

Town and County of Nantucket Select Board • County Commissioners

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C. Elizabeth Gibson
Town & County Manager

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FEBRUARY 19, 2025 - 5:30 PM PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

YOU TUBE LINK FOR VIEWING ONLY:
https://youtube.com/live/eNdi1S_NTWk

ZOOM WEBINAR REGISTRATION LINK TO VIRTUALLY ATTEND MEETING:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_L1MLZ-66S6W0bAIXyZXhWA

- I. CALL TO ORDER***
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS***
 1. The County Commission Meeting is Being Audio and Video Recorded.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT****
- IV. NEW BUSINESS****
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND WARRANTS***
 1. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2025 at 5:30 PM.
 2. Approval of Payroll and Treasury Warrants for February, 2025.
- VI. OFFICIAL BUSINESS***
 1. Review and Adoption of FY 2026 County Budget.
- VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS/COMMENTS***
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT***

****Identified on Agenda Protocol Sheet.***



Town of Nantucket
Public Comment Policy
Adopted by Select Board
February 12, 2025

A. Purpose:

This Policy is adopted to facilitate orderly and efficient public comment periods at meetings of Town public bodies. It will protect the ability of the residents of Nantucket, and other persons, to provide feedback or information to pertinent public bodies regarding matters of public interest, Town initiatives, operations, services, and programs. To allow speakers a fair opportunity to address a public body, and to ensure the public body may accomplish its stated business in an efficient manner, these guidelines seek to ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law and meet other legal and constitutional obligations. Meetings of public bodies in the Town of Nantucket should be places to engage in orderly and peaceable discourse.

B. Authority:

Principles of free speech and freedom to petition the government, fundamental rights protected by the United States and Massachusetts Constitutions, prohibit public bodies from preventing all speech that may be upsetting or offensive. As such, this Policy establishes reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions sufficient to facilitate orderly and peaceable public comment periods at meetings of elected and appointed public bodies of the Town.

C. Legal Standards:

Meetings of public bodies are subject to the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. The Open Meeting Law empowers the chair of a public body to preside at and regulate the proceedings of meetings. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 20(g), no person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. Any person wishing to speak at an open meeting must first be recognized by the chair. All questions raised and all comments made by a duly-recognized speaker must be directed to the chair of the public body alone, not to individual members of the public body, staff, or the public. The chair is authorized to maintain order, and, although a rare occurrence, has authority, after appropriate

warnings are ignored, to take action up to and including removal of a person who is disrupting a meeting.

D. Application:

To secure the rights of the public to participate in public comment periods in the Town of Nantucket in a manner consistent with law, and, to thereby protect the Town and members of elected and appointed bodies from civil rights claims, this policy shall apply to all public bodies in the Town of Nantucket.

E. Procedures:

1. All agendas of multiple-member bodies in the Town of Nantucket shall include a period for Public Comment, subject to the limitations set forth in paragraph 3. Where to place Public Comment on the agenda is at the discretion of the chair. If public comment is invited during a separate agenda item, this Policy shall govern.
2. While statements made during a Public Comment period are not required to address an agenda item for that particular meeting, such comments must relate to a matter within the public body's jurisdiction. Public comments on matters outside the public body's jurisdiction may be ruled out of order by the chair. To avoid due process issues, a person seeking to provide comments on a matter appearing on the same agenda will be asked to defer until the specific agenda item is reached.
3. Each speaker will be allowed to speak once for up to 3 minutes. The chair will curtail verbal comments exceeding the allotted time.
4. A recognized speaker may not cede or assign their time to another unless such an assignment is required as reasonable accommodation for such person because of a disability. All speakers who may need an accommodation are strongly encouraged to contact Town staff or the chair of the public body at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. That said, to facilitate an efficient public comment period, groups that have multiple speakers with the same viewpoint may consider consolidating their comments or designating one person to speak on their individual behalf's.

F. Disruptive Conduct/Unprotected Speech:

Disruptive conduct and engaging in other unprotected speech, including but not limited to the following, may be grounds for the chair of a public body to curtail speech and take other action as appropriate:

1. Speaking without being recognized;
2. Continuing to speak after the chair has curtailed additional verbal comment;
3. Interrupting a recognized speaker;
4. Speaking about matters not within the jurisdiction of the public body;
5. Engaging in conversations while another person is speaking;

6. Making true threats of violence directed toward a particular individual; and
7. Making comments inciting imminent lawlessness.

G. Public Body Response:

1. A public comment period is a listening session, and the public body is there to listen. The public body, in fact, should not respond to matters raised at the meeting unless it is
2. Matters raised during public comment periods are not required to, and are unlikely to, be addressed or resolved by the public body at the same meeting. Individual members of the appropriately deferred to a noticed-agenda item due to Open Meeting Law considerations.
3. At the sole discretion of the chair of the public body, matters raised during public comment may or may not appear on a future agenda or be referred to the Town Administrator for appropriate action, if any.
4. A public body cannot demand that persons attending meetings or participating in public comment be civil to one another. Nevertheless, the Town, or the members of the public, and those that appear before them are encouraged to make any/or all residents of the Town feel welcome, including listening to them speak, and acknowledging that speakers may have a different viewpoints.

Disclaimer: A Public Comment period is not a time for debate or response to comments by the public body. Comments made during the Public Comment period do not reflect the views or the positions of the public body. Because of constitutional free speech principles, the public body does not have the authority to prevent all speech that may be upsetting and/or offensive during the public portion of the meeting.

H. Enforcement:

Concerns about Public Comment Periods may be brought to the attention of the Town Manager, who will discuss the concerns with the chair of the public body, and take appropriate action. Failure to comply with this Policy may be deemed a violation of the Town's Code of Conduct, and grounds for the removal of an appointed official.

FY 2026 Nantucket County Budget

Nantucket County Commissioners
February 19, 2025

County Agencies

- County Administration
- Registry of Deeds
 - Administration
 - Deeds Excise

County Revenue Sources

- Town Assessment
- Deeds Excise Revenue
- Recording Fees
- Corrections Deeds Excise (Public Safety Facility)
- Registry of Deeds Excise Fund Balance
- County Fund Balance

FY 2026 Projected Revenue

- Town Assessment: \$240,605
- Deeds Excise Receipts: \$584,375
 - County Admin: \$350,625
 - Registry of Deeds: \$233,750
- Recording Fees: \$141,375
- Corrections Deeds Excise: \$250,000
- *County Fund Balance: \$130,408*
- TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE: \$1,346,763

County Funding Requirement (also known as “maintenance of effort”)

- By law, the County must provide a certain amount of NON-deeds excise revenue to the Registry
- The amount increases by 2½% per year
- FY 26 county funding requirement:
 - Registry: *\$240,605*

FY 2026 Projected Expenses

- County Administration - \$474,506
 - 2 employees (funded through the County) Real Estate Specialist II and Events Coordinator
 - Other expenses consist of legal and professional services
- Registry of Deeds - \$622,257
 - 3 full-time employees
 - Administrative expenses
 - Deeds Excise/special projects
- Public Safety Facility Debt Service - \$250,000
- TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES: \$1,346,763

Comparison with FY 2026 Budget

FY 2025

- *County Admin*
 - **\$258,984**
- *Registry of Deeds*
 - *Payroll = \$491,010*
 - *Operating Expenses = \$57,237*
 - **Total = \$548,247**
 - *Deeds Excise Payroll = \$0*
 - *Deeds Excise Expenses = \$45,000*
 - **Deeds Excise Total = \$45,000**

TOTAL REGISTRY OF DEEDS BUDGET = \$593,247

- *Public Safety Facility Debt Service*
 - *250,000*
- **TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET = \$1,102,231**

FY 2026

- *County Admin*
 - **\$474.406**
- *Registry of Deeds*
 - *Payroll = \$510.550*
 - *Operating Expenses = \$60.707*
 - **Total = \$571.257**
 - *Deeds Excise Payroll = \$0*
 - *Deeds Excise Expenses = \$51.000*
 - **Deeds Excise Total = \$51.000**

TOTAL REGISTRY OF DEEDS BUDGET = \$622.257

- *Public Safety Facility Debt Service*
 - *250,000*
- **TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET = \$1,346.762**