Highway Expenses
8%
40%
20%
32%

FY26 vs FY27


Highway Expenses
$363,513.52
$368,140.00
Office Expenses
$224,401.30
$195,882.00
Salaries and Benefits
$442,040.64
$431,382.00
Debt Service
$90,957.00
$124,551.00
$-
$100,000.00
$200,000.00
$300,000.00
$400,000.00
$500,000.00
FY27
FY26

Breakdown of Budget Totals-FY27

- Total Municipal Operating Expenditures-$ 1,120,912.46
- Total Community Service and Reserve Fund Requests-$24,701
- Overall Expenditures of the Town of Panton-$1,145,613.46
- Total Non-Tax Revenue-$172,724.81
- Total Municipal Operating Budget-$948,888.65
- Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes if all questions pass-$972,888.65
- Total Amount Raised by Taxes in FY26-$973,750

2026-2027 Tax Rate

- Exact tax rate can't be determined until after the Grand List is finalized
- Education Tax rate will depending on potential action taken by Legislature
- Proposed amount to be raised by taxes to fund municipal operations, Community Service Appropriations and Reserve Fund allocations is approximately $900 less than FY26.
- Estimates
  - Assuming no change to the Panton Grand List
  - Municipal Tax rate for the 26-27 Tax Year of $0.5351 per $100 of Assessed Value ($535 per $100k of assessed value)
  - Compared to 25-26 Tax Year Rate of $.05355 per $100 of Assessed Value ($536 per $100k of assessed value)

  - Homestead Education rate, as projected by ACNWSD
    - $1.2691 per $100 of Assessed Value ($1269 per $100k assessed value)
    - Compared to 25-26 Tax Year Rate of $1.1922 per $100 of Assessed Value ($1,192 per $100k assessed value)
    - If Legislature approves a buydown, rate could drop by up to $.07 per $100 of Assessed Value.

Highway Department

- Plan for replacement of 2019 Mack Tandem Dump Truck in 2027-2028
  - MELF Loan Application
  - Highway Equipment Reserve Fund
  - Bank Loan
- Paving Plan included in Town Report
  - Level funding paving
- Successful Culvert Project on Panton Rd, paid for via State Grant
- Nearly all July 2024 Storm repairs paid for via grant

On the horizon…

- Arnold Bay Town Beach improvements-grant funded
- Highway Department to continue work on improving infrastructure
  - Continued work on Road Asset Database and interactive map
- Town is recipient of Municipal Planning Grant
  - 2027 Update to Town Plan 90% covered by Grant, opportunities for local involvement
- Continuing excellent relationships with neighboring Towns and Cities. Selectboard continuing negotiations regarding boundary
- Selectboard’s continued vigilance with regard to Viridis Project, supporting the will of the Town

Question/Comments?

Ballot Questions

- The Selectboard established a Reserve Fund Planning Committee during 2025.
- Several meetings were held;
  - New Reserve and Special Revenue Fund Definitions and limitations
  - Movement of funds between some of the funds
- Common sense changes in order to take better advantage of reserve funds and provide better guidance to the Selectboard

Reserve Funds

- **Reappraisal Reserve Fund**
  - Current definition- “establish [ed] for townwide reappraisals.
  - Proposed definition- “The Reappraisal Reserve Fund shall be used to offset expenses related to Townwide Reappraisals”
  - This fund current has approximately $13,000
- **Digitization and IT Fund**
  - Current definition- “…for the purpose of digitizing Town Records and purchasing or repairing IT equipment.”
  - Proposed change- “The Digitization/IT Fund shall become the Digitization Fund, and shall be used to offset the cost of digitizing Town records, and when depleted, retired”
  - This fund currently has approximately $15,000

Reserve Funds cont.

- **Tire Reserve Fund**
  - Current definition “…for the purpose of purchasing or repairing tires for all heavy equipment.”
  - Proposed change- “The Tire Reserve Fund shall be retired, with all remaining funds re-allocated to the Highway Capital Equipment Fund”
  - Tires would become a budgeted line item in each years proposed budget.
  - This fund currently has approximately $21,000 ($8000 approved expenses in FY26 yet to be expended)

Reserve Funds cont.

- **Emergency Reserve Fund**
  - Current definition- "…7% of the general budget and budget appropriations, to cover unanticipated revenue shortfalls and to pay non-recurring and unanticipated general and highway and other appropriated fund expenses."
  - Proposed definition- "The Emergency Reserve Fund shall be used to offset expenses from non-recurring, unanticipated catastrophic events and issues outside the control of the Town. This fund is not intended to cover normal budgetary expenditures, overruns or unanticipated revenue shortfalls. The target shall be 15% of the Total Operating Budget to be raised by taxes (excluding appropriations to community organizations, special revenue and reserve funds) for the year the proposed budget is presented"
  - This fund currently has approximately $67,000.
  - If proposed definition is passed, would be gradually funded to reach the target %.

Reserve Funds cont.

- **Town Building Maintenance Fund**
  - Current definition- "…to be used for the purpose of maintaining any Town building."
  - Proposed definition- "The Town Building Maintenance Fund shall be re-named the Town Building Improvement Reserve Fund and shall be used for renovations, and upgrades to any Town Building including major repairs that extend the useful life of the building, such as roof replacements, HVAC system overhauls, or structural enhancements. This fund shall not be used for routine upkeep or minor repairs that are part of the regular/annual Town Building Maintenance budget"
  - Additional Ballot Question- "Shall the voters re-allocate $90,000 from the Town Building Maintenance Fund to the Highway Capital Equipment Fund"
  - This fund currently has approximately $120,000

Reserve Funds cont.

- **Highway Capital Equipment**
  - Currently no definition
  - Proposed definition – “The Highway Capital Equipment Reserve Fund shall be used to purchase, or offset the purchase, or perform major repairs to extend the useful life, of capital equipment. For the purposes of this fund, capital equipment shall mean items with a replacement cost exceeding $5,000 and a useful life of more than 3 years”
  - The fund currently has approximately $47,000

Reserve Funds cont.

- **Highway Capital Project Fund**
  - Current definition- "…said fund to be expended for major highway improvement projects."
  - Proposed Definition- "The Highway Capital Project Fund shall be used for the planning, design, construction, and major rehabilitation of long-term highway infrastructure, including road expansions, bridges, and safety enhancements. The purpose of this fund is for planned projects and does not include Paving or Re-paving."
  - Additional Ballot Question- "Shall the voters approve the transfer of all but $50,000 from the Highway Capital Project Fund to the Highway Capital Equipment Fund?"
  - The fund currently has approximately $113,000.

Special Revenue Funds

- **Restoration and Preservation Special Revenue Fund**
  - Created by state law, funded by $4 from every recording fee for the purpose of restoring and preserving town land records.
  - Under the direction of the Clerk, with Selectboard approval
  - This fund currently has approximately $12,000
- **Arnold Bay Special Revenue Fund**
  - Created to assist with improvements to Arnold Bay
  - Primarily funded by donations
  - Will be used to continue improvements, then retired.
  - Under the direction and control of the Selectboard
  - This fund currently has approximately $1000

Reserve Fund Ballot Questions

- If every Reserve Fund Ballot Question passed;
  - New definitions would go in place
  - Updated Fund Balances
    - Town Building Improvement Fund-Approximately $30k
    - Highway Project Fund-$50k
    - Tire Fund-$0 and retired
    - Highway Capital Equipment-Approximately $220,000
    - Emergency Fund-Same balance, plan to fund over 5+years