

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
APPROVED

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

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Melisa Doig, Human Resource Director; Patricia Dufresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Megan Foster, Principal Assessor; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine announced an event that will take place on Sunday, April 7th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Meeting House. Groton Neighbors, Groton History Center, and the Groton Public Library are sponsoring the event. A performance artist will discuss a woman Abolitionist from Groton in 1837 who posted letters discussing the condition of women. The book "The Invention of Wings" contains the history of this woman and can be found at the Groton Public Library. Ms. Pine stated that it is a well-written book.

Mr. Cunningham said the Annual Town Meeting was tomorrow, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Haddad announced that the Annual Town Report was completed and published. He complimented Kara Cruikshank on the outstanding job she did putting the report together. He also pointed out new features in the Report that were created by Ms. Cruikshank.

Spring Town Meeting Update

Jason Kauppi, the Moderator, was in attendance for the discussion.

Mr. Haddad clarified that the \$5.5 million override vote scheduled for April 2nd will not be affected by any changes made to the budget during the upcoming Town Meeting. He mentioned that a recent article in the Groton Herald has caused confusion by stating that any changes to the budget would result in changes to the override, but this is not the case. Mr. Haddad added that early voting has already started.

Mr. Haddad explained that the Town of Westford had rescheduled their Town Meeting over the weekend due to a high attendance of approximately 1600 people. As a result, their Town Meeting has been moved to May 4th. Mr. Haddad wanted to discuss the preparations for Groton's Town Meeting with the Select Board and Moderator. He explained that Groton's IT Department had contacted the Town of Lancaster to borrow 300 compatible clickers, bringing Groton's total to 900. The Performing Arts Center (PAC) can accommodate up to 800 people, with an additional spillover room in the cafeteria for 100 people. A third spillover room would cause logistical problems for the Moderator and would be very difficult to provide a live feed for the meeting. Mr. Kauppi said if the meeting attendees exceed 900, it would be a great sign of people's interest and concern for their town's future. He explained that, per the state law, Chapter 39, Section 10, the Town Meeting would have to be stopped immediately and recessed. Mr. Kauppi would need to either address the issue or consult with the Select Board on postponing the meeting to a later date with a facility that could accommodate everyone attending. If there are over 900 people who attend and there are people who can't participate, the Moderator

will convene the meeting and then dissolve the meeting. The Select Board would then have to post a new meeting. Mr. Kauppi said that in his twelve years as the Moderator, the capacity of the PAC has never been exceeded. He has never had to moderate a meeting with an overflow room, but he is confident it could be managed if required. Mr. Kauppi assured everyone that the Town had done everything it could and that they would come up with a solution if there were too many voters. Mr. Cunningham asked for information about the check-in process. Mr. Haddad said check-in would begin at 6:00 p.m., and babysitting services would start earlier to accommodate parents. Mr. Haddad also assured everyone they had done everything possible to prepare for the Town Meeting. Ms. Manugian inquired about the cafeteria's capacity. Mr. Haddad said it could accommodate up to 100 people. The Board discussed alternative options and locations for rescheduling if the meeting reaches capacity.

Mr. Haddad and Mr. Kauppi had a conversation with Mr. Falk, Town Counsel, earlier that day. Mr. Falk pointed out that the Town's Bylaw specifies that the town election must occur on the fourth Tuesday after the first night of the Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad thought it was important to mention this fact. The Special Override Election will occur on April 2nd, and the Annual Election will still be held on April 23rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1

Sustainability Committee member Mr. Phil Francisco announced an upcoming seminar at the Groton Center on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. The panelists will include farmers from the Town and surrounding areas. Mr. Francisco encouraged everyone to attend.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Kristine Fox as the Department Assistant for the Council on Aging.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's Appointment of Kristine Fox as the Department Assistant for the Council on Aging, effective immediately. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

2. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Clayton Rutherford as the Custodian for the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Pine made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's Appointment of Clayton Rutherford as the Custodian for the Department of Public Works, effective April 1, 2024. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

3. Consider Ratifying the New Three-Year Agreement with Megan Foster to remain as the Town's Principal Assessor.

Ms. Foster, the Principal Assessor, was in attendance.

Ms. Foster has served as the Town's Principal Assessor for the last Four years and is up for reappointment at the end of this Fiscal year. Mr. Haddad said she has done an excellent job for the Town, and he was pleased with her performance. Pursuant to her current agreement with the Town, he notified her of his intention to reappoint her and began negotiations on a new three-year agreement. The new three-year agreement was provided to the Board for review and ratification. Mr. Haddad explained that most of the provisions would remain the same. However, he wanted to review two

specific changes with the Board. The first proposed change was a 2% increase in Salary for Fiscal Year 2025. This increase was consistent with the Supervisors Union's Contract and was already included in the Proposed FY 2025 Budget that will be presented at the Spring Town Meeting. The second proposed change was a Stipend of \$2,500 for maintaining Massachusetts Accreditation Assessor Designation, subject to Ms. Foster maintaining their accreditation. This will be presented at the 2024 Fall Town Meeting for funding, as it is due to be paid in December. He also included Juneteenth to Ms. Foster's holiday benefits.

Ms. Manugian made a motion to ratify the New Three-Year Agreement with Megan Foster to remain as the Town's Principal Assessor. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. FY 2025 Budget Update.

Mr. Haddad explained that Dr. Chesson had recommended that the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee reduce their proposed Operational Assessment for Fiscal Year 2025 after receiving feedback from residents of Groton and Dunstable. This was done to ensure that Override Requests of \$5.5 million (Groton) and \$2.1 million (Dunstable) could last as long as possible. Dr. Chesson suggested delaying filling two positions required in FY 2025 and filling a Behavioral Interventionist and an English Language Learner teacher position by eliminating a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst and a Team Chair. If these recommendations are implemented, the FY 2025 budget could be reduced by over \$300,000. Over \$900,000 could be saved in the next three years if the eliminated positions are determined never to be filled.

The School Committee voted, by a vote of five in favor, one opposed (Awa), and one abstention (Cheema) the following:

"The Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee commits to adhere to the estimated budget established for the next three years, if the override passes, regardless of any new expenses that may arise or come in higher than estimated. Further, should the override pass, the GDRSC will direct the new superintendent to build his budgets with the understanding that he may not exceed what has been projected and that he should make every effort to reduce costs, if possible, while maintaining the same quality education that our students and families currently receive."

Mr. Haddad said that both of these actions were very important and were done to provide confidence to the taxpayers of Groton and Dunstable that the School District will work with the Towns to ensure that Override Funds last as long as possible.

The new assessment in FY 2025 shows a total reduction of \$232,304 to the Town of Groton. This reduction has reduced the amount needed from the \$5.5 million override in FY 2025 from \$1.7 million to \$1.4 million. It has also lowered the anticipated FY 2025 Tax Rate by \$0.08 from \$16.24 to \$16.16 and reduced the Override impact from \$431 to \$375, or \$56. Mr. Haddad explained that the Town Meeting Handout will include a new copy of the Budget for the Voters.

Mr. Cunningham wanted to discuss Chapter 70 because he thought it was important. The Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr. Robertson, expressed concern about the significant issue of Chapter 70. He

stated that high inflation is a huge problem and that the Town must take action to avoid disaster. Mr. Robertson explained that if the inflation number decreases, the problem with the state will also decrease. He also said budget cuts cannot be undone once made, so it's important to act now to prevent future issues.

Mr. Haddad wanted to discuss the compounding effect on a tax bill. He said several factors come into play when setting a tax rate, such as new growth, state aid, revenues, and estimated receipts. He explained how the tax rate fluctuates and used a tax bill as an example. He stated that municipal finance operates differently from straightforward accounting.

5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through the 2024 Spring Town Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2024	2024 Spring Town Meeting
Monday, April 1, 2024	No Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2024	Special Election - Override of Proposition 2 1/2
Monday, April 8, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2024	No Meeting- Patriots Day Holiday
Monday, April 22, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	2024 Annual Town Election

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Review the Motions and Article Assignments for the 2024 Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Haddad stated that he had enclosed a copy of the Motions for the Spring Town Meeting and the Article Assignments with the Town Manager's Report. He also provided the Proposed Budget Amendments to the Chief Opponent of the Budget for their review. Mr. Haddad reviewed them with the Board (see included in these minutes).

OTHER BUSINESS

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. Green Communities Application and Implementation- Mr. Haddad said they have been working with consultants from RISE Engineering. He said there are new programs for the new stretch code, but he is still determining if the Town is eligible for the funding.

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

Public Comment Period #2

NONE

Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2024

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of March 11, 2024. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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

**SPRING TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS**

MARCH 26, 2024

CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 4

Mover: Alison Manugian

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

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 1: Hear Reports

MOTION: I move that the Town's 2023 Annual Report be accepted and placed in the permanent records of the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 2: Elected Officials' Compensation

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

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

MOTION: I move that the Town of Groton Wage and Classification Schedule be amended and adopted for Fiscal Year 2025 as printed in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2024 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 4: Appropriate Funding for OPEB Trust

MOTION: I move that One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 5: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget

MOTION 1: Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION A: I move that the sum of Twenty-Eight Million Nine Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$28,954,794) be hereby raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by lines 1410 through 1413 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION B: I move that the sum of Two Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$295,767) be transferred from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to pay for the capital assessment from said School District as represented by line 1414 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

MOTION 2: General Government

Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that Two Million Four Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$2,478,370) be hereby appropriated for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$20,668 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$2,457,702 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Land Use Departments

Mover: Mary Linskey

MOTION: I move that Five Hundred Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$520,749) be hereby appropriated for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$4,660 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$516,089 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: Protection of Persons & Property

Mover: Colby Doody

MOTION: I move that Four Million Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seventy-Nine (\$4,515,079) be appropriated for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$453 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); the sum of \$350,000 be transferred from Fire & Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and the sum of \$4,164,626 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move that the sum of Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$966,719) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: Department of Public Works

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that Two Million Three Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$2,389,516) be hereby appropriated for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, \$5,110 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and \$2,384,406 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: Library and Citizens' Services

Mover: Scott Whitefield

MOTION: I move that the sum of Two Million One Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$2,192,957) be hereby appropriated for Library and Citizens' Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1713 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$166,428 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and \$2,026,529 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: Debt Service

Mover: Colby Doody

MOTION: I move that Five Million Fifty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$5,056,611) be hereby appropriated for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2005B as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation the sum of \$132,170 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$4,924,441 be raised from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: Employee Benefits

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move that Four Million Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$4,984,990) be raised and appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other general revenues of the Town for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000, 3002, 3010, 3011 and 3012 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g).

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

CONSENT MOTION #2 – Enterprise Fund Budgets

Mover: Michael Sulprizio

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 10 through Motion 14, under Article 5, as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided, however, that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific budget motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 10: Water Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Two Million Three Hundred Ten Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$2,310,267) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Water Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town of the Groton Water Enterprise Fund as represented in the Water Enterprise Budget as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$1,665,526 be appropriated from Water Rates and Fees; the sum of \$420,141 be hereby transferred from Water Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$224,600 in the Town's General Fund Operating Budget be raised and appropriated to be allocated to the Water Enterprise for FY 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 11: Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: I move that One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,250,475) be appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town for the Groton Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$865,195 be appropriated from Sewer Rates and Fees; the sum of \$352,935 be hereby transferred from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$32,345 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 12: Four Corners Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Ninety-Eight Thousand Forty Dollars (\$98,040) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Groton Sewer Commission for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$73,777 be appropriated from Four Corners Sewer Rates and Fees; the sum of \$21,150 be hereby transferred from Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency; and the sum of \$3,113 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 13: Stormwater Utility Enterprise

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$247,851) be hereby appropriated to be spent by the Town Manager to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursements to the Town of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$192,245 be hereby transferred from Stormwater Utility Rates and Fees; and the sum of \$55,606 be raised and appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be allocated to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 14: Electric Light

MOTION: I move that the income from sales of electricity to private customers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings, together with receipts from jobbing accounts, be appropriated for the Groton Electric Light Department, the whole to be expended by the Manager of the Groton Electric Light Department under the direction and control of the Groton Board of Electric Light Commissioners, for expenses of the Department for Fiscal Year 2025, as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the Mass. General Laws, and that, if said sum and said income shall exceed said expense for said year, such excess shall be transferred to the construction fund of said plant and appropriated and used for such additions thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Board of Electric Light Commissioners.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget

Mover: John Reilly

MOTION A: I move that Two Hundred Eight-Five Thousand (\$285,000) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase and equip a new Dump Truck for the Highway Department, and for the payment of all costs associated and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow the sum of \$285,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and, further, that the Town Manager be authorized to contract for the accomplishment of the foregoing purpose, including the expenditure of all appropriated funds and any funds received from any source for such purchase.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

MOTION B: I move that Eight Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand One Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$862,144) be hereby appropriated, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2024 and thereafter, for the capital items identified as Item 1 through Item 3 and Item 5 through Item 23 as set forth under Article 6 in the Warrant for the 2024 Spring Town Meeting; and to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$178,644 be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); and the sum of \$683,500 be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Extrication Tools – “Jaws of Life”	\$92,500	Fire and EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$55,000	Highway
Brush Mower/Field Mower	\$70,000	Highway
IT Infrastructure	\$40,000	Town Facilities
Municipal Building Repairs	\$ 25,000	Town Facilities
Police Station HVAC	\$ 65,000	Town Facilities
Baler/Maintenance	\$ 25,000	Transfer Station
Carpeting	\$ 50,000	Library
Property Improvements	\$ 50,000	Park Department
Police Cruisers	\$134,000	Police Department
Police Pick-Up Truck	\$ 77,000	Police Department
Electronic Control Devices – “Tasers”	\$ 12,673	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 25,553	Country Club
Greens Equipment - Ventrac	\$ 10,918	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Hauler Pro X	\$ 20,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Truckster XD	\$ 13,500	Country Club
Ventrac Attachments	\$ 18,000	Country Club
Greens Equipment – Greens Mower	\$ 10,000	Country Club
HVAC	\$ 23,000	Country Club
Building Repairs & Painting	\$ 20,000	Country Club
Function Hall Bathroom Repairs	\$ 10,000	Country Club
Retaining Walls	\$ 15,000	Country Club
Total	\$862,144	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 7: Transfer to Cover MNHG Obligations

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that Two Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$263,424) be transferred from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2024, for the purpose of paying the Town of Groton's obligations to the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group, said funds to be used to pay the Town's run out claims for self-insured Active plans and self-insured Medicare plans

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Article 8: Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move to revoke the provisions of Chapter 44, §53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, ceasing the Community Cable Department as an enterprise fund effective in Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 9: Accept Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund

Mover: Matt Pisani

MOTION: I move to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53F¾, to establish a special revenue fund known as the Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, said fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2025.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 10: Funding for Destination Groton Committee

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move that Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2025 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 11: Funding for Sustainability Commission

Mover: Rebecca Pine

MOTION: I move that Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$9,600) be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all cost associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 12: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

Mover: Bruce Easom

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

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 27,500
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,250
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,250
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,250
Unallocated Reserve:	\$716,250

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 13: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2024

MOTION: Sustainable Groton Funding

Mover: Phil Francisco

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$3,600) be appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-04 “Sustainable Groton Funding” as described in Article 13 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 14: CPA Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025

Mover: Russell Burke

CONSENT MOTION #3 - CPA Funding Recommendations

I move that the Town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 11, under Article 14, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and as set forth in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting, without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each motion, provided however that if any voter requests the right to debate a specific motion, then said motion shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 1: Conservation Fund – FY 2025 - \$400,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$400,000, to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-01 “Conservation Fund – FY 2025”, as described in Article 14.A of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Cow Pond Play Fields - \$30,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-02 “Cow Pond Play Fields”, as described in Article 14.B of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Milestone Markers Restoration - \$8,950

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$8,950) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-03 “Milestone Markers Restoration”, as described in Article 14.C of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: Prescott School Building Assessment - \$100,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-05 "Prescott School Building Assessment", as described in Article 14.D of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: Outdoor Fitness Court -\$237,500

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Two Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$237,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-06 "Outdoor Fitness Court", as described in Article 14.E of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: SRRT – Phase II Permitting - \$30,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-07 "SRRT – Phase II Permitting", as described in Article 14.F of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: Bancroft Castle Preservation Study - \$16,240

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$16,240) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-08 "Bancroft Castle Preservation Application 2025-08 "Bancroft Castle Preservation Study", as described in Article 14.G of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: Property Security, Safety and Preservation - \$69,600

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Sixty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$69,600) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-09 "Property Security, Safety and Preservation", as described in Article 14.H of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: 2023-2024 Housing Funding Request - \$400,000

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-10 "2023-2024 Housing Fund Request", as described in Article 14.I of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 10: Housing Coordinator – FY 2025 - \$62,660

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Sixty-Two Thousand Sixty Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$62,660) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-11 "Housing Coordinator – FY 2025", as described in Article 14.J of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 11: Tools and Equipment for Building Trails - \$12,195

I move, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, that Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$7,195) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$12,195, to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-12 "Tools and Equipment for Building Trails", as described in Article 14.K of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 15: Extend Center Sewer District

Mover: James Gmeiner

MOTION: I move to extend the "Groton Center Sewer District" as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, and as shown most recently on the plan approved under article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 25, 2005, to include the property shown on Assessors' Map 115, Lot 25-0 (6 Fairway Drive) but only for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner's proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 16: Extend Four Corner Sewer District

Mover: James Gmeiner

MOTION: I move to extend the "Four Corners Sewer District", as established by the vote under Article 12 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, to include the property shown on Assessors' Map 133, Lot 49-0 (797 Boston Road) but only for the exclusive use of 797 Boston Road, and its successors or assigns, and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the property owner's proportionate share of the general benefit facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 17: Citizens' Petition

Mover: Guy Alberghini

MOTION: I move to no longer use electronic voting and instead revert back to voice and voter card count at Town Meetings.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 18: Citizens' Petition

Mover: James Barisano

MOTION: I move to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 17C, thereby authorizing the Select Board to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the town on any way that is not a state highway.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

CONSENT MOTION #4 – Articles 19 through 28

Mover: Peter Cunningham

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

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 19: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Article 19 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 20: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Fifty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$52,500) be transferred from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 21: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) be transferred from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 22: Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund

MOTION: I move that Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) be transferred from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Cable Enterprise Department Budget for general expenses.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 23: Prior Year Bills

MOTION: I move that Article 23 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 24: Current Year Line-Item Transfers

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2024 Town Operating Budget, being the sums of money identified in the **“Transfer funds from”** line items designated below, said sums to be transferred to the various line items in the **“Transfer funds to”** categories designated below, the total amount to be transferred being \$81,675.

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
1601 – Council on Aging Wages	\$57,000
3010 – Health Insurance	\$24,675
Total	\$81,675

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
1131 – Town Clerk Wages	\$ 450
1140 – Elections & Board of Registrars Stipend	\$ 3,600
1141 – Elections & Board of Registrars Expenses	\$ 5,125
1180 – Postage/Town Hall Expenses	\$ 5,500
1600 – Council on Aging Salaries	\$57,000
3012 – Employee Benefits – Medicare/Social Security	\$10,000
Total	\$81,675

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 25: Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit

MOTION: I move that Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) be appropriated from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2024 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 26: Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2024

MOTION: I move, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, that Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) be appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$124,590) be appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$144,590 to pay for debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 27: Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025

MOTION: I move that the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Seventy-Two Dollars (\$235,072) from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund the debt service for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Article 28: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

MOTION: I move, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to set the FY 2025 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$40,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$20,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

**PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS
ARTICLE 5
2024 SPRING TOWN MEETING**

MOTION 1: Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Motion A: I move to amend the Groton Dunstable Regional School District appropriation under Motion A by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$886,774 from \$28,954,794 to \$28,068,020. To make this reduction, I move to reduce Line Item 1410 – Operating Expenses from \$28,509,638 to \$27,622,864.

MOTION 2: General Government

Motion: I move to amend General Government by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$34,054 from \$2,478,370 to \$2,444,316. To make this reduction, I move to reduce Line Items 1024 and 1062 as follows:

1024 – Select Board Minor Capital from \$24,054 to \$0
1062 – Board of Assessors Expenses from \$47,032 to \$37,032

MOTION 4: Protection of Persons and Properties

Motion: I move to amend Protection of Persons and Properties by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$237,150 from \$4,515,079 to \$4,277,929. To make this reduction, I move to reduce Line Items 1301 and 1311 as follows:

1301 – Police Department Wages from \$2,222,071 to \$2,074,921
1311 – Fire Department Wages from \$1,160,261 to \$1,070,261

MOTION 6: Department of Public Works

Motion: I move to amend Department of Public Works by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$107,522 from \$2,389,516 to \$2,281,994. To make this reduction, I move to reduce Line Items 1501 and 1560 as follows:

1501 – Highway Wages from \$753,789 to \$653,789
1560 – Park Department Wages from \$17,922 to \$10,400

MOTION 7: Library and Citizens' Services

Motion: I move to amend Library and Citizens' Services by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$100,900 from \$2,192,957 to \$2,092,057. To make this reduction, I move to reduce Line Items 1661, 1682 and 1691 as follows:

1661 – Library Wages from \$355,706 to \$280,706

1682 – Water Safety Property Maintenance and Improvements from \$10,900 to \$0

1691 – Weed Management Expenses: Weed Harvester from \$22,000 to \$7,000

MOTION 9: Employee Benefits

Motion: I move to amend Employee Benefits by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$126,556 from \$5,174,990 to 5,048,434. To make this reduction, I move to reduce Line Items 3010 and 3012 as follows:

3010 – Health Insurance/Employee Expenses from \$2,161,151 to \$2,044,595

3012 – Medicare/Social Security from \$157,000 to 147,000
