

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024  
APPROVED**

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

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patricia DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Steele McCurdy, Fire Chief; Art Cheeks, Deputy Fire Chief; Brian Mayer, Representative of DCR; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Patricia DuFresne; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Pine announced that the Garden Club's Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall Common.

Mr. Cunningham said the Squannacook River Road Race in Groton on Sunday, May 5th, was well-attended.

Mr. Haddad announced the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Whitney Pond Wells Water Treatment Facility at 864 Lowell Road, Groton, MA, on May 9, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. He invited members of the public to attend.

Mr. Haddad reported that the town received a check from the Groton Hill Music Center in the amount of \$21,660 from their Quarter 1, 2024 (January through March) proceeds from the Groton Community Fund. He noted that the town received \$48,000 in PILOT payments for the first three quarters of fiscal year 2024 (July through March). Since the beginning of the concert presentations in October 2022, that number is now over \$85,000. Mr. Haddad stated that the Community Fund is very successful.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1**

Resident Scott Snow mentioned that there is only one public trash can in downtown Groton, located in front of Moison's Hardware. He enjoys walking his dog downtown and believes more trash cans are needed to dispose of litter. Mr. Haddad responded that people were using the public trash cans for their household trash, and the town relied on the public works department for cleanup.

Ashley Doucette, the Director of Groton Cable Advisory, has announced that there will be a public hearing on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Center to discuss the Town's Cable Television License Renewal with Verizon New England Inc. Ms. Doucette mentioned that Verizon's renewal is due by the end of June, and Charter's is in November. Mr. Haddad stated that holding a public hearing is a legal requirement, and in the first week of June, Ms. Doucette will bring the final license for the Select Board to approve.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **1. Update from the Fire Chief on the Lease to DCR for the Lost Lake Fire Station.**

Fire Chief McCurdy and Deputy Chief Arthur Cheeks attended the meeting to discuss the Town's lease of the Lost Lake Fire Station with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Mr. Haddad explained that the Town will retain a couple of the bays for exclusive use and some storage. DCR will cover all operation costs of the building, saving the Town's operational expenses in Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond. Mr. Brian Mayer, a West Groton resident who works for DCR and the neighboring town's Fire Warden, also attended the meeting. Chief McCurdy explained that DCR was previously housed by Townsend Harbor. Chief McCurdy said that after looking at the town's apparatus and storage options for equipment, it made sense to move to the Lost Lake Station. This move offers a great opportunity for the community and the state, as DCR will be able to utilize the training room, introduce programs, and engage with the public. Chief McCurdy stated that the West Groton Fire Station has been closed since approximately 2016 but would still be used for storage. Mr. Haddad expressed excitement about the relationship and partnership with DCR and the town regarding the budget and protection. He mentioned that the community room would still be used. Deputy Chief Cheeks mentioned that residents had called him and expressed that it was nice to see the space being used. Mr. Pine asked if there would be a rental payment. Mr. Haddad explained that taking over the utilities was the rental payment and was comfortable with the arrangement.

### **2. Review Motions and Assignments for the May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting.**

Mr. Haddad stated that he had enclosed a copy of the Motions for the May 18, 2024, Special Town Meeting and the Article Assignments with the Town Manager's Report. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Motions with the Board (see included in these minutes).

Mr. Haddad mentioned that Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank and Town Clerk Dawn Dunbar met with Groton Cable Director Ashley Doucette and Greg Hazard from Encore Entertainment to discuss logistics at the High School Gymnasium for the Special Town Meeting. He mentioned that everything is well organized and ready, and they will borrow clickers from Lancaster. He said they are planning for 1100 people to attend. Mr. Haddad took a moment to thank his Executive Assistant, Ms. Cruikshank, and Town Clerk, Ms. Dunbar, for their hard work preparing for the Town Meeting.

Mr. Haddad wanted to discuss the quorum at Town Meetings. He explained that according to the Town's Charter, there is no quorum requirement for the Annual Town Meetings in the Spring and the Fall. However, for a Special Town Meeting, the Charter and Section 81-2 of the Groton Bylaws state a quorum requirement of 2 percent of the Town's registered voters as of the preceding January. As of January 1, 2024, Groton has 8,789 registered voters on January 1, 2024; this means that a quorum of 176 is needed to conduct any business during the Special Town Meeting. He said there was little controversy on the warrant and was unsure if 176 voters would attend the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said that it is essential that the Town's business is conducted. He explained that under Section 15 of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, the Town may reduce the quorum for any town meeting to not less than 10 percent of the required quorum, which would be 18 in this case. Mr. Haddad did not recommend 18. The Select Board can choose a meeting date to consider adjusting the quorum. This meeting may take place on the same day as the Special Town Meeting, allowing the Board to monitor voter sign-ins. The Select Board needs to publish notice of its intention to consider adjusting the

quorum at least seven calendar days before the chosen Board meeting date. Mr. Haddad explained that this public notice would be published in the Groton Herald on Friday, May 10, 2024, if the Board decided to hold a meeting. The Select Board, in consultation and with the approval of the Town Moderator, would vote at the scheduled meeting to reduce the quorum to a fixed number, not less than 18. The Moderator would announce the adjustment quorum at the start of the Special Town Meeting. Within ten days of the Special Town Meeting, the Town Clerk would notify the Attorney General's office of the Select Board's vote. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town Counsel had already called the Attorney General's office. Ms. Manugian asked what would happen if there wasn't a quorum on the day of the meeting. Mr. Haddad explained that a vote would be taken to hold the Town Meeting within 14 days. If a date is not chosen within 14 days, the Town Meeting will dissolve, and a budget will not be in place by the end of the fiscal year. He explained that once the quorum is established, it will remain until someone questions and asks for a quorum count. Mr. Cunningham asked if the quorum requirement could be changed during a meeting, but Mr. Haddad said it could not. Mr. Reilly doesn't think there would be a problem getting a quorum at the Special Town Meeting because of the controversial proposed one-time grant of \$619,000 to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. Mr. Pisani said this was a way to ensure they conduct the Special Town meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Haddad's recommendation was to reduce the quorum to 50 registered voters.

Finally, Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board if they wanted to meet on May 18<sup>th</sup> before the Special Town Meeting to consider reducing the quorum.

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to advertise and call for a meeting on May 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School Gymnasium to discuss reducing the quorum size. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion.*

Discussion

Ms. Manugian explained that she thought this made sense and was concerned that only 50 people would be voting because nobody attended the Special Town Meeting. She thought that would be sad. Ms. Pine stated that it costs the taxpayers to hold a Town Meeting.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**3. FY 2025 Budget Update.**

No update

**4. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule End of Fiscal Year.**

Saturday, May 18, 2024	Special Town Meeting
Monday, May 20, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, May 27, 2024	No Meeting- Memorial Day
Monday, June 3, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024	No Meeting
Monday, June 24, 2024	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

- 1. Consider Approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night on Friday, May 10, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for Open Mic Night to be held on Friday, May 10, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**ON-GOING ISSUES**

- A. Mr. Haddad explained that he and Mr. Orcutt have been working with the federal delegation to apply for a federal earmark to offset the cost of PFAS. They have applied for \$5 million and received many letters of support from the state delegation, Mr. Haddad, the Board of Health, and the Water Commissioners. They submitted the application that day. They are waiting to find out if the application will be considered. Mr. Orcutt mentioned that they have applied for two grants, one on the Senate and one on the House sides. He said that Phase II is paid off by a \$5M grant awarded by the state.
- C. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project- Mr. Haddad said they are meeting with the Operation Project Manager on May 17<sup>th</sup> regarding short-term financing.

**SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS**

**Public Comment Period #2**

None

**Approval of Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes from April 29, 2024**

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of April 29, 2024. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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

**MAY 18, 2024 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MOTIONS**

**MAY 18, 2024**

**CONSENT MOTION #1 – Articles 1 through 14**

**Mover: Alison Manugian**

**MOTION:** I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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 May 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**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**  
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**Article 5: Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund**

**MOTION:** I move that Article 5 be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**  
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**Article 6: 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**  
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**Article 7: 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**  
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**Article 8: 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**  
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**Article 9: Prior Year Bills**

**MOTION:** I move that Article 9 be indefinitely postponed.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 10: 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	<u>\$24,675</u>
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	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	\$81,675

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 11: 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**

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**Article 12: 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**

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**Article 13: 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**

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**Article 14: 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:

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2025 Spending Limit</b>
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**

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**Article 15: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget**

**CONSENT MOTION #2 – Operating Budget**

**Mover: Bud Robertson**

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 1 through Motion 14, under Article 15, 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**

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**MOTION 1: Groton Dunstable Regional School District**

**MOTION A:** I move that the sum of Twenty-Seven Million Four Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty Dollars (\$27,476,540) 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.

**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: Majority**

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**MOTION 2: General Government**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 3: Land Use Departments**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 4: Protection of Persons & Property**

**MOTION:** I move that Four Million Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 5: Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 6: Department of Public Works**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 7: Library and Citizens' Services**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 8: Debt Service**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**MOTION 9: Employee Benefits**

**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.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**Article 16: Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget**

**Mover: John Reilly**

**MOTION A:** I move that Two Hundred Eight-Five Thousand Dollars (\$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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$862,144</b>	

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

**Article 17: 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**

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**Article 18: 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**

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**Article 19: 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**

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**Article 20: 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**

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**Article 21: 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**

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**Article 22: Acquire Land for Chlorine Booster Station**

**Mover: Alison Manugian**

**MOTION:** I move to authorize the Select Board to acquire from the Groton Cemetery Association by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, including, without limitation, for the installation of a chlorine booster station, a portion of the parcel of land located on Chicopee Row and shown on Assessors' Map 225 as Parcel 62, described in deeds recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 6436, Page 425, said portion containing approximately 8,320 square feet and shown as "Parcel B" on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts" dated April 24, 2024, and on file with the Town Clerk; and the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars(\$70,000) be appropriated from American Rescue Plan Act Funds, to be expended by the Town Manager for such acquisition and costs related thereto; and further to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purpose of this article; or to take any other action relative thereto

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority**

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**Article 23: 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**

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**Article 24: 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 24 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 25: 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 25, 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**

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**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 25.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 25.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 25.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 25.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 Five Hundred Dollars (\$237,500) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2025-06 "Outdoor Fitness Court", as described in Article 25.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 25.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 25.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 25.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 25.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 25.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 25.K of the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

**Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority**

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**Article 26: 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**

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**Article 27: 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**

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