

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

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

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

To: *Select Board*
From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*
Date: *March 9, 2026*

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

In addition to the Town Manager’s Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the Ongoing Issues List, there are two items scheduled on Monday’s Agenda. First, the Select Board will be conducting a public hearing to consider the transfer of the Off-Premise All Alcohol Package Store License for the Groton Market, from John Madigan, President of the Groton Market to Shree AM and UM Inc, DBA Groton Market, Toralben Patel President and Manager. I have provided the full application for this transfer to the Select Board under separate cover due to the personal information contained in the application. Second, the Select Board will be meeting in joint session with the Finance Committee to conduct the public hearing on the various Articles contained in the 2026 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Attached to this Report is the latest draft of the Warrant, along with a memorandum from me explaining where the funding will come for the various Articles requiring an appropriation.

1. With regard to the FY 2027 Budget Update, attached to this Report (with the memo on Town Meeting funding explained above) is the updated Proposed Budget, along with the updated levy limit calculation. I would like to take a few minutes at Monday’s meeting reviewing this information with the Board.
2. Please see an update to the meeting schedule that will get you through the Spring Town Meeting:

Monday, March 16, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2026	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026 -	No Meeting – (Patriot’s Day Holiday)
Saturday, May 2, 2026 -	2026 Spring Town Meeting

Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
March 9, 2026
page two

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Town Clerk Grace Bannasch will attend Monday's meeting to request that, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41 Section 10, the Select Board vote to add a vacancy on the Park Commission to the 2026 Town Election Ballot, to serve the remainder of the unexpired term (2 years). I would respectfully request that the Board take this action at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosure

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

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LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF GROTON
PUBLIC HEARING

The Groton Select Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:15 P.M. in the Groton Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA, to discuss and consider the transfer of the Off-Premises Retail, All Alcohol Package Store License for the Groton Market, John Madigan, President, located at 235 Main Street, Groton, MA to Shree AM AND UM INC., DBA Groton Market, Toralben Patel, President.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

SELECT BOARD

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

2/27/2026

3/6/2026

Town Manager
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To: *Select Board
Finance Committee*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Spring Town Meeting Appropriations*

Date: *March 5, 2026*

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide funding source recommendations for the various Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles requiring an appropriation. Please note the following:

Article 4 – Appropriate FY 2027 Contribution to the OPEB Trust

Funding for this Article (\$200,000) will come from Free Cash.

Article 5 – FY 2027 Operating Budget

Funding for this Article (\$55,859,946) will come from Taxation, State Aid, Estimated Receipts, Free Cash, Local Cable Receipts and EMS Fund (see attached Levy Calculation).

Article 6 – Capital Budget

Funding for this Article (\$1,561,295) will be as follows:

Free Cash	\$ 244,500
Grant Funding	\$ 195,000
GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 250,000
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 626,181
EMS Fund	\$ <u>245,614</u>
Total	\$1,561,295

Article 7 – Community Preservation Funding Accounts

The estimated appropriations into the various accounts are as follows:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 34,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$113,500
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$113,500
Community Housing Reserve:	\$113,500
Unallocated Reserve:	\$760,500

Article 8 – CPA Funding Recommendations

The Community Preservation Committee will be meeting on March 9, 2026 to vote on the various projects and determine the funding. This Article will be updated after that meeting.

Article 11 – Squannacook River Dam Repair

Funding for this Article (\$812,500) will be by borrowing. It is still being determined how this will be paid back (either a Debt Exclusion, Capital Exclusion or move to the Capital Budget).

Article 13 – Funding for Destination Groton Committee

Funding for this Article (\$15,000) will come from Free Cash.

Article 14 – Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund

The amount has yet to be determined. Funding will come from the Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency Fund.

Article 15 - Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

The amount has yet to be determined. Funding will come from the Center Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency Fund.

Article 16 – Transfer Within the Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund

The amount has yet to be determined. Funding will come from the Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Article 17 – Prior Year Bills

At this time there are no prior year bills. Should there be a bill, funding will come from Free Cash.

Article 18 – Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit

At this time, the Town is anticipating a snow and ice deficit of \$300,000. To fund this deficit, \$180,000 will come from the Capital Stabilization Fund and \$120,000 will come from Free Cash. Should the deficit exceed \$300,000, the Town will either use more Free Cash or attempt to fund the deficit in FY 2027.

Article 19 – Debt Service for the Middle School Track

Funding for this Article (\$648,945) will come from Community Preservation Funds.

Article 20 – Funding for Main Street Traffic Study

The Town is anticipating receiving a grant for this Study. However, should the Town not receive the Grant, funding for this Article (\$50,000) will come either come from Free Cash or the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 21 – Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses

Funding for this Article (\$12,000) will come from the Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest Account.

I hope you find this information helpful. I look forward to discussing this with you in more detail.

MWH/rjb

cc: Finance Team

FISCAL YEAR 2027 LEVY LIMIT CALCULATION

Revised: 3/3/2026

I. TO CALCULATE THE FY 2026 LEVY LIMIT

A.	FY 2025 LEVY LIMIT	\$	38,135,363	
A1.	ADD AMENDED FY 2025 NEW GROWTH	\$	-	
B.	ADD TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT	\$	953,384	
C.	ADD FY 2026 NEW GROWTH	\$	518,452	
D.	ADD FY 2026 OVERRIDE	\$	-	
E.	FY 2026 SUBTOTAL	\$	39,607,199	\$ 39,607,199 FY 2026 LEVY LIMIT
F.	FY 2026 LEVY CEILING	\$	68,459,320	

II. TO CALCULATE THE FY 2027 LEVY LIMIT

A.	FY 2026 LEVY LIMIT	\$	39,607,199	
A1.	ADD AMENDED FY 2026 NEW GROWTH	\$	-	
B.	ADD TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT	\$	990,180	
C.	ADD FY 2027 NEW GROWTH	\$	317,770	
D.	ADD FY 2027 OVERRIDE	\$	-	
E.	FY 2027 SUBTOTAL	\$	40,915,149	\$ 40,915,149 FY 2027 LEVY LIMIT
F.	FY 2027 LEVY CEILING	\$	68,459,320	

TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FY 2027 TOTAL TAX LEVY CALCULATION

FY 2027 LEVY LIMIT	\$	40,915,149	
CAPITAL EXCLUSION	\$	-	Reduced by \$5,209 to reflect actual interest rate on BAN for FloRo
DEBT EXCLUSION - TOWN	\$	6,223,734	
FY 2027 PFAS PAYMENT - DUNSTABLE - WATER DEPT	\$	(169,897)	
FY 2027 EXCLUDED BOND REDUCTION	\$	(945)	
DEBT EXCLUSION - SEWER	\$	-	
DEBT EXCLUSION - WATER	\$	-	
DEBT EXCLUSION - GDRSD	\$	108,143	
SUB-TOTAL - EXCLUSIONS	\$	6,161,035	
TOTAL TAX LEVY	\$	47,076,184	

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2027
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

Revised: 3/3/2026

Increased by
\$23,503 to reflect
Governor's Budget

	BUDGETED FY 2026	ESTIMATED FY 2027	CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	\$ 39,607,199	\$ 40,915,149	\$ 1,307,950
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 5,115,092	\$ 6,161,035	\$ 1,045,943
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 1,182,722	\$ 1,229,879	\$ 47,157
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 39,273	\$ -	\$ (39,273)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:			
General Revenue:			
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,886,000	\$ 1,985,902	\$ 99,902
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 460,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 15,000
Marijuana Revenue	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ -
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 415,156	\$ 450,000	\$ 34,844
Other Charges for Services	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,300	\$ -
Fees	\$ 400,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 20,000
Rentals	\$ 58,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 5,000
Library Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 582,372	\$ 600,000	\$ 17,628
Licenses and Permits	\$ 450,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 50,000
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 258,499	\$ 240,000	\$ (18,499)
Recreation Revenues	\$ 875,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous Recurring	\$ 94,000	\$ 230,988	\$ 136,988
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 5,629,327	\$ 6,020,190	\$ 390,863
Other Revenue:			
Free Cash	\$ 658,855	\$ 673,701	\$ 14,846
Capital Stabilization Fund for GDRSD	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 907,985	\$ 626,181	\$ (281,804)
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ 530,614	\$ 498,680	\$ (31,934)
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bond Surplus Transfer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local Access Cable Fund	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	\$ -
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 2,227,454	\$ 2,178,562	\$ (48,892)
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 2,048,795	\$ 2,034,851	\$ (13,944)
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 976,475	\$ 1,035,771	\$ 59,295
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 310,663	\$ 103,539	\$ (207,123)
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 249,890	\$ 282,565	\$ 32,675
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 57,386,891	\$ 59,961,541	\$ 2,574,651

OPEB - \$200,000
Debt Service - \$198,725
Merit - \$50,685
Capital School - \$174,500
Cable - \$49,791
Reduced by \$77,463

Reduced by \$295,000 to reflect removing Portable Radios and Debt Service on Irrigation

Budget Offset - \$350,000
Ambulance - \$98,680
PFAS Gear - \$50,000
Total - \$498,680
Reduced by \$361

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2027
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS**

Revised: 3/3/2026

FY 2027 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

TOWN MANAGER - Proposed Budget

General Government	\$	2,701,294
Land Use Departments	\$	596,422
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	5,060,927
Regional School Districts	\$	30,941,068
Department of Public Works	\$	2,247,020
Library and Citizen Services	\$	2,489,751
Debt Service	\$	6,775,033
Employee Benefits	\$	5,048,431

Increased by \$78,139 to reflect addition of a Firefighter/EMT

Reduced by \$67,093 to reflect actual Nashoba Tech Assessment (increase by \$8,407) and GDRSD Capital (reduced by \$75,500)

Increased by \$7,020 to reflect Health Insurance OPT-Out

Reduced by \$71,221 to reflect actual Health Insurance Rates

Reduced by \$7,533 to reflect actual BAN Interest

Sub-Total - Operating Budget

\$ 55,859,946

- A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS
- B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS
- C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS
- D. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REQUEST

Reduced by \$295,000:

\$ 55,859,946

\$ 626,181

\$ 3,187,447

Reduced by \$60,688

OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED

1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	\$	-
2. Debt and interest charges not included	\$	-
3. Final court judgments	\$	-
4. Total Overlay deficits of prior years	\$	-
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	33,338
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-
7. Offset Receipts	\$	-
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	-
10. Other	\$	-

Increased by \$1,027 to reflect Governor's Budget

Increased by \$131 to reflect Governor's Budget

- E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED
- F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES
- G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

\$ 33,338

\$ 104,629

\$ 150,000

Reduced by \$354,531 to reflect reductions in Operating Budget and Capital Budget

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

\$ 59,961,541

FY 2027 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY			
Levy Limit	\$	40,915,149	
Debt Exclusion	\$	6,161,035	
A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY		\$	47,076,184
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$	1,229,879
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED		\$	6,020,190
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS		\$	-
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$	3,456,726
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS		\$	-
G. FREE CASH		\$	673,701
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS			
1. Stabilization Fund	\$	-	
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	626,181	
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	250,000	
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	498,680	
5. Bond Surplus Transfer	\$	-	
6. Local Access Cable RRFA	\$	130,000	
H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$	1,504,861
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$	59,961,541
FY 2027 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$	0

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
TAX RATE RECAPITULATION**

I. TAX RATE SUMMARY

la. Total amount to be raised (from IIe)	\$	59,961,541.35
lb. Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from IIIe)	\$	12,885,357.39
lc. Tax levy (Ia minus Ib)	\$	47,076,183.96
ld. Distribution of Tax Rates and Levies		

CLASS	(b) Levy Percentage (from LA -5)	(c) IC above times each percent in col (b)	(d) Valuation by Class (from LA - 4)	(e) Tax Rates (c) x (d) x 1000	(f) Levy by Class (d) x (e) / 1000
RESIDENTIAL	95.5769%	\$ 44,993,980.25	\$ 2,910,039,340.00	\$ 15.46	\$ 44,993,980.25
NET OF EXEMPT					\$ -
OPEN SPACE	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
COMMERCIAL	3.1764%	\$ 1,495,307.37	\$ 96,710,788.00	\$ 15.46	\$ 1,495,307.37
NET OF EXEMPT					\$ -
INDUSTRIAL	0.3147%	\$ 148,158.07	\$ 9,582,300.00	\$ 15.46	\$ 148,158.07
SUBTOTAL	99.0680%		\$ 3,016,332,428.00		\$ 46,637,445.70
PERSONAL	0.9320%	\$ 438,738.26	\$ 28,375,920.00	\$ 15.46	\$ 438,738.26
TOTAL	100.0000%		\$ 3,044,708,348.00		\$ 47,076,183.96

TOWN OF GROTON

FISCAL YEAR 2027

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 APPROPRIATED	FY 2027 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2027 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL GOVERNMENT								
MODERATOR								
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	1,000	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	80	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	1,080	0.00%
SELECT BOARD								
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 2,960	\$ 3,109	\$ 1,602	\$ 4,750	\$ 4,750	4,750	0.00%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,649	\$ 24,054	\$ 23,987	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 28,609	\$ 27,163	\$ 25,589	\$ 4,750	\$ 4,750	4,750	0.00%
TOWN MANAGER								
1030	Salaries	\$ 243,254	\$ 252,037	\$ 258,862	\$ 295,327	\$ 309,297	309,297	4.73%
1031	Wages	\$ 111,392	\$ 111,472	\$ 117,302	\$ 107,625	\$ 81,803	81,803	-23.99%
1032	Expenses	\$ 14,240	\$ 14,534	\$ 17,633	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	12,100	0.00%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 368,886	\$ 378,043	\$ 393,797	\$ 415,052	\$ 403,200	403,200	-2.86%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
FINANCE COMMITTEE								
1040	Expenses	\$ 214	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 49,400	\$ 39,500	\$ 89,297	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 49,614	\$ 39,500	\$ 89,297	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	0.00%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT								
1050	Salaries	\$ 101,126	\$ 115,615	\$ 118,162	\$ 125,885	\$ 220,266	\$ 220,266	74.97%
1051	Wages	\$ 52,920	\$ 54,285	\$ 75,102	\$ 79,344	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
1052	Expenses	\$ 40,199	\$ 36,770	\$ 50,298	\$ 83,633	\$ 60,378	\$ 54,378	-34.98%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 194,245	\$ 206,670	\$ 243,562	\$ 288,862	\$ 280,644	\$ 274,644	-4.92%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS								
1060	Salaries	\$ 85,280	\$ 94,300	\$ 98,686	\$ 105,500	\$ 208,186	\$ 208,186	97.33%
1061	Wages	\$ 65,073	\$ 66,873	\$ 75,381	\$ 80,460	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1062	Expenses	\$ 29,012	\$ 45,336	\$ 46,008	\$ 61,579	\$ 65,617	\$ 63,617	3.31%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 179,365	\$ 206,509	\$ 220,075	\$ 247,539	\$ 273,803	\$ 271,803	9.80%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR								
1070	Salaries	\$ 141,733	\$ 150,769	\$ 154,493	\$ 223,052	\$ 208,103	\$ 208,103	-6.70%
1071	Wages	\$ 74,499	\$ 79,296	\$ 80,332	\$ 97,504	\$ 85,965	\$ 85,965	-11.83%
1072	Expenses	\$ 24,546	\$ 26,086	\$ 22,878	\$ 28,020	\$ 40,850	\$ 40,850	45.79%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 500	\$ 260	\$ 948	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 4,100	-42.25%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 7,700	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 241,778	\$ 256,911	\$ 266,351	\$ 357,976	\$ 344,318	\$ 341,318	-4.65%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 APPROPRIATED	FY 2027 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2027 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
TOWN COUNSEL								
1080	Expenses	\$ 58,577	\$ 95,387	\$ 159,787	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 58,577	\$ 95,387	\$ 159,787	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	0.00%
HUMAN RESOURCES								
1090	Salary	\$ 87,983	\$ 95,050	\$ 96,936	\$ 102,549	\$ 108,670	\$ 108,670	5.97%
1091	Expenses	\$ 14,927	\$ 18,674	\$ 10,832	\$ 14,400	\$ 23,000	\$ 14,400	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 102,910	\$ 113,724	\$ 107,768	\$ 116,949	\$ 131,670	\$ 123,070	5.23%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY								
1100	Salary	\$ 121,981	\$ 121,627	\$ 124,060	\$ 131,977	\$ 135,906	\$ 135,906	2.98%
1101	Wages	\$ 61,194	\$ 70,342	\$ 73,547	\$ 77,173	\$ 81,076	\$ 81,076	5.06%
1102	Expenses	\$ 21,455	\$ 24,588	\$ 22,889	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 204,630	\$ 216,557	\$ 220,496	\$ 233,950	\$ 241,782	\$ 241,782	3.35%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE								
1120	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	0.00%
TOWN CLERK								
1130	Salaries	\$ 95,550	\$ 98,472	\$ 100,427	\$ 124,896	\$ 107,687	\$ 107,687	-13.78%
1131	Wages	\$ 81,648	\$ 76,606	\$ 76,848	\$ 80,642	\$ 89,640	\$ 89,640	11.16%
1132	Expenses	\$ 9,539	\$ 11,860	\$ 6,286	\$ 13,200	\$ 13,945	\$ 13,445	1.86%
1133	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 186,737	\$ 186,938	\$ 183,561	\$ 218,738	\$ 211,272	\$ 210,772	-3.64%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS								
1140	Stipend	\$ 27,416	\$ 17,385	\$ 23,678	\$ 5,933	\$ 19,550	\$ 19,550	229.51%
1141	Expenses	\$ 15,597	\$ 23,119	\$ 37,686	\$ 16,124	\$ 18,325	\$ 18,325	13.65%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 43,013	\$ 40,504	\$ 61,364	\$ 22,057	\$ 37,875	\$ 37,875	71.71%
STREET LISTINGS								
1150	Expenses	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,698	\$ 5,655	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,818	\$ 5,698	\$ 5,655	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	0.00%
INSURANCE & BONDING								
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 286,667	\$ 310,032	\$ 356,695	\$ 390,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 390,000	0.00%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 10,060	\$ 11,499	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0.00%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 3,744	\$ 1,238	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 300,471	\$ 322,769	\$ 366,695	\$ 427,000	\$ 427,000	\$ 427,000	0.00%
TOWN REPORT								
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 APPROPRIATED	FY 2027 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2027 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES								
1180	Expenses	\$ 68,297	\$ 77,241	\$ 62,036	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	0.00%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 15,954	\$ 23,494	\$ 23,343	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	0.00%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 25,433	\$ 17,793	\$ 14,503	\$ 17,000	\$ 25,433	\$ 17,000	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 109,684	\$ 118,528	\$ 99,882	\$ 107,000	\$ 115,433	\$ 107,000	0.00%
<hr/>								
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 2,077,874	\$ 2,225,701	\$ 2,449,379	\$ 2,697,953	\$ 2,729,827	\$ 2,701,294	0.12%
<hr/>								
LAND USE DEPARTMENTS								
CONSERVATION COMMISSION								
1200	Salary	\$ 73,972	\$ 70,533	\$ 79,070	\$ 85,565	\$ 88,132	\$ 88,132	3.00%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 4,597	\$ 8,749	\$ 9,488	\$ 8,270	\$ 8,270	\$ 8,270	0.00%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 78,569	\$ 79,282	\$ 88,558	\$ 93,835	\$ 96,402	\$ 96,402	2.74%
<hr/>								
PLANNING BOARD								
1210	Salaries	\$ 89,237	\$ 95,171	\$ 98,446	\$ 125,030	\$ 129,111	\$ 129,111	3.26%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 8,844	\$ 9,309	\$ 9,226	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,625	0.00%
1213	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,846	\$ 3,942	\$ 4,041	\$ 4,142	\$ 4,308	\$ 4,308	4.01%
1214	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>								
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 101,927	\$ 108,422	\$ 111,713	\$ 138,797	\$ 143,044	\$ 143,044	3.06%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS								
1220	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1221	Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 558	\$ 358	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,135	\$ 1,135	-14.98%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 50	\$ 558	\$ 358	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,135	\$ 1,135	-14.98%
HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION								
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	0.00%				
BUILDING INSPECTOR								
1240	Salaries	\$ 104,758	\$ 105,059	\$ 107,031	\$ 113,370	\$ 116,555	\$ 116,555	2.81%
1241	Wages	\$ 55,067	\$ 62,238	\$ 65,391	\$ 67,500	\$ 70,920	\$ 70,920	5.07%
1242	Expenses	\$ 23,257	\$ 27,711	\$ 25,727	\$ 24,897	\$ 24,897	\$ 24,897	0.00%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 183,082	\$ 195,008	\$ 198,149	\$ 205,767	\$ 212,372	\$ 212,372	3.21%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR								
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 54,800	\$ 43,360	\$ 45,510	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 30,000	-23.08%
1251	Expenses	\$ 4,876	\$ 3,107	\$ 3,398	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 59,676	\$ 46,467	\$ 48,908	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,500	\$ 33,500	-21.18%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR								
1260	Stipend	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%
1261	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 500	66.67%
1262	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,800	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	7.14%
BOARD OF HEALTH								
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 983	\$ 877	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,950	\$ 1,950	23.81%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,047	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 51,483	\$ 55,345	\$ 60,879	\$ 45,921	\$ 87,057	\$ 87,057	89.58%
1274	Mental Health	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,433	\$ 13,834	\$ 13,834	\$ 14,700	\$ 14,700	6.26%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 69,599	\$ 65,655	\$ 75,908	\$ 82,377	\$ 103,707	\$ 103,707	25.89%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES								
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 680	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1281	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	-16.36%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 680	\$ 300	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	-16.36%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 496,083	\$ 498,192	\$ 529,356	\$ 571,311	\$ 605,422	\$ 596,422	4.40%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY								
POLICE DEPARTMENT								
1300	Salaries	\$ 283,207	\$ 291,224	\$ 305,016	\$ 342,265	\$ 362,683	\$ 362,683	5.97%
1301	Wages	\$ 2,067,435	\$ 1,957,470	\$ 2,104,310	\$ 2,305,558	\$ 2,327,044	\$ 2,327,044	0.93%
1302	Expenses	\$ 207,915	\$ 195,295	\$ 222,253	\$ 269,900	\$ 258,700	\$ 258,700	-4.15%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 7,588	\$ 6,420	\$ 12,981	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,571,145	\$ 2,455,409	\$ 2,649,560	\$ 2,917,723	\$ 2,948,427	\$ 2,948,427	1.05%
FIRE DEPARTMENT								
1310	Salaries	\$ 256,900	\$ 290,302	\$ 156,377	\$ 290,944	\$ 310,733	\$ 310,733	6.80%
1311	Wages	\$ 1,165,166	\$ 1,150,339	\$ 1,357,489	\$ 1,367,470	\$ 1,514,757	\$ 1,514,757	10.77%
1312	Expenses	\$ 202,231	\$ 209,902	\$ 217,674	\$ 225,646	\$ 251,046	\$ 236,046	4.61%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,624,297	\$ 1,650,543	\$ 1,731,540	\$ 1,884,060	\$ 2,076,536	\$ 2,061,536	9.42%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION								
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	0.00%					
ANIMAL INSPECTOR								
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ 20	\$ 270	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,102	\$ 2,352	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER								
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	2,082	0.00%
1341	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 266	\$ 16	\$ 400	\$ 400	400	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,352	\$ 2,348	\$ 2,098	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	2,482	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY								
1350	Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	4,000	0.00%
1351	Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 2,452	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	10,000	0.00%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 6,452	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	14,000	0.00%
DOG OFFICER								
1360	Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 29,000	29,000	45.00%
1361	Expenses	\$ 2,356	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,119	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	3,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,356	\$ 17,929	\$ 20,619	\$ 23,000	\$ 32,000	32,000	39.13%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS								
1370	Wages	\$ 444,288	\$ 455,726	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1371	Expenses	\$ 20,382	\$ 14,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 464,670	\$ 469,744	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 4,695,922	\$ 4,642,325	\$ 4,412,351	\$ 4,843,747	\$ 5,075,927	\$ 5,060,927	4.48%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>								
NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL								
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 908,490	\$ 939,609	\$ 939,609	3.43%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 908,490	\$ 939,609	\$ 939,609	3.43%
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT								
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 24,802,222	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 26,857,540	\$ 28,247,632	\$ 29,468,816	\$ 29,468,816	4.32%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 406,982	\$ -	\$ 110,389	\$ 108,143	\$ 108,143	-2.03%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 58,814	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1413	Operating Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 619,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1414	Capital Assessment	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ 295,767	\$ 278,643	\$ 424,500	\$ 424,500	52.35%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 25,379,248	\$ 26,955,715	\$ 27,772,307	\$ 28,636,664	\$ 30,001,459	\$ 30,001,459	4.77%
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 28,739,026	\$ 29,545,154	\$ 30,941,068	\$ 30,941,068	4.72%
<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>								
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT								
1500	Salaries	\$ 120,670	\$ 120,293	\$ 122,664	\$ 204,124	\$ 131,539	\$ 131,539	-35.56%
1501	Wages	\$ 750,224	\$ 731,227	\$ 732,506	\$ 708,918	\$ 631,396	\$ 631,396	-10.94%
1502	Expenses	\$ 136,529	\$ 129,073	\$ 134,519	\$ 147,900	\$ 152,900	\$ 152,900	3.38%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 81,712	\$ 71,282	\$ 75,214	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	0.00%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ 5,526	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,525	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,094,661	\$ 1,066,875	\$ 1,067,428	\$ 1,140,942	\$ 995,835	\$ 995,835	-12.72%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
STREET LIGHTS								
1510	Expenses	\$ 12,202	\$ 14,598	\$ 14,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,202	\$ 14,598	\$ 14,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%
SNOW AND ICE								
1520	Expenses	\$ 171,937	\$ 153,024	\$ 184,740	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	0.00%
1521	Overtime	\$ 268,100	\$ 228,416	\$ 249,818	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	0.00%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 45,349	\$ 45,400	\$ 77,992	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 485,386	\$ 426,840	\$ 512,550	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	0.00%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET								
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,773	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.00%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 9,515	\$ 31,370	\$ 19,978	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 17,700	-41.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,515	\$ 33,143	\$ 22,978	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 22,200	-35.65%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE								
1540	Wages	\$ 156,174	\$ 138,182	\$ 158,908	\$ 170,064	\$ 178,832	\$ 178,832	5.16%
1541	Expenses	\$ 257,888	\$ 270,921	\$ 266,399	\$ 282,950	\$ 282,950	\$ 282,950	0.00%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 9,849	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 423,911	\$ 434,103	\$ 450,239	\$ 453,014	\$ 461,782	\$ 461,782	1.94%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION					FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	DEPARTMENT	TOWN MANAGER	
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	REQUEST	BUDGET	
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL								
1550	Wages	\$ 145,954	\$ 148,581	\$ 154,212	\$ 164,820	\$ 159,908	\$ 159,908	-2.98%
1551	Expenses	\$ 38,661	\$ 39,636	\$ 44,258	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	0.00%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 139,668	\$ 138,123	\$ 150,388	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	0.00%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	0.00%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 4,717	\$ 1,238	\$ 2,827	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 334,850	\$ 333,428	\$ 357,535	\$ 361,356	\$ 356,444	\$ 356,444	-1.36%
PARKS DEPARTMENT								
1560	Wages	\$ 13,804	\$ 12,664	\$ 7,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1561	Expenses	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,578	\$ 51,018	\$ 55,759	\$ 66,716	\$ 55,759	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 69,076	\$ 68,242	\$ 58,218	\$ 55,759	\$ 66,716	\$ 55,759	0.00%
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		\$ 2,432,601	\$ 2,377,229	\$ 2,483,448	\$ 2,400,571	\$ 2,270,277	\$ 2,247,020	-6.40%
<u>LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES</u>								
COUNCIL ON AGING								
1600	Salaries	\$ 87,986	\$ 148,800	\$ 167,193	\$ 176,376	\$ 183,283	\$ 183,283	3.92%
1601	Wages	\$ 116,035	\$ 45,585	\$ 35,105	\$ 70,526	\$ 74,948	\$ 74,948	6.27%
1602	Expenses	\$ 12,384	\$ 11,417	\$ 14,793	\$ 20,200	\$ 12,700	\$ 12,700	-37.13%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 216,405	\$ 205,802	\$ 217,091	\$ 267,102	\$ 270,931	\$ 270,931	1.43%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 APPROPRIATED	FY 2027 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2027 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
SENIOR CENTER VAN								
1610	Wages	\$ 62,342	\$ 74,885	\$ 77,824	\$ 64,874	\$ 84,046	\$ 84,046	5.79%
1611	Expenses	\$ 16,823	\$ 15,488	\$ 12,993	\$ 21,023	\$ 21,023	\$ 21,023	5.79%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 79,165	\$ 90,373	\$ 90,817	\$ 85,897	\$ 105,069	\$ 105,069	15.69%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER								
1620	Salary	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,243	\$ 6,429	\$ 6,622	\$ 6,622	3.00%
1621	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 18,919	\$ 22,771	\$ 20,741	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	0.00%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 24,919	\$ 28,941	\$ 27,034	\$ 32,529	\$ 32,722	\$ 32,722	0.59%
GRAVES REGISTRATION								
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 760	\$ 750	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,060	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,010	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,289	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,310	\$ 1,310	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES								
1640	Contract Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE								
1650	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
LIBRARY								
1660	Salary	\$ 426,346	\$ 435,562	\$ 435,562	\$ 480,538	\$ 499,264	\$ 499,264	3.90%
1661	Wages	\$ 331,618	\$ 319,135	\$ 319,135	\$ 366,043	\$ 353,111	\$ 353,111	-3.53%
1662	Expenses	\$ 214,238	\$ 225,435	\$ 225,435	\$ 230,546	\$ 235,969	\$ 212,440	-7.85%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 972,202	\$ 980,132	\$ 980,132	\$ 1,077,127	\$ 1,088,344	\$ 1,064,815	-1.14%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS								
1670	Expenses	\$ 263	\$ 253	\$ 559	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 263	\$ 253	\$ 559	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.00%
WATER SAFETY								
1680	Wages	\$ 2,520	\$ 1,290	\$ 1,073	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 2,887	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,950	\$ 3,950	\$ 3,950	0.00%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,108	\$ 1,816	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	-58.33%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,407	\$ 8,398	\$ 2,889	\$ 11,350	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,950	-12.33%
WEED MANAGEMENT								
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 22,000	\$ 17,666	\$ 158	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	0.00%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 12,001	\$ 9,965	\$ 83,212	\$ 22,385	\$ 22,385	\$ 22,385	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 34,001	\$ 27,631	\$ 83,370	\$ 44,385	\$ 44,385	\$ 44,385	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027	PERCENT CHANGE
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB								
1700	Salary	\$ 170,866	\$ 172,568	\$ 199,646	\$ 205,094	\$ 213,401	\$ 213,401	4.05%
1701	Wages	\$ 234,595	\$ 253,111	\$ 278,311	\$ 295,791	\$ 326,509	\$ 326,509	10.39%
1702	Expenses	\$ 193,969	\$ 223,824	\$ 266,417	\$ 235,885	\$ 238,067	\$ 238,067	0.93%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 599,430	\$ 649,503	\$ 744,374	\$ 736,770	\$ 777,977	\$ 777,977	5.59%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT								
1710	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,050	\$ 84,330	\$ 87,572	\$ 87,572	3.84%
1711	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,166	\$ 71,030	\$ 73,469	\$ 73,469	3.43%
1712	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,299	\$ 14,270	\$ 18,750	\$ 18,750	31.39%
1713	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,515	\$ 169,630	\$ 179,791	\$ 179,791	5.99%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,943,302	\$ 1,993,533	\$ 2,296,569	\$ 2,428,900	\$ 2,513,280	\$ 2,489,751	8.41%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 APPROPRIATED	FY 2027 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2027 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
DEBT SERVICE								
DEBT SERVICE								
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 2,267,786	\$ 2,023,506	\$ 2,185,000	\$ 2,045,000	\$ 3,829,283	\$ 3,829,283	87.25%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	0.00%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 1,332,573	\$ 1,493,326	\$ 1,447,225	\$ 1,250,560	\$ 2,321,514	\$ 2,321,514	85.64%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97,144	\$ 88,894	\$ 88,894	-8.49%
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 122,685	\$ 260,366	\$ 260,366	112.22%
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ 13,803	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,496	\$ 39,363	\$ 37,039	100.25%
2005B	Short Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ -	\$ 1,045,344	\$ 1,052,686	\$ 1,710,205	\$ 72,937	\$ 72,937	-95.74%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,562,176	\$ 4,684,911	\$ 5,409,090	\$ 6,777,357	\$ 6,775,033	25.25%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,562,176	\$ 4,684,911	\$ 5,409,090	\$ 6,777,357	\$ 6,775,033	25.25%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS								
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS								
GENERAL BENEFITS								
3000	County Retirement	\$ 2,538,910	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 2,640,116	\$ 2,808,832	\$ 2,808,832	6.39%
3001	OPEB Unfunded Liability	\$ 177,094	\$ 185,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	0.00%
3002	Unemployment	\$ 19,465	\$ 678	\$ 1,951	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%
INSURANCE								
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,811,069	\$ 2,017,056	\$ 1,952,684	\$ 1,817,707	\$ 1,845,779	\$ 1,845,779	1.54%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 3,642	\$ 3,627	\$ 3,401	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	0.00%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 153,710	\$ 154,288	\$ 152,658	\$ 162,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	11.11%
<hr/>								
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,703,890	\$ 4,854,929	\$ 4,953,713	\$ 4,833,643	\$ 5,048,431	\$ 5,048,431	4.44%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 4,703,890	\$ 4,854,929	\$ 4,953,713	\$ 4,833,643	\$ 5,048,431	\$ 5,048,431	4.44%
GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET		\$ 46,153,119	\$ 48,872,456	\$ 50,548,753	\$ 52,730,369	\$ 55,961,589	\$ 55,859,946	5.94%

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2026 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

***THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT***

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

Voters are familiar with casting ballots in local and state elections, but they have another important civic duty in towns, the Town Meeting.

What is Town Meeting?

The Town Meeting is the legislative body in the town form of government in Massachusetts. Town Meeting is a formal gathering of registered voters who propose, debate and vote on measures. Groton holds at least two Town Meetings per year.

What is a warrant?

The warrant is the official notice to voters that a Town Meeting is scheduled. The warrant includes the date, time, location and a description of each subject to be acted on at Town Meeting. In Groton, the warrant must be posted in two public places 14 days in advance of Town Meeting. In Groton, every household is also notified of the meeting by postcard with a link to the Warrant. “The warrant must contain a sufficient description of what is proposed so as to constitute an adequate warning to all the inhabitants of the town.”¹ “Every action taken at the meeting must be pursuant to some article in the warrant and must be within the scope of such article.”²

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive an electronic voting handset which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order that they are printed in the warrant. For each article, a main motion is made and seconded by voters and placed by the moderator on the floor for debate. Permission of the moderator is required to speak. The moderator presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and calls and declares all votes. After debate has ended, the moderator will call for a vote by use of the electronic voting handset. Please see page 3 of this Warrant for a full explanation of how Electronic Voting will work at Town Meeting.

¹ *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 19) Massachusetts Moderators Association, 4th Edition, 2024
² *Id.*

Who can attend?

Town Meeting is open to the public. Only Groton voters are entitled to speak and vote. Non-voters may be required to sit in a separate section. Non-voters may ask the moderator to speak on the topic of the debate.

How long is town meeting?

Town Meeting concludes when all articles on the warrant have been acted upon. Town Meeting may conclude in one session or adjourn for subsequent sessions.

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

A consent agenda is a procedure to group multiple main motions into a single motion for voting. A consent agenda saves time by eliminating the reading of multiple motions and explanations when there are no objections or questions. In Groton, a consent agenda generally consists of articles unanimously supported by the Select Board and Finance Committee. In this warrant, the Select Board has grouped articles in consent agendas and labeled them for easy reference.

How Consent Agendas Work

As the first step to act on a consent agenda, the moderator will read the titles of the included articles. A voter who wishes to remove an article from the consent agenda for separate debate and vote should state "hold." The held article will be set aside and acted on after the vote on the consent agenda. After the meeting agrees on the contents of the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every motion included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail as a group. Voters should read the warrant and review the proposed consent agendas to identify articles they wish to hold for separate consideration.

Electronic Voting at Town Meeting



Voting at Town Meeting will be conducted using an electronic voting system purchased by the Town of Groton as authorized by Town Meeting in October, 2022. Instead of using placards to be raised and counted, voters will use wireless handsets to cast their vote quickly, accurately and privately.

Voter Check-In

At check-in, voters will be given a handset. No record is made of which voter receives which handset. All handsets will be tested prior to the meeting. Voters physically unable to use a handset, will be seated in a manual-count section and their votes will be counted by tellers. For those with visual impairments, large handsets with braille are available.

Test Vote

At the beginning of the meeting, the Moderator will conduct a test vote to get everyone comfortable with the voting procedures.

Proxy Voting Prohibited

The handset given to a voter at check-in is for the exclusive use of that voter. Voting with a handset that has been issued to another individual is strictly forbidden.

Voting

When the Moderator announces it is time to vote:

- Press 1A (green button) for YES →
- Press 2B (red button) for No →
- If you wish not to vote, press no buttons

Handset Display



The display on the handset:

- OK means the system receiver has received your vote
- A "1" for Yes or "2" for No shows the vote the system received.
- The small "R" at the top of the screen indicates the handset is communicating with the receiver
- The icons in the top left indicate the WiFi signal strength.

Help Desk

A voter with a malfunctioning handset should exchange it for a new handset at the voter check-in table.

Handset Return

If you leave the meeting temporarily, please keep the handset with you. If the meeting ends or you leave, return the handset to the check-in table.



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

Parking – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable Marion Stoddart Building. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the Building.

Wheelchair Accessible & Companion Seating – Wheelchair spaces, seating for people with mobility issues and companion seats are available in the center aisle on both sides of the auditorium.

Sign Language – A Sign Language Interpreter will be provided for the hearing impaired, upon request, at least one week prior to the meeting.

Speaking at Town Meeting – There will be volunteers available to bring hand-held microphones to voters who have mobility issues or cannot stand in line and wait at the microphones.

Restrooms – Accessible restrooms are available near the entrance to the auditorium.

Transportation to Town Meeting - The Council on Aging van will be available to Groton residents attending Town Meetings at no charge. All riders will be at the meeting prior to the start. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions or concerns - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact the Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

**SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MAY 2, 2026**

Middlesex, ss.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Marion Stoddart Building Auditorium, 344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts in said Town on Saturday, the second day of May, 2026 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the nineteenth day of May, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., at an adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

Precinct 1	The Groton Center 163 West Main Street	Precincts 2 & 3 Marion Stoddart Bldg. Gymnasium 344 Main Street
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to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for Two	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	2 Years
Vote for Two	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustee of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years

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*Will be presented as one Consent Motion

**FY 2027 Budget will be presented as One Consent Motion

***CPA Funding Recommendations will be presented as One Consent Motion

***Annual Consent Agenda. To be presented as one Motion

Article 1: Receive Reports

To see if the Town will vote to receive the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions and to accept the annual report and other reports that may be presented to Town Meeting.*

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

To see if the Town will vote to set the compensation for the elected officials of the Town for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$1,000 in FY 2027.*

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2027 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board
Town Manager

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees (Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resources Director and IT Director) covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will receive a three (3%) percent cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2027.*

Article 4: Appropriate FY 2027 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20, of the Massachusetts General Laws, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board
Town Manager**

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2027, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$200,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$200,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

MOTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 5 WILL BE PRESENTED AS A CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 5: Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2027), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Finance Committee
Select Board
Town Manager**

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *In accordance with Section 6 of the Town Charter, the Finance Committee conducts its annual budget process by receiving the Town Manager's proposed balanced budget on or before January 31st; meeting with department heads and boards; holding public budget hearings in preparation for issuing its recommendations to Town Meeting; and presenting its budget recommendations at the Spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see the Finance Committee's and Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee's and Select Board's recommendations.*

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Summary: *The following is the proposed Town Manager's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2027:*

Item #1 – Ambulance 2 Replacement **\$500,000** **Fire and EMS**

Summary: *This is a scheduled replacement of Ambulance 2. The Fire Department maintains two ambulances and schedules replacement of each ambulance every five (5) years. The intention of the Town is to borrow the cost of the ambulance (estimated to be \$500,000) and pay it back over five years from ambulance receipts.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #2 – PFAS Free Structural FF Gear **\$50,000** **Fire and EMS**

Summary: *PFAS has been used in firefighting gear for a long time due to its ability to withstand high temperatures and repel water and oils. Firefighters have long been known to suffer from a highly increased rate of cancers that are caused by the use of PFAS. These chemicals are shown to contribute to or are responsible for cases of breast, kidney, and testicular cancers within the fire service. Effective January 1, 2027, manufacturers and sellers of personal protective equipment for firefighters will be prohibited from knowingly selling gear containing “intentionally added PFAS” chemicals, meaning PFAS chemicals or products that break down into PFAS chemicals that are intentionally added to the product during manufacturing. Last year, the Town appropriated \$80,000 and in FY 2027, the Town is requesting \$50,000 to complete the purchase.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #3 – Pick-Up Truck **\$75,000** **Highway**

Summary: *This is a scheduled replacement. The average life of a pick-up truck is approximately 7 years. By replacing one vehicle every couple of years, this will allow the fleet to stay in good shape. They are front line pick-ups used for day-to-day operations as well as snow plowing.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #4 – Brush Mower/Field Mower **\$30,000** **Highway**

Summary: *In FY 2027, the Town will be rehauling one of the Brush Mowers to extend its life. This is a cost effective request to save purchasing a brand new Mower. In FY 2031, the Town will replace the second mower (purchased in 2019) as part of normal replacement of equipment.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #5– Truck Painting **\$25,000** **Highway**

Summary: *The plan is to paint truck beds every four years. Salt is the largest issue the DPW deals with in maintaining its fleet. While the DPW washes the trucks after every storm, salt still has a negative impact on the truck beds. Spending the funds to paint the beds will extend the life of the fleet.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #6 – IT Infrastructure

\$40,000

Town Facilities

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established over eleven years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2027, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; Replace aging servers and storage arrays; Investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; Network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage; and Improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #7 – Municipal Building Minor Capital

\$120,000

Town Facilities

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in our municipal buildings. In Fiscal Year 2027, Minor Capital Items have been added to this request as well. This was done due to the fact that all Minor Capital Items were removed from the FY 2026 Operating Budget to balance the budget.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #8 – Property Improvements

\$25,000

Park Department

Summary: *The Park Commission has been working over the past several years developing a strategy to address deficiencies in the various Park Department Properties located throughout Groton. Since FY 2015, the Town has appropriated \$25,000 each year so that the Park Commission can develop a capital improvement program that will allow them to keep our various park locations in good shape and avoid a major construction project to much success.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #9 – Police Cruisers

\$147,010

Police Department

Summary: *Purchase of two police cruisers and related equipment for replacement of cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. This allows for lesser mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear. Un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #10 – Police Minor Capital

\$34,750

Police Department

Summary: *This is a new Capital Item each year to provide funds for various minor capital needs of the Police Department. In FY 2027, this funding will be used to purchase soft armor, heavy vests, pay for the traffic camera system, repair the Gibbet Hill Radio Room Interior Ceiling and purchase new helmets for the ATV and Bicycle teams.*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Item #11 – Electronic Control Devices - Tasers **\$10,500** **Police Department**

Summary: *Current Electronic Control Device (ECD, Taser) is at end-of-life and not serviceable. Axon products provide integrated data storage for both the ECD and future acquired Body-Worn-Cameras (BWC) . The total cost of the ECD replacement is \$97,796. We applied for and anticipate receiving a JAG grant in the amount of \$50,000. The Town is responsible for 1 payment of \$12,500 and 3 annual installments of \$10,500 for a total cost to the town of \$49,000. This is the second of the final four installments.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #12 – Golf Carts **\$27,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2027, the Town will replace all Golf Carts with 27 new Carts on a five year lease/purchase. This is the first of five payments.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #13 – Ventrac Attachments **\$10,918** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2023, the Town purchased a Ventrac unit using a five year lease-to-purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$10,918. This is the final payment. The Ventrac unit is a most versatile piece of equipment. The attachments already in use include units for plowing, aeration, seeding, landscaping and mowing difficult terrain. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #14 – Greens Equipment – Truckster XD **\$14,736** **Country Club**

Summary: *This is a heavy payload 4x4 utility truck that will allow the transfer of up to 3,500 lbs. of debris, sand and loam to and from areas of the Course. This utility cart will replace the other utility cart in the Club’s fleet that is over a decade old and is becoming unreliable. This vehicle will be used on a daily basis in the Spring and Fall when course cleanup is a daily occurrence. During the Summer months, it will be used for various Course projects. This vehicle will be paid for over five years. This is the third of five payments.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #15 – Greens Equipment – Greens Mower **\$12,067** **Country Club**

Summary: *This item replaced a greens mower. The old mower will be converted to a tee & collar unit, and the old tee & collar unit will be converted to a greens roller unit. Ideally, the Club will purchase a new mower every five years. This is the third of four payments for this equipment.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #16 – Greens Equipment – Fairway Mower \$20,000 Country Club

Summary: *This is a request to replace the Club's current Fairway Mower. This mower will be purchased on a five year lease purchase arrangement. This will be the first of five payments.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #17 – Greens Equipment – Rough Mower \$20,000 Country Club

Summary: *Similar to the Fairway Mower, this is a request to replace the Club's current Rough Mower. This mower will be purchased on a five year lease purchase arrangement. This is the first of five payments.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #18 – Irrigation and Course Improvements \$1,400,000 Country Club

Summary: *The current irrigation system is limited to manual operation to a limited area of the golf course. It is believed that a new irrigation system would significantly improve the condition of the golf course particularly in dryer seasons. The new system would have greater coverage which would include all fairways, greens and tee boxes. Selected areas of rough that are considered in play would also be included. The new system would also be automated so watering could be accomplished during non-playing hours. In addition to the new irrigation system, the Country Club is looking into a redesign of the greenside area of the 3rd hole to improve playability as well as a drainage system for hole 7. Preliminary estimates for this project would be roughly \$1,400,000. In addition to the new irrigation system the Club will look into a redesign of Holes 1-3 to improve playability as well as drainage system for Hole 7. These funds will be borrowed and paid back over ten to fifteen years.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Item #19 – Roof for the Pavilion \$14,200 Country Club

Summary: *The pavilion at the Groton Country Club is used by the Club for its summer camp operations, as well as, storing equipment in the winter months. The roof is in need of replacement.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Town Manager

Article 7: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:
Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 34,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$113,500
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$113,500
Community Housing Reserve:	\$113,500
Unallocated Reserve:	\$760,500

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary so that the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2027. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

MOTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 8 WILL BE PRESENTED AS A CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 8: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2027, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A:	Lighting Improvements – Prescott	\$9,750
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Summary: *The Town Manager’s Office and Prescott Community Center are requesting \$9,750 to replace halogen fixtures with high bay LED fixtures with motion sensors in the gym and increase lighting at the back and side accessible entrances to the building by adding new LED wall lights. To Fund this Project, \$9,750 will come from the*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal B:	Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements	\$4,284,000
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Summary: *The Town Manager’s Office and Park Commission are requesting \$4,284,000 to improve site accessibility and safety by reconfiguring parking and constructing paved, ADA- and MAAB-compliant walking paths to all fields where accessible routes are currently lacking. Parking capacity will be expanded to better serve users, and environmental restoration will be achieved through the removal of an existing road that separates two wetland areas with vernal pools, improving ecological connectivity and wetland function. The Town has received a \$1,000,000*

Federal Grant to offset the requested amount. To Fund this Project, Town Meeting will be asked to authorize the borrowing of \$4,284,000, which will ultimately be reduced to \$3,284,000 after receiving the Grant proceeds.

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal C: Housing Coordinator – FY 2027 \$72,830

Summary: *This application is requesting \$72,830 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position for the Town of Groton (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal D: Pollinator Pathway Garden \$2,200

Summary: *The Sustainability Commission is requesting \$2,200 to enhancing the landscaped area by installing additional irrigation tied into the existing irrigation system to improve water coverage and plant health. The scope also includes upgrading the current dirt pathway by constructing a stone dust walking path, providing a more durable and accessible surface for pedestrian use. To fund this project, _____.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal E: FY 2027 Housing Request \$300,000

Summary: *The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is requesting \$300,000 from the Community Housing Reserve in order to continue its work of creating and supporting Affordable Housing in Groton. This money will allow the AHT to respond swiftly if suitable property for Affordable Housing becomes available on the market. Community Housing Funds can be used to acquire, create, support, rehabilitate and/or restore affordable housing if acquired or created with CPA funds. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

CPC Proposal F: Cutler Softball Field Establishment \$99,000

Summary: *The Groton Dunstable Youth Softball League is requesting \$99,000 to improve player safety and field quality by installing protective sideline fencing and constructing dugouts with benches and roofs. It also includes the purchase of an infield groomer to support consistent field maintenance and safe playing conditions. To fund this project, _____.*

Select Board:
Finance Committee:
Community Preservation Committee:

Summary: *The Groton Dunstable Regional School District is requesting \$675,000 to install new playground equipment, replace existing playground surfacing, and improve the adjacent parking area. The upgrades will provide a safe, accessible play space with inclusive features and improved access for users of all abilities To fund this project,*

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Community Preservation Committee:

Community Preservation Committee

Article 9: Special Act to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs from the Tax Levy

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act entitled “An Act Relative to Adjusting the Municipal Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Groton to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs” as follows:

An Act Relative to Adjusting the Municipal Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Groton to Exempt Certain Uncontrollable Costs

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the Town of Groton, the calculation of the municipal levy limit and levy ceiling pursuant to section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws shall exclude certain uncontrollable costs as set forth in this act.

SECTION 2.

For the purposes of this act, the following costs incurred by the Town of Groton shall be excluded from the annual calculation of the levy limit and levy ceiling under section 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws:

- (a) Group health insurance costs incurred pursuant to chapter 32B of the General Laws, including but not limited to subscriber premiums, employer contributions, retiree health insurance obligations, and reimbursements for Medicare Part B or related plans.
- (b) Pension appropriations required pursuant to chapter 32 of the General Laws, including but not limited to annual required contributions to the local or regional retirement system, pension funding schedules approved by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, and payments toward unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities.

SECTION 3.

Amounts excluded under this act:

- (a) shall not be considered an increase in the levy limit under subsection (f) of said section 21C;
- (b) shall not require voter approval pursuant to subsections (g) or (h) of said section 21C; and
- (c) shall not be considered a permanent increase to the base levy limit of the Town of Groton.

SECTION 4.

The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate regulations or issue guidance establishing the method by which the Town of Groton shall certify eligible costs and report such exclusions in the annual Tax Rate Recapitulation.

SECTION 5.

Not later than 180 days after the passage of this act, the Department of Revenue shall issue any guidelines, regulations, or forms necessary to implement the provisions of this act as they apply to the Town of Groton.

SECTION 6.

This act shall take effect on July 1 following its passage and shall apply to all fiscal years beginning on or after that date.

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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The proposed Act allows the Town of Groton to exclude specific "uncontrollable" costs from its annual municipal levy limit and levy ceiling calculation. If approved by the General Court and Governor, the Town could raise taxes above the standard 2.5% limit specifically to cover these mandated expenses without requiring a separate voter override for each instance. The following mandatory expenses would be exempt from the Levy Limit: Health Insurance: All subscriber premiums, employer contributions, and retiree health obligations (including Medicare Part B reimbursements); and Pension Obligations: Required annual contributions to retirement systems and payments toward unfunded actuarial liabilities. Any amount excluded under this act is considered temporary for that fiscal year. This does not permanently increase the town's base levy limit. In addition, the legislation specifically states that these adjustments do not require the usual voter approval typically mandated by Proposition 2 ½ for levy increases. The Department of Revenue (DOR) will oversee the process, issuing regulations and guidelines to ensure the Town correctly certifies and reports these excluded costs.*

Article 10: Amend Chapter 168 of the General Bylaws – Stretch Energy Code

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code, specifically 225 CMR 22 and 225 CMR 23, including Appendices RC and CC, and including future editions, amendments, or modifications thereto, to regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by deleting Chapter 168, Stretch Energy Code, in its entirety, and inserting in its place the text set forth below, provided that said adoption of the Specialized Stretch Energy Code and this amendment of the Code of the Town of Groton shall be effective as of January 1, 2027, and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make any numbering or formatting edits necessary to conform to the publication conventions of the Code of the Town of Groton, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Chapter 168 Specialized Stretch Energy Code

§ 168-1 Definitions.

As used in this Chapter 168, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency. and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR.

Stretch Energy Code

Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 23, not including Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code. Specialized Energy Code Codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, the Specialized Energy Code adds residential and commercial appendices to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based on amendments to the respective net-zero appendices of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to incorporate the energy efficiency of the Stretch energy code and further reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code, with the goal of achieving netzero greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector no later than 2050.

§ 168-2 Purpose.

The purpose of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, also referred to as the Specialized Energy Code, is to provide a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the State Building Code for both new construction and existing buildings.

§ 168-3 Applicability.

This Specialized Energy Code shall apply to residential and commercial buildings.

§ 168-4 Adoption.

The Specialized Code, including any future editions, amendments, or modifications is herein incorporated by reference into this Chapter 168.

§ 168-5 Enforcement.

The Specialized Energy Code shall be enforceable by the Building Commissioner.

§ 168-6 Effective Date.

The effective date of this Chapter 168 shall be January 1, 2027.

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article proposes to update the Town of Groton’s local energy regulations by repealing the current Stretch Energy Code and adopting the Commonwealth’s most recent Stretch Energy Code, known as the Specialized Energy Code (225 CMR 22 and 225 CMR 23, including applicable appendices). The Specialized Energy Code establishes enhanced energy-efficiency and emissions standards for certain new construction and major renovations, with the goal of reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. If approved, the new code would take effect on January 1, 2027.*



Article 11: Squannacook River Dam Repair

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the repair of the Squannacook River Dam, including all incidental and related costs, and further, to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain such land and easements that may be necessary to complete said project on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town, provided, however, that no funds may be expended hereunder for this purpose unless and until the Town approves a Proposition 2½ Debt or Capital Exclusion pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article seeks authorization for the Town to fund repairs to the Squannacook River Dam at an estimated cost of \$812,500, including all related and incidental expenses. Funding may be appropriated from the tax rate, subject to a Proposition 2½ Capital Exclusion, or borrowed, subject to a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion in accordance with applicable law. The article also authorizes the Select Board to acquire any necessary land or easements, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, to complete the project. Additional information relative to funding will be provided at Town Meeting.*



Article 12: Amend Zoning Bylaw – Clarify Appeal Process in Site Plan Review

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, by adding the following in Section 218-2.5.D(2):

(d) Within 90 days of the close of the public hearing, the Planning Board shall vote on a decision and authorize the filing of a written decision with the Town Clerk within 14 days.

(e) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Planning Board as site plan approval authority may appeal such decision as provided in MGL c. 40A, Section 17, within 20 days after such decision has been filed with the Town Clerk.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Planning Board:

Summary: *This technical amendment to the Zoning Bylaw clarifies the process for appeal of site plan decisions. The Planning Board's standard practice for site plan decisions has been to follow the same appeal procedures utilized for special permits, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40A, Section 17. However, this process is not specifically laid out in the site plan review section of the Zoning Bylaw. Town Counsel recommends that the Zoning Bylaw be amended to specify that site plan decisions must be appealed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40A, Section 17.*

ARTICLES 13 THROUGH 22 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 13: Funding for the Destination Groton Committee

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2027, 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Destination Groton Committee

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide \$15,000 in funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge, which is to pursue a course of action intended to engage all Town stakeholders, including the business and non-profit communities, Town leaders, Federal and State elected officials and Town residents in a series of public information forums, economic research and data analysis, in order to, through a ten-year Town Center Strategic Vision Plan, prepare for an increase in visitors to town while at the same time work to preserve its rural small-town charm. The purpose of this request is to meet a state required minimum local Town expenditure of \$15,000 in a prior fiscal year in order to qualify for major matching grants in Destination Development, Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, and Cultural programs that promote Groton to meet the needs of increased visitors. A portion of this funding will be used to set aside local match opportunities and to produce a Groton Public Engagement Vision Forum and the second Regional Tourism Conference to promote Groton as a gateway for the region.*

Article 14: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Department Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$____ will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 15: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$____ will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 16: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2026 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$____ will need to be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 17: Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for the payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board:
Finance Committee:

Summary: *Town Meeting approval is required to pay bills from a prior fiscal year. A list of unpaid bills will be provided at Town Meeting.*

Article 18: *Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2026 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the April 26, 2025 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 26. The current deficit is projected to be approximately \$____,____.*

Article 19: *Debt Service for Middle School Track*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the project. In FY 2027, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$648,945 in debt service (\$627,000 in principal payment and \$21,945 in interest payment) for this appropriation that will pay off the Debt. To fund this appropriation the entire amount will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Article 20: *Funding for Main Street Traffic Study*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, to hire an engineering consultant to conduct a traffic study of the portion of Main Street under the control of the Town, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

**Select Board:
Finance Committee:**

Summary: *This Article seeks funding to supplement funding received from the State to hire MDM Transportation Consultants to conduct an in depth traffic study of the portion of Main Street under the control of the Town. The purpose of this duty is to improve the overall safety (vehicular and pedestrian) of this roadway.*

Article 21: Appropriation to Fund Town Forest Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money from Receipts Reserved for the Town Forest to Town Forest Expenses, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *The Town Forest Committee is seeking funds to cover the cost of removing a dead stand of Red Pines that are creating a hazard in the Town Forest. The amount needed is estimated to be \$12,000 based on an estimate from the Committee's consulting Forester.*

Article 22: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2027 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2027 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Park Commission	\$100,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$20,000
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	\$20,000

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board:

Finance Committee:

Summary: *This Article sets the limit of annual spending for the various revolving funds authorized by previous Town Meeting votes and is currently set forth in the Town's Bylaw for said purpose.*

Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 17th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice-Chair

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Clerk

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Member

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

OFFICERS RETURN

Groton, Middlesex

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have this day notified the Inhabitants to assemble at the time, place, and for the purpose mentioned as within directed. Personally posted by Constable.

Constable

Date Duly Posted

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026
UN-APPROVED**

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

Park Commissioners Present: Mark Presti; Mary Jennings; Anna Eliot;

Park Commissioners Virtually Present: Jeff Ohringer;

Also Virtually Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Jim Gareffi, Executive Director of the Nashoba Boards of Health (NAGH); Jack Petropoulos, Park Commission Candidate; Brian Callahan, DPW Director.

Chair Pisani called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham reminded everyone about the informational public hearing regarding the Squannacook River Dam, scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Groton Center. Mr. Pisani emphasized the importance of clearing snow from fire hydrants in neighborhoods. He urged everyone, if they find a fire hydrant that hasn't been dug out, to take a moment to clear it. Fires can grow rapidly, doubling in size within just 30 seconds, so it's crucial to act quickly.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Jim Gareffi- Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Proposed FY 2027 Assessment

Mr. Jim Gareffi, Executive Director of the Nashoba Boards of Health (NABH), attended to discuss the proposed increase in the FY 2027 NABH Assessment. A summary of the Town- by-Town Assessment and an FAQ explaining the reasons for the increase were provided to the Select Board for review.

Mr. Haddad explained that the Town of Groton has been a member of NABH for many years and thanked Mr. Gareffi for his time. This year, the Town of Groton received a 30% increase in the Nashoba Assessment. Ms. Manugian asked that Mr. Gareffi be invited to attend a Select Board Meeting to discuss this increase. Mr. Gareffi offered an overview of the NABH to the Select Board and reviewed the reasons for the large increase in the Nashoba Assessment. In 2023, the nursing program component of the entity had to be closed due to staffing issues. Mr. Gareffi stated that a large portion of the nursing program has been funded by excess revenues from Environmental Division fees and from Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice (NNSH). The NABH's budget was managed through these funds, and that part of the NABH's budget was also subsidized. Mr. Gareffi explained that the 30% increase is necessary because they have lost the revenue that previously supported the nursing staff. This increase is essential to maintain their current staffing levels and ensure the continued delivery of public nursing services. He said the funds would also help cover IT services and employment costs, such as health insurance, which are difficult to absorb.

Mr. Gareffi explained that they need to find services from other visiting nurse associations that can provide visiting nurses. Ms. Manugian thanked Mr. Gareffi for attending and asked for clarification on a few issues. Mr. Gareffi stated that the Executive Board will present fee increases at its March meeting and that they are working to address the impact of the nurse grant loss and the nursing agency's closure. Ms. Manugian said that this seems to be level funding from the state, with increased mandates. Mr. Haddad added that this assessment is included in the town's balanced budget. He emphasized that one benefit of having the NABH is that there is always backup coverage.

2. FY 2027 Budget Update.

As discussed at the February 23rd Select Board meeting, Mr. Haddad drafted a letter to the State Legislature urging them to increase Chapter 70 Aid in FY 2027. Mr. Haddad provided the Board with the draft for review. He thanked Groton Dunstable Regional School District's School Committee Chair, Lacey McCabe, for reviewing and editing the proposed letter.

Ms. Pine moved to approve and sign the letter. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad stated that all Department Heads did a great job during Saturday's joint meeting with the Select Board and the Finance Committee. He said DPW Director Brian Callahan did an excellent job with his first budget presentation. Regarding the Capital Budget, Mr. Haddad noted a couple of important updates: the \$195,000 allocated for Portable Radio Replacement will be removed from the capital budget and funded through a grant. Additionally, the \$100,000 earmarked for the first-year irrigation payment at the Country Club will be removed, as this payment is not due until FY 2028. With those adjustments, Mr. Haddad stated that \$295,000 will now remain in the capital budget. He further explained that at Saturday's budget hearing, Chief Luth stated that some of the Town's communications equipment located at the radio Tower at Gibbet Hill needs some work. He is proposing to use some of those funds to address this issue as well as to offset the snow and ice deficit. The Board was supportive of Mr. Haddad's proposal.

3. Update on Select Board Schedule Through the 2026 Spring Town Meeting.

Tuesday, March 3, 2026-	Squannacook River Dam Public Hearing
Monday, March 9, 2026 -	2026 Town Meeting Warrant Public Hearing
Monday, March 16, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2026	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026 -	No Meeting – (Patriots' Day Holiday)
Saturday, May 2, 2026 -	2026 Spring Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

None

6:15 P.M.-In Joint Session with the Park Commission- Consider Appointing an Individual to Fill a Vacancy on the Park Commission until the 2026 Annual Town Election.

Park Commissioners Ms. Anna Eliot, Mr. Mark Presti, and Ms. Mary Jennings were present, while Mr. Jeff Ohringer attended virtually.

Mr. Haddad said that this was on the February 23rd Select Board agenda and that there were some technical problems, so the discussion was continued to this evening. The two candidates were asked to write a letter of interest, but one withdrew, leaving only Mr. Jack Petropoulos. Mr. Petropoulos was present to interview for the current Commissioner vacancy until the 2026 Annual Town Election.

Ms. Mary Jennings called the Park Commission to order.

Ms. Jennings stated that they have one candidate, Mr. Jack Petropoulos, and she suggested that they interview him. Ms. Manugian asked for clarification on the process. Mr. Haddad explained that the Town Clerk will ask the Board at its next meeting to add an additional two-year term for the Park Commission to the ballot, ending in 2028. He said there will be two three-year terms and one two-year term on the ballot, ending in 2028. Mr. Reilly asked about the urgency of adding a member to the commission. Ms. Jennings replied that four or five meetings remain before the end of the fiscal year, along with regular business and the upcoming Cow Pond Project public forum. Mr. Haddad explained that regarding the Cow Pond Brook Project, the Park Commission had already voted unanimously in support of it; it is before the CPA and in the permitting phase. He said the project is well underway and designed, and there will be additional public outreach. Ms. Jennings said they will be establishing a permitting policy, and working with user groups. Ms. Pine stated that it is a lot of work, and the candidate has stepped forward.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Petropoulos for his perspective on the items of business Ms. Jennings raised. Mr. Petropoulos explained that adding user fees for the fields will be a major change and will require the full board to implement. He also indicated that he does not plan to run in the next election and prefers others to run for the position. Mr. Reilly mentioned there was talk of eliminating the Park Commission and asked Mr. Petropoulos for his opinion. Ms. Manugian said she would prefer not to fill the vacancy at this time, going into the election. Ms. Eliot expressed that they have never had a problem handling general business and always have a quorum. Mr. Presti supported adding an additional member, and Mr. Ohringer supported adding Mr. Petropoulos.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to appoint Jack Petropoulos to the Park Commission. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-nay; Pisani-nay; Reilly-nay; Cunningham-aye; Pine-aye; Jennings-aye; Presti-aye; Eliot-nay; Ohringer-aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

On-Going Issues

- A. PFAS Issue – Mr. Haddad explained that the total appropriation for the Chicopee Row Water line was \$16.7 million. Of this \$16.7 million, \$12.2 million was borrowed from the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The remaining \$4.5 million was originally intended to be used for Phase II of the project, but the Towns of Groton, Pepperell and Dunstable received a \$5 million state grant for this work, freeing up the remaining funds to address the spread of the plume, which is estimated to cost around \$6 million. The original water main installation came in just over \$10 million, freeing up \$2.2 million in SRF funding that can be used to address the additional work. The problem is that the approved \$12.2 million in SRF funding cannot be reduced for 2 years according to SRF funding rules. Earlier today, a meeting took place with the Department of Environmental Protection, during which Mr. Haddad requested approval for a change order that would allow the current contractor to use the remaining \$2 million for some of the additional work. The Town had borrowed the remaining \$4.5 million at the end of January and he does not want to go back out to the Bond market for the \$2.2 million. The town is currently waiting for the state to approve the use of the \$2.2 million. Regardless, the additional work is scheduled to begin in April on Raddin Rd., Hawtree Way, Kemp St., North St., Ready Meadow Rd., and Groton St.

Mr. Haddad emphasized that Mr. Rob Maloney has done an excellent job serving as the Acting Water Superintendent. Mr. Maloney has chosen to remain as a water operator, a decision that Mr. Haddad respects. He explained that they would be advertising the Water Superintendent position soon.

- A. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility – the Sign Committee held a hearing for their signage earlier today. The Sign Committee voted unanimously to approve their signage.
- B. Fire Department Staffing – Postcards with QR codes were mailed out and tracking shows how many residents are accessing the information. So far, there have been over 250 views. The Town Manager's Working Group is scheduled to meet on Wednesday morning. Mr. Haddad mentioned that the group will meet with two consultants hired to help communicate the information to the public. The working group will keep the Board updated on its progress.
- C. West Groton Dam- The public hearing on the Dam will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Groton Center, starting at 7:00 p.m.
- D. Main Street Study – None

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of February 23, 2026

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2026. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Select Board adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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