

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025**  
**APPROVED**

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

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patricia DuFresne, Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant; Melisa Doig, Human Resource Director; Hannah Moller, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Megan Foster, Principal Assessor; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks; Megan Foster, Principal Assessor; Vanessa Abraham, Groton Public Library Director; Charlotte Weigel, Sustainability Committee Member; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Brian Callahan, DPW Director in Training; Jeff Gordon, Greg Sheldon, Joni Parker Roach, Brian Bolton, Members of the Destination Groton Committee; Ebi Masalehdan, Monarch Path Owner; Megan Donovan, Prescott Director; Jim Gmeiner, Groton Sewer Commission Chair;

**Groton Finance Committee Members:** Bud Robertson, Chair; Mary Linskey, Vice Chair; Kristina Lengyel; Scott Whitefield; Gary Green; David Manugian.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Cunningham attended Tree House Cannabis's Grand opening over the weekend and said it was a very nice event, and he wished them the best.

Ms. Dawn Dunbar, the Groton Town Clerk, reminded residents and voters that the deadline to pull nomination papers for the Annual Town Election is Friday, March 28th, by 5:00 p.m. The last day to submit completed nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office is Tuesday, April 1st, by 5:00 p.m. Ms. Dunbar said 55 signatures were required.

Mr. Robertson called the Finance Committee to order.

Ms. Vanessa Abraham, the Director of the Groton Public Library, announced that it is Groton Reads Month. This year's book selection is about a former Groton resident titled "Finding Margaret Fuller."

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD #1**

Mr. Haddad explained they received a letter from the Town of Ayer Select Board that was sent to Governor Healey. The letter expressed their disappointment regarding the lack of response concerning the closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center. It also urges her to take action in response to the Nashoba Valley Fire Chiefs' request for \$ 9.1 million to stabilize the Emergency Medical Response System. Mr. Haddad tailored the letter from the Town of Ayer for Groton. He respectfully requested that the Select Board vote to sign and issue the letter to Governor Healey.

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to sign and issue the letter to Governor Healey. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

**1. Update on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.**

During the public hearing, Mr. Haddad said he would update the Board on the Fiscal year 2026 Budget.

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

Monday, March 17, 2025	No Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2025	Review Prescott Building Assessment- Determine if any Action Needs to be taken
Monday, March 31, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, April 21, 2025	No Meeting- Patriot’s Day Holiday
Saturday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Town Meeting

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

**1. Consider Approving the Settlement Agreement with the Estate of Laura Elizabeth Woodson.**

Mr. Haddad explained that the estate of Laura Woodson had left money for the Groton Fire Department to be used for ambulance-related matters. Initially, the funds were left to the Groton Ambulance Association, which no longer exists. After working with Town Counsel, it was determined that the money should be left to the Groton Fire Department to address ambulance-related issues. The Board was provided copies of the Settlement and Release Agreements for review. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Select Board vote to approve and sign this Agreement.

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to approve and sign the Settlement and Release Agreements with the estate of Laura Elizabeth Woodson. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**6:05 P.M. Consider Discussion/Potential Decision on Seeking an Override of Proposition 2 ½ to Add Six (6) full-time Firefighters/EMTs to the Groton Fire Department in FY 2026.**

Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks was in attendance for the continued discussion.

Mr. Haddad said he wanted to continue the lengthy discussion from last week’s joint session meeting with the Finance Committee and Select Board. They discussed whether to consider seeking an override of Proposition 2 ½ to add six (6) Full-time Firefighters/EMTs to the Groton Fire Department in FY 2026. Based on the conversation from last week’s meeting, Mr. Haddad and Chief Cheeks did a lot of research and concluded that increasing staffing within the Fire Department was crucial. They explained that the Fire Department experienced an extremely busy day on Friday, as several emergency calls came in simultaneously.

Mr. Haddad explained that he and Chief Cheeks had worked together to come up with a proposal, taking into consideration the impact on Groton's residents and taxpayers by seeking overrides for both the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Groton Fire Department in Fiscal Year 2026. Chief Cheeks proposed a "band-aid" approach that should help support the department. Mr. Haddad provided the Board with a memo detailing the proposal and reviewed it with them. He explained that both former Fire Chief Steele McCurdy and current Fire Chief Arthur Cheeks have demonstrated the need for additional staffing since 2021, long before the closure of the Nashoba Medical Center. The history of the need was documented in the provided memo.

Mr. Haddad stated that, based on the statistics presented in the memo, they would propose adding two additional Firefighters/EMTs in FY 2026, although having six full-time Firefighters/EMTs would be ideal. Two additional Firefighters/EMTs, combined with the two new Firefighters added last fall, would ensure that three Career Firefighters/EMTs are available during all shifts. This proposal would also provide at least one Firefighter/EMT to respond to a medical call if the other ambulance is already on an extended call. Additionally, it would position the department to respond more effectively to emergencies, requiring only one additional call Firefighter/EMT to respond to a call. Mr. Haddad said this proposal would address the issue of conducting inspections, plan reviews, etc. The memo outlined the Staffing Plan that would be implemented to address the staffing and response challenges (identified in the Request for Additional Staffing), which is approximately \$260,301. The actual allocation for FY 2026 would be \$210,301, as the pension cost (\$50,000) would be assessed to the Town until the next Fiscal year or FY 2028.

Ms Pine thanked Chief Cheeks for his efforts and believes the proposal of two Full-time Firefighters/EMTs is the right move for this year. Mr. Reilly said he was a little disappointed in the proposal of only two Firefighters/EMTs, and he has been getting a lot of phone calls regarding this. Chief Cheeks said six Firefighters/EMTs would be the optimum, offering better protection for Groton's residents. He explained this was an opportunity for them to be proactive, ensuring every resident received the same level of protection day and night. Chief Cheeks said you can't schedule emergencies, and their timing is unpredictable. He said that with two Firefighters/EMTs, when everyone is home at night, they won't get the same level of protection, and he believes that is unfair. He thinks this should be presented at the town meeting so taxpayers can vote. Mr. Haddad clarified the differences in the FY 2026 tax bill: approximately \$210,000 for two Firefighters/EMTs versus approximately \$633,000 for six Firefighters/EMTs. He explained that he tried to provide the Boards with enough information to make an informed decision. Mr. Cunningham said it is a difficult decision, and the more palatable, the better it will be for the taxpayers. Ms. Manugian said she was still struggling with what two new Firefighters/EMTs do, even with the current staffing model, and wanted to understand the detriment of hiring someone specifically to go on inspections, etc. Chief Cheeks responded that the person would be dedicated to only that and not covering the department's needs. Mr. Robertson believes they have enough information to bring two additional Firefighters/EMTs forward. He said adding these two will ensure that each shift has three personnel available to respond to calls. He said it is still necessary to assess how much the response time improves over the next year and to analyze the factors contributing to any increase in call volume. Mr. Robertson suggested starting with the two additional hires and returning with more data for review in the next year or so. Ms. Pine expressed her appreciation for the Chief's dedication and believes a phased approach is the best strategy. Ms. Manugian inquired whether it

would be possible to structure the request to include both an ask for two (2) Firefighters/EMTs and another ask for six (6) Firefighters/EMTs. Mr. Haddad explained they could take a tiered approach and have one ballot question that asks for two additional Firefighter/EMTs and another ballot question that would ask for six (6) additional Firefighter/EMTs.

Ms. Pine believes combining the School and Firefighter/EMTs request override questions may create a stronger case. Ms. Manugian believes a tiered option would be best and disagrees with combining the School and Firefighters/EMTs. Mr. Haddad also shared his concern about combining them, stating that the School District override question aims to maintain current services, and the Fire Department question aims to expand services.

Mr. Green mentioned that if money were not a concern, he would recommend going with six (6) Firefighters/EMTs. He inquired about the alternative plan (Plan B) and noted that it involves having zero firefighters. He suggested that having two (2) Firefighters makes the most sense, as it would improve coverage for all shifts. Given the current uncertainties, he expressed that he could support the decision for two (2) Firefighters. He also pointed out that there is no clarity about the budget for next year.

After careful consideration and a spirited debate, the Board was prepared to make a motion.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to place an override question for funding two (2) Firefighters/EMTs on the Annual Election Ballot requesting an additional \$260,301. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion.*

#### Discussion

*Ms. Manugian believes six (6) Firefighters/EMTs are necessary, as she does not support asking for only two. Mr. Cunningham suggested that a second motion could be made. Ms. Manugian stated that a two-tier motion would be ideal. Mr. Haddad suggested one motion with two questions.*

Ms. Pine withdrew the motion.

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to offer a two-tiered override question: One Question for an override request of six (6) Firefighters/EMTs at \$ 780,904 with a Fiscal Year 2026 tax impact of \$630,904 and one Question for two (2) Firefighters/EMTs requesting \$260,301 with a Fiscal Year 2026 tax impact of \$210,301.*

*The Board discussed voting on the motions separately. Mr. Cunningham withdrew his motion.*

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion for a stand-alone override question on the ballot for six (6) Firefighters/EMTs, totaling \$780,904, with Fiscal Year 2026 tax impact of \$630,904. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion.*

#### Discussion

*Ms. Pine believes this would be too confusing and a losing proposition. Mr. Cunningham believes there is a value in saying we need six Firefighters/EMTs.*

*The motion carried 4 in favor, one against- Pine.*

*Ms. Pine made a motion to include a second stand-alone override question to the ballot question for two (2) Firefighters/EMTs, totaling \$260,301, with a Fiscal Year 2026 tax impact of \$210,301. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Haddad summarized that there will be two override questions related to the Fire Department. One question is for six (6) Firefighters/EMTs in the amount of \$780,904, and another is for two (2) Firefighters/EMTs in the amount of \$260,301.

Mr. Haddad then explained that he would present to the Finance Committee a contingent budget to add six (6) Firefighters/EMTs contingent on an override and two (2) Firefighters/EMTs contingent on an override. A third budget for the School District will be contingent on an override. He explained there would be a ballot question book that would explain everything.

**7:00 P.M. In Joint Session with the Finance Committee- Public Hearing on the Warrant for the 2025 Spring Town Meeting.**

Mr. Haddad read the Public Hearing notice into the record.

Mr. Haddad respectfully requested the Board to open the public hearing.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motions carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Robertson made a motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

The Select Board and Finance Committee held a joint session to conduct a public hearing on the articles contained in the 2026 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Haddad provided the Board with a copy of the latest draft of the Warrant and reviewed it with the Board.

Article 1: Hear Reports

There were no questions.

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

The Town Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$1,000 in FY 2026.

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

Mr. Haddad said this Article is for the three Bylaw employees. There were no questions.

Article 4: Appropriate FY 2026 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund

This is the annual contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund, which is necessary to prevent the net present liability from increasing. Mr. Haddad explained that the appropriation had been raised to \$200,000

to cover the liabilities associated with the two new firefighters added in this year's budget. Mr. Haddad believes an extra \$30,000 may be necessary, contingent upon an override passing, bringing the total to \$230,000. This increase will help manage long-term liabilities related to OPEB.

Articles 1-4 will be presented as one Consent Motion.

#### Article 5: Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Operating Budget

Mr. Haddad stated that the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District has a revised budget due to lower health insurance rates. As a result, the budget has decreased by \$200,000. He wanted to clarify that while the funding sources have changed, their overall budget remains the same. He explained that the Town must add \$673,250 to the Proposed FY 2026 budget to meet the proposed Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. He explained that the base budget would be a balanced budget, with a contingent budget (based on the successful override of Proposition 2½ for the school district and adding additional Firefighters). By having the additional funding contingent on an override (after voting the Balanced Budget), we would not need to return to the Town Meeting if the overrides failed.

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to add a third override question to the Annual Town Election Ballot, in the amount of \$673,250 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Assessment. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion.*

#### Discussion

Ms. Manugian inquired whether this would affect the level service budget with restoring the nurse and the guidance counselor. Mr. Haddad confirmed that the total of \$673,250 includes funding for both the nurse and the guidance counselor. He also explained that on Wednesday, March 12th, the School District will certify the District's budget.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

Diane Hewitt, a resident of 57 Long Hill Rd., stated that they have an optimal budget of funding six (6) Firefighters/EMTs and a less optimal budget of two (2) Firefighters/EMTs. She believes the school should also have a contingent budget, as well. Her main concern is that she would like to see the override questions combined.

#### Article 6: Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget –

Mr. Haddad stated that the Select Board has reviewed each capital item, all endorsed by the Capital Planning Committee. No questions were raised about any of the items.

#### Article 7: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

Mr. Haddad explained that this article is standard for allocating CPC funds to subaccounts, making the money available for Article 8: Community Preservation Funding recommendations. There were no questions.

#### Article 8: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations:

CPC Proposal A: West Groton Rail Trail- \$70,000

The West Groton Rail Trail is requesting \$70,000 to initiate the legal process of securing the rights to a section of the rail line from the river bordering Ayer to Cutler Field. This funding would be used for environmental filings. Mr. Cunningham stated it would cost approximately \$900,000 to construct roughly four miles of the trail, but he explained most of the funding they receive is from Mass Trails Grants.

CPC Proposal B: Conservation Fund- FY 2026-\$200,000

Mr. Haddad stated that the Conservation Commission has reduced their funding request from \$400,000 to \$200,000. This allows the Conservation Commission to have funds available to purchase property as it becomes available without needing a Town Meeting appropriation. Ms. DuFresne stated the current balance is \$962,000.

CPC Proposal C: FY 2026 Housing Funds Request- \$400,000

Ms. Pine stated that they submitted a request for \$400,000 and acknowledged that there is competition for funding this year; however, they are willing to accept whatever amount may be available. She explained that they are seeking funding to explore the option of working with a community development corporation to develop affordable housing. This corporation would purchase the property and handle the permitting process. They need to secure funding through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Commonwealth expects a contribution from the town as a show of support. Mr. Cunningham inquired about the current funding availability. Ms. Pine responded that \$400,000 was available last year and the year before that there was \$200,000 available.

CPC Proposal D: Cow Pond Brook Fields Improvements- \$100,000

The Town Manager's Office and the Park Commission had proposed a \$4.8 million plan for a complete renovation of the Cow Pond Brook Fields facility. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) did not support taking on more debt in FY 2026. The Park Commission decided to reduce the request to \$100,000 to do more planning and allow the user groups more involvement in the planning process. The allocated \$100,000 will be used to hire a consultant to conduct preliminary design work with the Park Commission and user groups.

CPC Proposal E: Housing Coordinator FY 2026-\$63,401

This proposal pays the Housing Coordinator salary and benefits. Mr. Haddad said this is money well spent.

CPC Proposal F: Bancroft Castle Preservation- \$153,000

Mr. Aubrey Theall, Chair of the Historical Commission, was present. He said the Historical Commission put a proposal together to address the urgent repairs needed at the castle. There were no questions.

CPC Proposal G: Prescott Community Center-\$135,000

Ms. Megan Donovan, Director of Prescott, was present. She stated that Prescott is requesting \$135,000 for necessary historic renovations and various updates to make Prescott more usable for the community.

CPC Proposal H: Cow Pond Baseball Improvement-\$84,330

Mr. Haddad explained that the Groton-Dunstable Youth Baseball League, with the support of the Parks Commission, is requesting funding to remodel eight dugouts, renovate four batting cages, and rebuild the pitching mounds on all four baseball fields at the Cow Pond Brook Fields.

CPC Proposal I: Town Field Improvements- \$378,963

Mr. Haddad noted that the project was scaled down based on feedback received. This funding will renovate the major league baseball diamond at Town Field. The project builds upon a previously funded design study. It will include renovations to the infield, installation of new backstops, the placement of players' benches on concrete pads with chain-link fences, and reseeding of the outfield. Mr. Haddad stated that this is an excellent project, and he has met with the Groton Dunstable Youth Baseball and the designer to finalize the design.

CPC Proposal J: Curatorial Storage- \$62,675

Mr. Aubrey Theall explained this funding request is for temporary storage to improve conditions on the third floor of the Boutwell House.

CPC Proposal K: Williams Barn Restoration- \$158,972

Mr. Haddad stated that the Williams Barn Committee is seeking funding to renovate the historic structure, which is 185 years old. The barn requires several repairs, including work on the foundation wall, replacement of sills, gable end fascia, and soffit boards; two cracked support beams need to be replaced, and handrails should be added for safety.

Article 9: Proposed Amendments to the Groton Charter –

Mr. Haddad explained that they voted to have the Park Commission remain elected at last week's Charter Review Committee meeting. There will be one article for the Proposed Amendments to the Groton Charter. The proposal includes eleven amendments, eliminating the Personnel Board and allowing the Town Manager to appoint the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Town Clerk subject to the Board's Policy. Mr. Haddad said a provision was added to allow a member of the Select Board to run for another elected Board.

Article 10: Act to Adopt Alternative Methods for Notice of Public Hearings-

Mr. Haddad explained that this act would allow the Town of Groton to adopt alternative methods for notifying the public about hearings. Seven other towns in Massachusetts have adopted this.

Article 11: Amend Chapter 81, "Town Meetings" of the Code of the Town of Groton-

This article sets the Town Election for the third Tuesday of May every year, aligning it with the Town of Dunstable.

Article 12: Disposition of Town Owned Landon Hoyts Warf Road-



This would allow the Affordable Housing Trust to develop Affordable Housing. Ms. Pine explained this article would authorize the Affordable Housing Trust to issue an RFP for the development of one lot. Ms. Manugian asked for a copy of the plan for the lot that would be disposed of. Ms. Pine said there would be an updated plan before the Spring Town Meeting.

#### Article 13: Amend Chapter 125, "Demolition Delay" of the Code of the Town of Groton-

Mr. Theall stated that this proposal was encouraged by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which had consulted with the Historical Commission for preserving the Prescott House, though that effort was unsuccessful. The Historical Commission and Town Counsel worked together to review the Town's Demolition Delay Bylaw; Two amendments were made. He explained that the most significant change was extending the demolition delay period from 18 months to 24 months. Ms. Pine asked whether they had accepted the suggested edits from Town Counsel. Mr. Theall said they reviewed them and accepted the changes. Mr. Haddad will resend the red-lined changes for the Board's review. Ms. Manugian expressed that she would have difficulty supporting this change as it would delay too many properties for an extended period.

#### Article 14: Adopt Resolution- Reduce Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions-

Ms. Charlotte Weigel of the Sustainability Commission was present. Mr. Haddad explained the purpose of the article was to determine whether the Town would vote to adopt a resolution to reduce the Town's Greenhouse Emissions in compliance with State policy. He said the Select Board had previously voted to place this on the warrant. Ms. Weigel had to make revisions after working with the state and reviewed those changes with the Board. Ms. Weigel said this resolution was a goal, not a mandate. Mr. Haddad thanked Charlotte Weigel and Ken Horton for all of their efforts.

#### Article 15: Amend Flood Plain Zoning District-

The Town Planner, Mr. Takashi Tada, was present for the public hearing. He said that in January, the Town of Groton received a notice from FEMA stating that the new flood plain maps were finalized and official on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tada said that municipalities have six months from the date of the letter to comply with the new requirements.

The first requirement is to update the Town's floodplain regulations. Mr. Tada explained that Groton has a Floodplain Overlay District in the zoning Bylaw. Two actions that need to be taken are: 1. Updating the reference in the Bylaw to the new maps, and 2. Adopting the relevant provisions of the Massachusetts Model Floodplain Bylaw.

If the Town complies within 6 months from January, then they would be eligible to remain a participant in the National Floodplain insurance program. The public hearing is open, and the Planning Board is working on strategies to promote it.

#### Article 16: Endorse Master Plan-

Mr. Tada said the Planning Board finalized and voted to approve the Groton Master Plan, which is required by the zoning act of state law. This article will be brought forward to vote to endorse the "Groton Master Plan" at the Town Meeting.

Article 17: MBTA Communities Multi-Family Overlay District (MCMOD)-

Mr. Tada explained that this is a requirement for Groton, as Groton is designated as an MBTA Community. Mr. Tada reviewed the article provided by the Planning Board, which would create a zoning overlay district in which multi-family developments may be allowed “as of right” at a maximum density of 15 units per acre. The zoning map for the Town of Groton will be amended to include the properties that fall within the Multi-Family Development Overlay District. The Planning Board will advertise another public hearing since the list of parcels may be incorrect. The updated map will be included in the Town Meeting handout.

Article 18: Accessory Dwelling Unit Amendments-

Mr. Tada said the purpose of this article is to make additional amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) provisions of the zoning bylaw to be fully consistent with the ADU regulations of the Affordable Homes Act.

Article 19: Accept Monarch Path as a Town Way-

Ebi Masalehdan, owner of Monarch Path, and Tom Delaney, DPW Director, were present for the public hearing. This article is to see if the Town will accept Monarch Path as a public way. Mr. Tada indicated that the Planning Board would need the final as-built plan sent to the Planning Board’s consulting engineer, and then Monarch Path would be inspected. Mr. Delaney stated that he was comfortable with taking on the road. Mr. Masalehdan will send the final as-built with the requested information. A public hearing for the Road Acceptance will be scheduled for April 14, 2025.

Article 20: Citizens Petition-Town Wide Speed Limit-

Mr. Haddad stated that his office received a call from the proponent of the article requesting its removal. Mr. Haddad explained that it could be removed if the ten individuals who added their names to the citizen's petition signed the removal request. Mr. Cunningham announced that there would be a meeting with Destination Groton on Friday, March 21st, and their consultant, Stantec, to discuss a traffic study.

Mr. Haddad stated that Articles 21 through 31 will be presented as one motion.

Article 21: Funding For Destination Groton Committee-

The Destination Groton Committee members in attendance were Greg Sheldon, Jeff Gordon, Joni Parker Roach, and Brian Bolton. This article is to provide \$15,000 in funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge.

Article 22: Funding For Sustainability Committee-

This is a placeholder.

Article 23: Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund-

This is a placeholder.

Article 24: Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund-

This is a placeholder.

Article 25: Transfer Within Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund-  
The Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund will need to transfer \$20,000 to the Fiscal Year 2025 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget.

Article 26: Prior Year Bills-  
There are no bills for the prior year at this time. This is a placeholder.

Article 27: Current Year Line-Item Transfers-  
Mr. Haddad presented the anticipated line-item transfers that will be brought to the Town Meeting. He reviewed the requests, which totaled \$173,000. He said that the transfers would come from health insurance funds. Town Accountant Patricia Dufresne explained that the line-item transfer list may change, as they are projections. Ms. Dufresne said that this process is done for transparency. Mr. Robertson and Ms. Pine stated that the transfers shouldn't be included in the Warrant if they can be handled at the end of the Fiscal Year by a vote of the Select Board and Finance Committee. Mr. Haddad said he would withdraw this article from the warrant.

Article 28: Appropriate Funding to Offset Snow and Ice Deficit-  
Ms. DuFresne said they were currently in a deficit for Snow and Ice in the amount of \$91,000.

Article 29: Debt Service for the Middle School Track-  
Ms. Hannah Moller stated that the amount to be transferred for debt service for FY 2025 for the Middle School Track Project is \$202,488, which is subject to change.

Article 30: Transfer Bond Proceeds-  
Mr. Haddad said they want to transfer \$24,530.27 from the \$1,131,041 borrowed under Article 8 of the April 29, 2019, Spring Town Meeting for the Library Roof to the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project. This will lower the bond authorization by utilizing the library funds that have already been borrowed at a lower interest rate.

Article 31: Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds-  
Mr. Haddad explained that this is an annual article to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to set the limits of the various revolving funds.

Article 32: Funding For the Repair of the Town Hall Sprinkler System-  
Mr. Tom Delaney and Mr. Brian Callahan, the DPW Director in Training, were present. Mr. Delaney said that the Sprinkler System at Town Hall needs repairs due to rust in the pipes. A Bid has already gone out and a contractor was hired as this is an emergency.

Mr. Haddad respectfully requested the Board to close the public hearing on the warrant.

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Robertson made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

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

Mr. Haddad explained that there are three override questions on the ballot. He noted that the Town Meeting is scheduled at the Performing Arts Center (PAC). He explained that holding the Town Meeting at the High School would cost approximately \$9,538 while keeping it at the PAC would cost around \$3,649. Mr. Haddad asked the Board whether they believed the Town Meeting should be held at the High School. The Board decided it should be held at the High School due to its larger capacity. The PAC accommodates 800 people, and the gymnasium at the High School can hold 1,700. They all agreed to change the location to the High School Gymnasium, which will take place on April 26th at 9:00 a.m.

## **SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS**

None

## **On Going issues**

- A. PFAS—Mr. Haddad explained that construction of the PFAS waterline is ongoing and has now started in the Town of Dunstable.
- B. Nashoba Valley Medical Center Working Group—The Nashoba Valley Medical Center Working Group’s next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Charter Review Committee—The update was provided during the public hearing.
- D. PILOTS- No update

## **Approval of the Special Meeting/Joint Session Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2025.**

*Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting/joint session with the Finance Committee of February 25, 2025. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Finance Committee member Mr. Manugian made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting/joint session with the Select Board. Ms. Linskey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2025.**

The regularly scheduled meeting minutes of March 3, 2025, will be considered for approval at the March 24th Select Board meeting.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Haddad requested that the Board enter Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a), Clause 3– “To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining to litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares.

And not to return to open session.

Select Board

*Ms. Pine made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Cunningham-aye.*

Finance Committee

*Mr. Green made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Robertson-aye; Linskey-aye; Lengyel-aye; Whitefield-aye; Green-aye; Manugian-aye.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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