



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

Alison S. Manugian, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Clerk*
John F. Reilly, *Member*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025
AGENDA
SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR
GROTON TOWN HALL

- 6:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public
- 6:01 P.M. Public Comment Period
- I. 6:05 P.M. Town Manager's Report
1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointments of Bill Walsh as a Senior Water Technician for the Groton Water Department and Luke Reilly as an Intern with the Groton Department of Public Works
 2. Review Motions for Town Meeting – Review Proposed Article Assignments
 3. Update on the FY 2026 Budget
 4. Update on Select Board's Meeting Schedule through the 2025 Spring Town Meeting
- II. 6:10 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action
1. Consider Approving Annual Fuel Storage Permits
- III. 6:15 P.M. Public Hearing – Road Layout Hearing – Consider Accepting the Layout of Monarch Path

OTHER BUSINESS

ON-GOING ISSUES – Review and Informational Purposes – Brief Comments - Items May or May Not Be Discussed

- A. PFAS Issue
- B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility
- C. PILOTs

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

IV. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of April 7, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Notes may be taken at any time during the meeting. The listing of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting is not intended as a guarantee of the topics that will be discussed. Not all topics listed may in fact be discussed, and other topics not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



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Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*

Date: *April 14, 2025*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issue List, there is one item scheduled on Monday's Agenda. We have scheduled a Public Hearing for the Select Board to consider adopting the layout of Monarch Path as a Public Way in advance of a road acceptance Article on the 2025 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. The Planning Board will be reviewing the road and preparing a recommendation for the Select Board at their meeting of April 10th. I will update the Board on the Planning Board's decision at Monday's meeting.

1. I would respectfully request that the Select Board consider ratifying my appointments of Bill Walsh as a Senior Water Technician for the Groton Water Department and Luke Reilly as an Intern with the Groton Department of Public Works
2. Enclosed with this Report are the Final Motions for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting, along with the proposed Article Assignments. I would like to take a few minutes at Monday's meeting to review these with the Board.
3. Please note that we will hold a Community Budget Forum at the Groton Dunstable Regional School District High School on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. At the forum, Dunstable Town Administrator Jason Silva, School Superintendent Geoff Bruno and I will be presenting the respective budgets and answering questions. Enclosed with this Report is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation I will be making at the Forum. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
4. Please see the update to the Select Board's Schedule through the 2025 Spring Town Meeting:

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 -	-Forum on Fire Department Increase in Personnel (to be held at the Groton Center beginning at 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 -	-Community Budget Forum to be held at the GDRSD High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 21, 2025 -	No Meeting – Patriot's Day Holiday
Saturday, April 26, 2025 -	Spring Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Enclosed for your review and approval is a list of the Annual Fuel Storage Permits that need to be issued by the Select Board.

MWH/rjb
enclosures

**SPRING TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS
APRIL 26, 2025**

CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 4

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 1: Hear Reports

MOTION: I move that the Town’s 2024 Annual Report be accepted and placed in the permanent records of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 2: Elected Officials’ Compensation

MOTION: I move that the following compensation be set for the following elected officials for the ensuing year: Town Moderator - \$1,000.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

MOTION: I move that the Town of Groton Wage and Classification Schedule be amended and adopted for Fiscal Year 2026 as printed in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 4: Appropriate Funding for OPEB Trust

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 5: Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operating Budget

CONSENT MOTION #2 – Motions 1-13

Mover: Bud Robertson

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 13, under Article 5, as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific budget motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 1: General Government

MOTION: I move that Two Million Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$2,565,835) be hereby appropriated for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$21,412 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and the sum of \$2,544,423 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Land Use Departments

MOTION: I move that Five Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars (\$549,503) be hereby appropriated for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$7,336 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and the sum of \$542,167 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Protection Persons & Property

MOTION: I move that Four Million Eight Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$4,864,896) be appropriated for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$861 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$350,000 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$4,514,035 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: SCHOOLS

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the sum of Nine Hundred Eight Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$908,490) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION: I move that Twenty Eight Million One Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$28,166,980) be hereby appropriated for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1414 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$278,643 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$27,888,337 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: Department of Public Works

MOTION: I move that Two Million Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$2,475,216) be hereby appropriated for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, \$6,879 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), and \$2,468,337 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: Library and Citizens Services

MOTION: I move that the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Nine Dollars (\$2,439,509) be hereby appropriated for Library and Citizens' Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1713 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$14,118 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$130,000 be transferred from Local Access Cable Receipts Reserved, and \$2,295,391 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: Debt Service

MOTION: I move that Five Million Five Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Three Dollars (\$5,555,403) be hereby appropriated for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2005B as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$43,923 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), the sum of \$100,614 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$5,410,866 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: Employee Benefits

MOTION A: I move that Four Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Six Dollars (\$4,722,406) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for Employee Benefits as represented by Line Items 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: Water Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Two Million Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$2,050,485) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Water Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town of the Groton Water Enterprise Fund as represented in the Water Enterprise Budget as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$1,817,371 be appropriated from Water Rates and Fees, the sum of \$84,576 be hereby transferred from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$148,538 in the Town's General Fund Operating Budget be raised and appropriated to be allocated to the Water Enterprise for FY 2026.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 10: Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Nine Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$976,475) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town for the Groton Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$858,764 be appropriated from Sewer Rates and Fees, the sum of \$85,793 be hereby transferred from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$31,918 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2026.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 11: Four Corners Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Three Hundred Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$310,812) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$286,142 be appropriated from Four Corners Sewer Rates and Fees, the sum of \$21,150 be hereby transferred from Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency, and the sum of \$3,520 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2026.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 12: Stormwater Utility Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$249,890) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Town Manager to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursements to the Town of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$219,864 be hereby transferred from Stormwater Utility Rates and Fees, and the sum of \$30,026 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2026.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 13: Electric Light

MOTION: I move that the income from sales of electricity to private customers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings, together with receipts from jobbing accounts, be appropriated for the Groton Electric Light Department, the whole to be expended by the Manager of the Groton Electric Light Department under the direction and control of the Groton Board of Electric Light Commissioners, for expenses of the Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the Mass. General Laws, and that, if said sum and said income shall exceed said expense for said year, such excess shall be transferred to the construction fund of said plant and appropriated and used for such additions thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Board of Electric Light Commissioners.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 14: I move that, in addition to the amount appropriated under lines 1410 through 1414 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, that the Town vote to raise from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy an additional \$673,250 to be added to Line Item 1410 "Operating Expenses", contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 15: I move that, in addition to the amount appropriated under Line 1300 through 1372 for Protections of Persons and Property, that the Town vote to raise from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy an additional \$480,904 to add \$446,704 to Line Item 1311 "Fire Department Wages" and \$34,200 to Line Item 1312 "Fire Department Expenses", contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 16: I move that, in addition to the amount appropriated under lines 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 Line 3010, for Employee Benefits, that the Town vote to raise from the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy an additional \$150,000 to be added to Line Item 3010 “Health Insurance/Employee Expenses”, contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move that Nine Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$921,435) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2025 and thereafter, for the capital items identified as Item 1 through Item 18 as set forth under Article 6 in the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$80,000 be transferred from the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved, and the sum of \$841,435 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Pick-Up Truck	\$ 75,000	Highway
Excavator	\$200,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$ 40,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Exterior Repairs	\$ 50,000	Town Facilities
Fork Lift/Mini Loader	\$125,000	Transfer Station
Repaint Library Interior	\$ 50,000	Library
Property Improvements	\$ 25,000	Park Department
Police Cruiser/Motorcycle	\$ 91,010	Police Department
Command Vehicle	\$ 73,718	Police Department
Parking Lights/Building Lighting	\$ 12,000	Police Department
Electronic Control Device – “Tasers”	\$ 10,500	Police Department
Portable Light Tower	\$ 14,000	Police Department
Search and Rescue Drone	\$ 14,000	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 25,553	Country Club
Ventrac Attachments	\$ 10,918	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Truckster XD	\$ 14,736	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Greens Mower	\$ 10,000	Country Club
PFAS Free Structural FF Gear	\$ 80,000	Fire and EMS
Total	\$921,435	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 7: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

Mover: Bruce Easom

MOTION: I move that the following sums be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and allocated to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 29,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$113,241
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$113,241
Community Housing Reserve:	\$113,241
Unallocated Reserve:	\$763,687

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 8: CPA Funding Recommendations

Mover:

CONSENT MOTION #3 - CPA Funding Recommendations

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 11, under Article 8, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 1: West Groton Rail Trail - \$70,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Sixty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$66,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$70,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-01 "West Groton Rail Trail", as described in Article 8.A of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Conservation Fund – FY 2026 - \$200,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$200,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-02 “Conservation Fund – FY 2026”, as described in Article 8.B of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: FY 2026 Housing Funds Request - \$200,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-03 “FY 2026 Housing Funds Request”, as described in Article 8.C of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements - \$100,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-05 “Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements”, as described in Article 8.D of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: Housing Coordinator – FY 2026 - \$63,402

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Sixty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Two Dollars (\$63,402) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-06 “Housing Coordinator – FY 2026”, as described in Article 8.E of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: Bancroft Castle Preservation - \$153,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$153,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-09 “Bancroft Castle Preservation”, as described in Article 8.F of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: Prescott Community Center - \$70,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-10 “Prescott Community Center”, as described in Article 8.G of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: Cow Pond Baseball Improvements - \$84,330

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Eighty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$84,330) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-11 “Cow Pond Baseball Improvements”, as described in Article 8.H of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: Town Field Improvements - \$352,963

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Three Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$352,963) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-14 “Town Field Improvements”, as described in Article 8.I of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 10: Curatorial Storage - \$62,675

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Sixty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$62,675) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-15 “Curatorial Storage”, as described in Article 8.J of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 11: Williams Barn Restoration - \$158,972

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$158,972) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2026-18 “Williams Barn Restoration”, as described in Article 8.K of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 9: Proposed Amendments to the Groton Charter

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act to amend the Town Charter as set forth under Appendix C of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 10: Amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings”

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move to amend Chapter 81 “Town Meetings” of the General Bylaws of the Town by deleting Section 81-4(A) in its entirety and replacing said section with a new Section 81-4(A) as set forth under Article 10 of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 11: Disposition of Town Owned Land

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move to authorize the Select Board to dispose of by sale, or lease for a period not to exceed 99 years, that certain property or portions thereof located off Hoyts Wharf Road consisting of portions of Assessors Parcels 249-51 and 249-57, containing approximately 8.3 acres, and shown as “Lot 2” and “Parcel A” on a plan entitled “MESA Site Plan” by Dillis & Roy, dated February 12, 2025, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk’s office, for such minimum consideration and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable, to provide affordable housing.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 12: Amend Chapter 125 “Demolition Delay”

Mover: Joshua Vollmar

MOTION: I move to amend Chapter 125 “Demolition Delay” of the General Bylaws of the Town by deleting Chapter 125 in its entirety and replacing it with a new Chapter 125 “Demolition Delay” as set forth under Article 12 of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 13: Adopt Resolution

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move to adopt the following resolution in support of reducing Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions: “Groton affirms its support for the goal established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050. Groton commits to evaluate and implement strategies to reduce emissions in municipal activities with a goal of eliminating all onsite burning of fossil fuels in municipal buildings and vehicles by 2050 and support residents and businesses in reducing emissions.”

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 14: Amend Floodplain Overlay District

Mover:

MOTION: I move to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton regarding the Floodplain District Regulations as set forth under Article 14 of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 15: Endorse Comprehensive Master Plan

Mover:

MOTION: I move to endorse the “Groton Master Plan” dated February, 2025, filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on February 28, 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 16: MBTA Communities Multi-Family Overlay District

Mover:

MOTION: I move to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton by adopting the Multi Family Development Overlay District as set forth under Article 16 of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 17: Accessory Dwelling Units

Mover:

MOTION: I move to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Groton regarding Accessory Dwelling Units as set forth under Article 17 of the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 18: Accept Monarch Path as a Town Way

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move to accept Monarch Path as a public way and to authorize the Select Board to acquire the necessary real estate interests for such way.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

CONSENT MOTION #4 – Articles 19 through 28

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles as set forth in the motions in the Town Meeting Information Handout, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 19: Funding for the Destination Groton Committee

MOTION: I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 20: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) be transferred from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2025 Water Department Operating Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 21: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) be transferred from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2025 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 22: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) be transferred from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2025 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 23: Prior Year Bills

MOTION: I move that Article 24 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 24: Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit

MOTION: I move that One Hundred Seventy Thousand (\$170,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2025 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting.

Article 25: Debt Service for Middle School Track

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of Two Hundred Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$202,467) from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund the debt service for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 26: Transfer Bond Proceeds

MOTION: I move to transfer the excess bond proceeds of \$24,530.27 from the \$1,131,041 borrowing authorized under Article 8 of the April 29, 2019 Spring Town Meeting for the Library Roof, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 20, to the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project as authorized under Article 8 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 27: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

MOTION: I move, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to set the FY 2026 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2026 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 28: Repair Sprinkler System at Town Hall

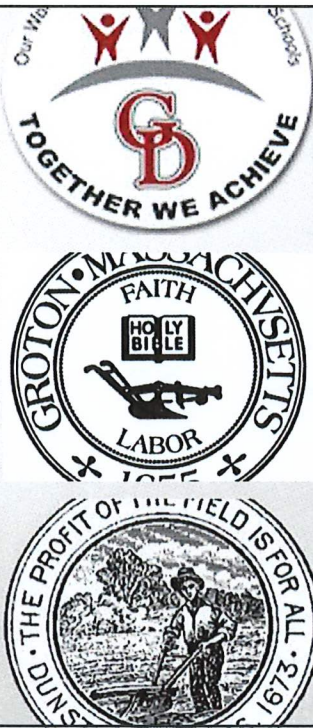
MOTION: I move that One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2025 and thereafter, to pay for repairs to the Sprinkler System at Town Hall.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

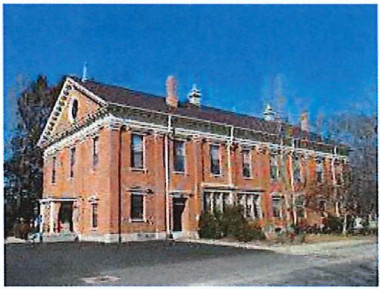
**COMMUNITY
BUDGET FORUM**

Town of Groton
Town of Dunstable
Groton Dunstable
Regional School District

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025
Groton Dunstable Regional High School

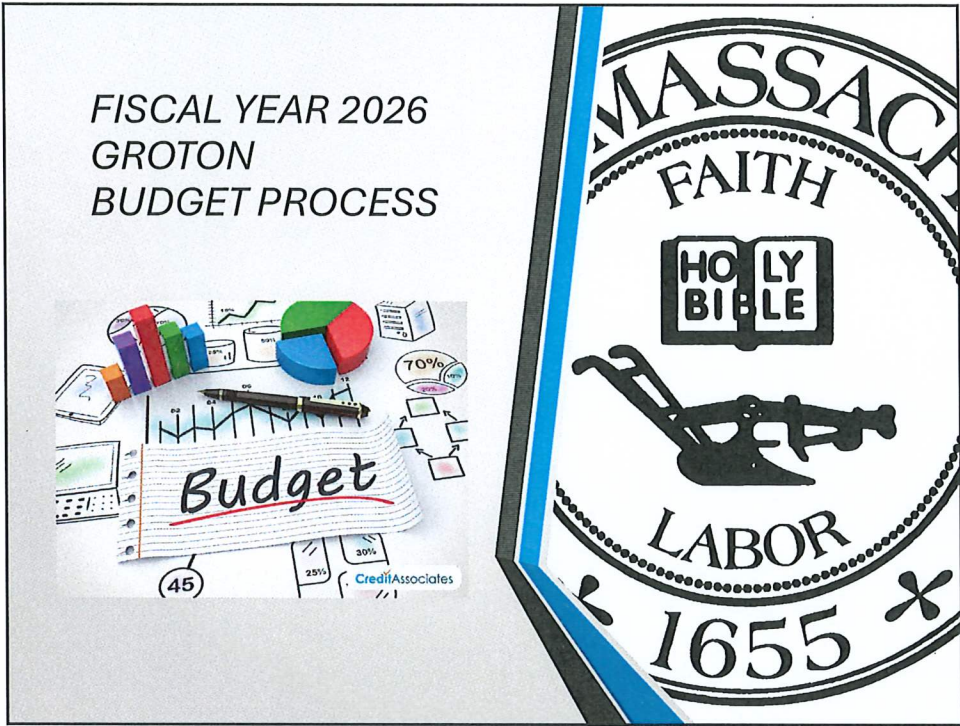


1



**TOWN OF
GROTON
FISCAL YEAR
2026
PROPOSED
BUDGET**

2



3

PROCESS

The proposed Budget reflects Groton's on-going commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility and the well-being of Groton.

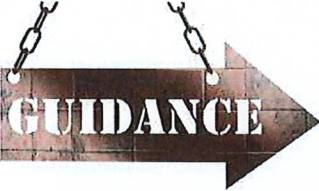
The defeat of the Proposition 2½ Override last year had a significant impact on the Groton Dunstable Regional School District which limited funding for essential programs, thereby impacting their ability to continue to provide the quality education Groton's and Dunstable's children deserve.

The Town needed to be more strategic and innovative in its approach to budgeting to ensure that it prioritized the needs of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District while remaining within Groton's financial constraints.

The Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Manager remain proud of the continued collaboration with the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Town of Dunstable.

4

PROCESS

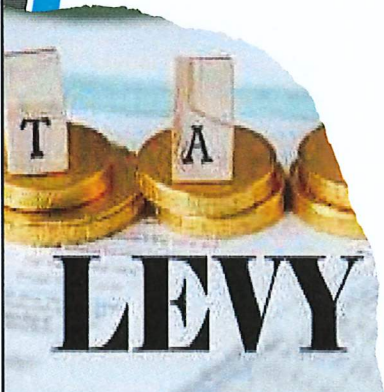


- The Town Manager shall limit Municipal Spending in Fiscal Year 2026 to a total increase of \$475,000. Based on an increase in Health Insurance (14.8%), the Finance Committee revised this Guidance to \$518,204.
- Any remaining new revenues in Fiscal Year 2026 shall be used to cover the Proposed FY 2026 Operating Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. \$1,365,564 is available in the Balanced Budget for the School District.

5

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

FY 2026 TOTAL TAX LEVY CALCULATION




• FY 2026 LEVY LIMIT	\$	39,317,497
• DEBT EXCLUSION – TOWN	\$	5,148,723
• FY 2026 DEBT ADJUSTMENT	\$	(1,062)
• DEBT EXCLUSION – GDRSD	\$	110,389
• SUB-TOTAL – EXCLUSIONS	\$	<u>5,258,050</u>
• TOTAL TAX LEVY	\$	44,575,547

6

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

OTHER ESTIMATED REVENUES

• State Aid	\$1,192,703
• Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$1,860,000
• General Revenues	\$3,708,327
• Free Cash	\$ 603,855
• Other Available Funds	<u>\$ 480,000</u>
TOTAL	\$7,844,885



7

New Revenues

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Budgeted</u> <u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2026</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Property Tax*	\$ 38,052,807	\$ 39,317,497	\$ 1,264,690	3.32%
State Aid	\$ 1,152,082	\$ 1,192,703	\$ 40,621	3.53%
Local Receipts - Excluding Country Club	\$ 4,902,133	\$ 4,693,327	\$ (208,806)	-4.26%
Country Club Revenue	\$ 750,000	\$ 875,000	\$ 125,000	16.67%
Other Available Funds	\$ 350,000	\$ 480,000	\$ 130,000	37.14%
TOTAL	\$ 45,207,022	\$ 46,558,527	\$ 1,351,505	2.99%

*Includes 2½ percent increase allowed by law and estimated \$15 million in new growth.

8



Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Municipal Budget

General Government	\$ 2,565,835
Land Use	\$ 549,503
Protection of Persons	\$ 4,864,896
DPW	\$ 2,475,216
Library Citizen Services	\$ 2,439,509
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,922,406
Total	\$17,817,365

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUDGET

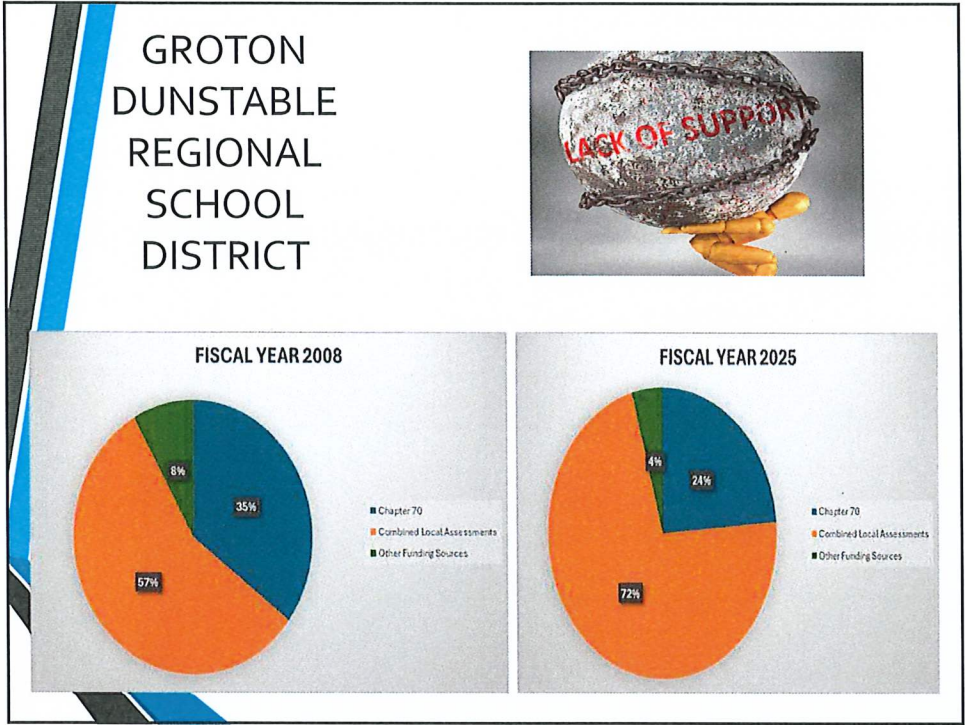
9



GDRSD BUDGET

- The lack of support from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts continues to adversely impact the Groton Dunstable Regional School District.
- Since 2008, the Assessments to both Groton and Dunstable have increased disproportionately to the funding received from the Commonwealth in terms of Chapter 70 Aid. The taxpayers of Groton and Dunstable are now paying a larger percentage of the overall Budget as shown on the following Chart:


10



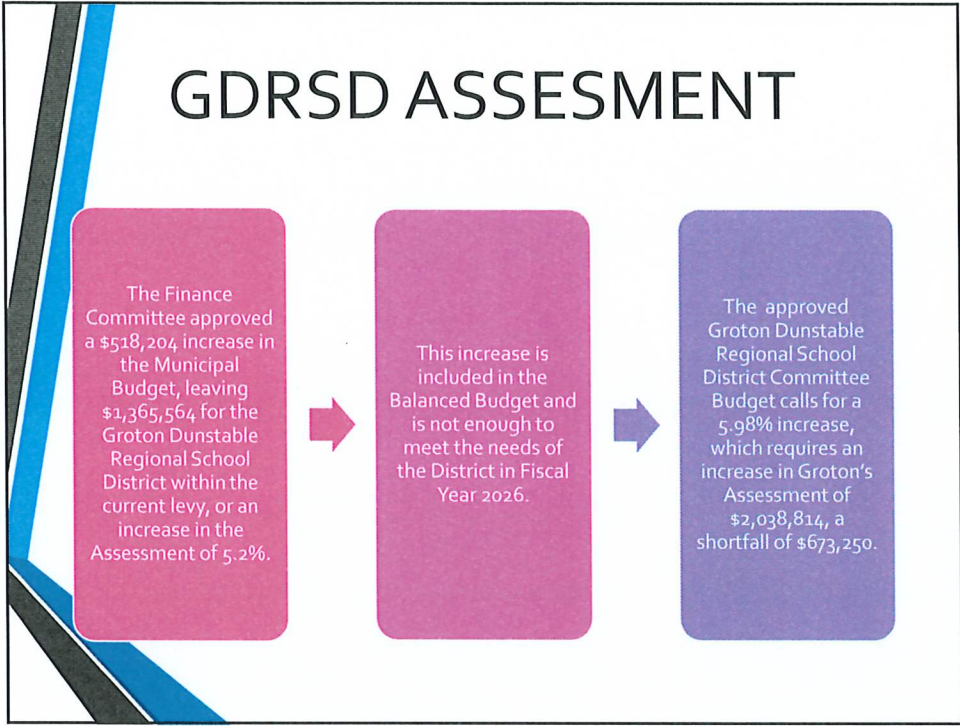
11

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- The FY 25 Budget increased by only 0.91%
- The District has eliminated 30 positions over the last two Fiscal Years
- State Aid accounts for only 25.8% of the District's Total Revenues
- Groton Taxpayers contribute 55.3% of the total revenues, demonstrating the important role Groton plays in supporting the education mission of the District



12



13

Proposed Override of Proposition 2½ to cover the Assessment from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District

- The Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Manager are in unanimous support of an Override of Proposition 2½ in Fiscal Year 2026 for the School District in the amount of \$673,250.
- This will allow the District to continue to provide a quality education for the children of Groton and provide the District another year to complete its various studies including changes in the Regional Agreement and Operational Audit to further streamline and improve its overall operation.
- A \$673,250 override would add \$0.25 to the anticipated FY 2026 Tax Rate and cost the average taxpayer (a home valued at \$707,877) an additional \$177.

14



Fire Department

- The balanced Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget includes funding for two (2) additional Firefighter/EMTs that were added at the 2024 Fall Town Meeting, bringing the total number of full-time Firefighter/EMTs to ten (10), plus the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.
- The Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Manager are proposing that the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget be increased by \$630,904 to add an additional six (6) Firefighter/EMTs to the Groton Fire Department to bring the total number of full-time Firefighter/EMTs to sixteen (16) allowing for four (4) Firefighter/EMTs to be on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.


15



History of Need

- This request is not new, as additional staffing has been requested in the Fire Department as early as 2020. From Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2025, former Fire Chief Steele McCurdy and current Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks have provided data to justify the need for additional staffing in the Groton Fire Department.
- It should be made clear that the request for additional staffing has been discussed and requested long before the closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center.
- The call volume alone since 2021 has required a consideration of additional staffing. The Fire Department responded to 1,705 calls in 2024 compared to 1,465 calls just one year prior. Of the 1,705 requests, 53% were classified as EMS which is a 30% increase from 2023.

16



Overlapping Calls

From January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, out of 1423 total incidents, there were 163 overlapping incidents, or 11% of the total calls.

From January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, out of 1470 total incidents, there were 207 overlapping calls, or 14% of the total calls.

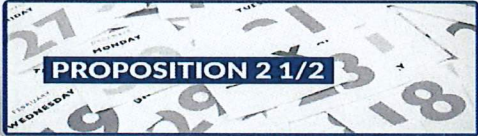
From January 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024 (closure of Nashoba Valley Medical Center), out of 1085 total incidents, there were 140 overlapping calls, or 13% of the total calls.

From September 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, out of 635 total incidents, there were 112 overlapping calls, or 18% of the total calls. This represents a 62% increase of the calls over the first 8 months of 2024.

17


Proposed Override of Proposition 2½ to add six Firefighter/EMTs to the Groton Fire Department

- The Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Manager are recommending an Override of Proposition 2½ in Fiscal Year 2026 to add six (6) Firefighter/EMTs to the Groton Fire Department in the amount of \$780,904 (FY 26 impact of \$630,904).
- This will allow for four (4) Firefighter/EMTs to be on duty 24 hours per day.
- The FY 26 increase of \$630,904 would add \$0.22 to the anticipated FY 2026 Tax Rate and cost the average taxpayer (a home valued at \$707,877) an additional \$156.



18

FY 2026 Proposed Balanced Budget



Category	FY 2025	FY 2026	Dollar Difference	Percentage Change
General Government	\$ 2,574,970	\$ 2,565,835	\$ (9,135)	-0.35%
Land Use	\$ 520,749	\$ 549,503	\$ 28,754	5.52%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 4,683,315	\$ 4,864,896	\$ 181,582	3.88%
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,389,516	\$ 2,475,216	\$ 85,700	3.59%
Library and Citizen Services	\$ 2,288,957	\$ 2,439,509	\$ 150,552	6.58%
Employee Benefits	\$ 5,199,336	\$ 4,922,406	\$ (276,930)	-5.33%
Sub-Total	\$ 17,656,843	\$ 17,817,366	\$ 160,524	0.91%
Debt Service - Excluded	\$ 4,393,463	\$ 5,148,723	\$ 755,260	17.19%
Debt Service - In Levy Only	\$ 538,989	\$ 406,680	\$ (132,309)	-24.55%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$ 22,589,295	\$ 23,372,769	\$ 783,475	3.47%
Nashoba Tech	\$ 966,719	\$ 908,490	\$ (58,229)	-6.02%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$ 26,412,384	\$ 27,777,948	\$ 1,365,564	5.17%
Groton Operating Grant	\$ 619,000	\$ -	\$ (619,000)	-100.00%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$ 384,622	\$ 110,389	\$ (274,233)	-71.30%
Groton-Dunstable In-Levy Debt	\$ 60,534	\$ -	\$ (60,534)	-100.00%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$ 295,767	\$ 278,643	\$ (17,124)	-5.79%
Sub-Total - Education	\$ 28,739,026	\$ 29,075,470	\$ 336,444	1.17%
Grand Total - Town Budget	\$ 51,328,321	\$ 52,448,239	\$ 1,119,919	2.18%

19

Balanced Budget Tax Impact

	Actual FY 2025	Proposed FY 2026	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 38,052,807	\$ 39,317,497	\$ 1,264,690	3.32%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 13.55	\$ 13.92	\$ 0.37	2.73%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,592	\$ 9,854	\$ 262	2.73%
Excluded Debt	\$ 4,776,976	\$ 5,258,050	\$ 481,074	10.07%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.86	\$ 0.16	9.41%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 1,203	\$ 1,317	\$ 113	9.41%
Final Levy Used	\$ 42,829,783	\$ 44,575,547	\$ 1,745,764	4.08%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.78	\$ 0.53	3.48%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 10,795	\$ 11,170	\$ 375	3.48%

20

Override Budget Tax Impact

	Actual FY 2025	Proposed FY 2026	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Lewy Capacity Used	\$ 38,052,807	\$ 39,317,497	\$ 1,264,690	3.32%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 13.55	\$ 13.92	\$ 0.37	2.73%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,592	\$ 9,854	\$ 262	2.73%
Excluded Debt	\$ 4,776,976	\$ 5,258,050	\$ 481,074	10.07%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.86	\$ 0.16	9.41%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 1,203	\$ 1,317	\$ 113	9.41%
School District Override	\$ -	\$ 673,250	\$ 673,250	1.77%
Tax Rate on School District Override	\$ -	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	1.85%
Average Tax Bill	\$ -	\$ 177	\$ 177	1.85%
Fire Department Override	\$ -	\$ 630,904	\$ 630,904	1.66%
Tax Rate on Fire Override	\$ -	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.22	1.62%
Average Tax Bill	\$ -	\$ 156	\$ 156	1.62%
Final Levy Used	\$ 42,829,783	\$ 45,879,701	\$ 3,049,918	7.12%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.25	\$ 16.25	\$ 1.00	6.56%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 10,795	\$ 11,503	\$ 708	6.56%

21

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS

22



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

Alison S. Manugian, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Clerk*
John R. Reilly, *Member*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Haddad, Town Manager
FROM: Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant
DATE: April 9, 2025
RE: 2025 License Renewals - Fuel Storage

The following licenses require Select Board approval for renewal:

1. **A.L Prime**
License to expire on April 30, 2025
Located at 619 Boston Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on July 13, 2009
Contingent Upon Receipt of Renewal
2. **Kayrouz Petroleum, LLC**
License to expire on April 30, 2025
Located at 6 Boston Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on March 25, 2002
3. **Energy North (Haffners)**
License to expire on April 30, 2025
Located at 318 Main Street
Fuel Storage license originally granted November 1, 2004
4. **NESSP (Temple)**
License to expire on April 30, 2025
Located at 1003 Boston Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on December 12, 2016
Contingent Upon Receipt of Renewal
5. **Groton School**
License to expire on April 30, 2025
Located at Farmers Row
Fuel Storage license originally granted on October 4, 2021
Contingent Upon Receipt of Renewal
6. **Groton Highway Department**
License to expire on April 30, 2025
Located at 500 Cow Pond Brook Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on January 1, 2011

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025
UN-APPROVED**

Select Board Members Present: Alison Manugian, Chair; Becky Pine, Vice Chair; Peter Cunningham, Clerk; Matt Pisani; John Reilly;

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Melisa Doig, Human Resources Director; Groton Police Chief Michael Luth; Groton Deputy Police Chief Rachel Bielecki; Members of the Groton Police Department; Adam Scott and Justine Wagner, Groton Police Officer Candidates for the Police Department.

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine wanted to thank the participants who attended the demonstration in Groton, as well as the Groton Police Department, for ensuring a peaceful event on the morning of Saturday, April 5th. She said the event was wonderful, and the officers kept everyone safe. Ms. Pine said later that afternoon, the Groton History Center and Lawrence Academy hosted a performance at the Lawrence Academy Richardson Mees Performing Arts Center about the history of the Women's Suffrage Movement. She said the performance was well done. On Sunday, April 6th, the Destination Groton Committee organized the first of many events to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. Joshua Vollmar also gave an excellent lecture at the Lawrence Academy's Richardson Mees Performing Arts Center. Ms. Pine announced that Lawrence Academy generously provided the theater free of charge for both events, and many people attended the events.

Mr. Cunningham announced some important upcoming dates and events: On Saturday, April 12th, at 2:00 p.m., there will be a Fire Informational Session to learn about the need for an additional six (6) Firefighters/EMTs, held at the Center Fire Station. Another Informational Session is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15th, at the Groton Center. The Groton Dunstable Community Budget Forum will take place at 7:00 p.m. on April 16th at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School. Also, Saturday, April 19, marks the 250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, MA.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Ratify the Town Manager's Appointments of Adam Scott and Justine Wagner as Police Officers for the Groton Police Department.

Mr. Haddad announced that the Groton Police Department currently has two vacancies, and they are fortunate to have two outstanding candidates. He had the opportunity to meet with both individuals. Mr. Haddad explained they underwent a rigorous interview process with the Police Department. Mr. Adam Scott graduated with a Master's degree from Saint Anselm College, and Ms. Justine Wagner comes from a family with an impressive military and police background. Mr. Haddad expressed his excitement about bringing them on board and said they are scheduled to

attend the Police Academy in May 2025. Police Chief Luth stated that both candidate's families come from law enforcement backgrounds. He said it is exceptional to receive these two candidates and that the department is excited to bring them on board; they will be a great fit.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Adam Scott, effective Friday, April 11, 2025, and Justine Wagner, effective Monday, April 14, 2025, as Police Officers for the Groton Police Department. Ms. Pine seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Cunningham welcomed Mr. Adam Scott and Ms. Justine Wagner aboard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Update on the FY 2026 Budget.

Mr. Haddad stated that an Informational Forum was held on Saturday, April 5th, at the Fire Station to learn about the need for an additional six (6) Firefighters/EMTs. He explained that many good questions were raised during the Forum. He expressed concern about the upcoming Town Meeting, explaining that there would be a balanced budget and two contingent budgets requesting increased funding. One contingent budget is for additional funding for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, and the other is for additional funding for the Fire Department to add six additional Firefighters/EMTs to address a need for additional coverage. Mr. Haddad balanced the operating budget to maintain current services. Mr. Haddad does not recommend cutting the budget to fund other things. He explained that they would ask voters to consider expanding the services of the Fire Department, not to the detriment of the other town departments. He wanted to clarify that he would not recommend reducing the municipal budget, as there is no room for cuts. If they want to expand the service of the Fire Department, it should not come at the expense of other Departments.

Ms. Pine inquired whether the situation concerning the School District's funding override would be similar. Mr. Haddad responded that the School District is in urgent need of additional funding. If the Town of Dunstable cannot match the funding that the Town of Groton is putting forward, the School District will be in a difficult situation. He stated that both the Select Board and Finance Committee unanimously support the override for the schools. Mr. Haddad said individuals are asking for budget reductions in other areas of the Budget to fund the increases with the School Department and Fire Department, but he stated that he will do whatever is necessary to maintain services within the balanced budget. Mr. Cunningham expressed confidence that no funding currently exists in the municipal budget for the proposed additional six (6) Firefighters/EMTs. Mr. Pisani explained that the letter from the Select Board, which was drafted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means ahead of the public hearing on April 8th regarding the FY 2026 State Budget, identifies the reasons for this situation.

3. Update on the Select Board Meeting Schedule through the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Forum on Fire Department Increase in Personnel (to be held at the Center Fire Station beginning at 2:00 p.m.)

Monday, April 14, 2025	Public Hearing- Consider Adopting the Layout of Monarch Path.
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	Forum on Fire Department Increase in Personnel (to be held at the Center Fire Station beginning at 2:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, April 16, 2025	Community Budget Forum to be held at the GDRSD High School Beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 21, 2025	No Meeting- Patriot's Day Holiday
Saturday, April 26, 2025	Spring Town Meeting

Mr. Cunningham announced that Early Voting will be held here at the Groton Town Hall on May 10th and May 12th through May 16th.

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

1. Consider Submitting Testimony/Letter to House Ways and Means- Public Hearing on April 8, 2025.

Chair Manugian drafted a letter for the Board's review and sought the Board's approval to submit the letter to the Joint Committee Ways and Means for their Budget Public Hearing on April 8, 2025, regarding the FY 2026 State Budget. Ms. Pine suggested sending the letter to the local newspaper so residents could read it; she believes it is excellent.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve and authorize the Board to sign the letter to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means concerning the FY 2026 State Budget. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve and Issue the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Haddad provided the Board with the Final Draft of the 2025 Spring Town Meeting Warrant for their review and approval. He said it would be posted by the Constable this week, and postcards would be mailed out on Friday, April 11, 2025. Five hundred copies of the Warrant will be printed and can also be found on the Town of Groton's homepage. He explained that the Article to Adopt Alternative Methods for Notice of Public Hearings had been removed from the warrant.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve and issue the April 26, 2025, Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Cunningham asked where the warrant is posted. Mr. Haddad explained that it is posted in three different locations throughout the Town.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pursuant to the Charter, Authorize the Town Manager and One Member of the Select Board to Sign Warrants for the Next 30 Days.

M. Pisani made a motion to authorize the Town Manager and one member of the Select Board to sign Warrants for the next 30 days. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine announced that at least one advocacy group is forming to support the school override. One group is called "Seniors for Our Schools," and another is "Raising Groton." Mr. Haddad urged everyone to read a letter to the editor in the Groton Herald written by Raising Groton, stating that it was a well-written explaining the importance of funding the School System.

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

On Going issues

- A. PFAS- Mr. Haddad said the connection to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School had been made, and the driveway will be paved at night this week. He said that the Chlorine Booster Station will be constructed in June. He explained there will be a meeting on Thursday, April 10th at 1:00 p.m., with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the plume contamination issue.
Ms. Pine said some residents were unaware of the discount for connecting to the waterline. Mr. Haddad said he would put the information back on the homepage and will have it posted at the Center. Mr. Haddad said the contractor, DeFelice, has been excellent.
- B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility— Mr. Haddad said there will be a public outreach event for the Nashoba Region on Tuesday, May 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Also, the Land Use Committee will meet with the UMass Satellite Emergency Facility engineers and construction team on April 16th.
- D. PILOTS- During the Informational Forums held at the Groton Inn and the Groton Public Library, Mr. Haddad mentioned that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) was being discussed. He plans to include PILOTS on a future Select Board agenda. Mr. Haddad thanked the Groton Inn for hosting the "Coffee and Conversations" Forum.

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2025.

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of March 31, 2025. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.