

MINUTES

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 18, 2024

Groton-Dunstable High School Gymnasium
703 Chicopee Row, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Saturday, May 18, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

*THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 15 IS AVAILABLE
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT*

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

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

What is Town Meeting?

The Town Meeting is the legislative body in the town form of government in Massachusetts. Town Meeting is a formal gathering of registered voters who propose, debate and vote on measures. Groton holds at least two Town Meetings per year. As this is a Special Town Meeting, there is a quorum requirement of two (2%) percent of the Town's Registered Voters in order for the Meeting to commence.

What is a warrant?

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

How does Town Meeting proceed?

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

¹ *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 12) Johnson, Trustman and Wadsworth, Third Edition, 2001.

² *Id.*

Who can attend?

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

How long is town meeting?

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

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

A consent agenda is a procedure to group multiple main motions into a single motion for voting. A consent agenda saves time by eliminating the reading of multiple motions and explanations when there are no objections or questions. In Groton, a consent agenda generally consists for Articles unanimously supported by the Select Board and Finance Committee. Articles that change by-laws or introduce new spending are typically not included. In this warrant, the Select Board has grouped articles in consent agendas and labeled them for easy reference.

How Consent Agendas Work

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

Electronic Voting at Town Meeting



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

Voter Check-In

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

Test Vote

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

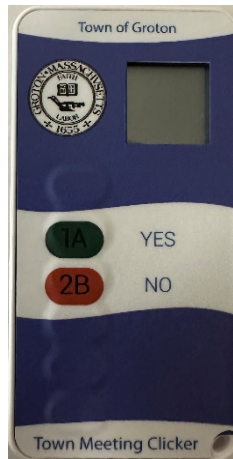
Proxy Voting Prohibited

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

Voting

When the Moderator announces it is time to vote:

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



Handset Display

The display on the handset:

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

Help Desk

A Help Desk will be able to assist voters who have trouble with using the handset. If a handset malfunctions, a voter will receive a new handset.

Handset Return

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



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

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

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

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

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

Restrooms – Accessible restrooms are available in the main lobby of the High School.

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

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

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT MAY 18, 2024

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

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable High School Gymnasium in said Town on Saturday, the eighteenth day of May, 2024 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider the following:

			DISPOSITION	
*	Article 1:	Hear Reports	6	PASSED
*	Article 2:	Elected Officials Compensation	6	PASSED
*	Article 3:	Wage and Classification Schedule	6	PASSED
*	Article 4:	Appropriate FY 2025 Contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund	7	PASSED
*	Article 5:	Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund	7	PASSED
*	Article 6:	Transfer Within the Sewer Enterprise Fund	7	PASSED
*	Article 7:	Transfer Within Four Corner Sewer Enterprise Fund	8	PASSED
*	Article 8:	Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund	8	PASSED
*	Article 9:	Prior Year Bills	8	PASSED
*	Article 10:	Current Year Line-Item Transfers	9	PASSED
*	Article 11:	Appropriate Funding to Offset Snow and Ice Deficit	9	PASSED
*	Article 12:	Debt Service for the Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2024	9	PASSED
*	Article 13:	Debt Service for the Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025	10	PASSED
*	Article 14:	Establishing Limits for Various Revolving Funds	10	PASSED
**	Article 15:	Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget – Consent Motion 1B-14	11	PASSED
	Motion 1A	<i>GDRSD Operating Budget</i>	11	PASSED
	Article 16:	Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget	11	PASSED
	Article 17:	Transfer from GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund to Cover MNHG Obligations	17	PASSED
	Article 18:	Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025	18	PASSED
	Article 19:	Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund Acceptance	18	PASSED
	Article 20:	Funding for Destination Groton Committee	19	PASSED
	Article 21:	Funding for Sustainability Commission	19	PASSED
	Article 22:	Acquire Land for Chorine Booster Station	20	PASSED
	Article 23:	Community Preservation Funding Accounts	20	PASSED
	Article 24:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2024	21	PASSED
***	Article 25:	Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025	21	SEE PAGES 31-37 FOR VOTES
	Article 26:	Extend Center Sewer District	25	PASSED
	Article 27:	Extend Four Corner Sewer District	25	PASSED
		Budget Report of the Town Manager and Finance Committee to Town Meeting	27	
		Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue Estimates	30	
		Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy Calculations	31	
		Appendix A – Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget	32	
		Appendix B – Fiscal Year 2025 Wage and Classification Schedule	49	

*Will be presented as one Consent Motion

**Budget will be presented as one Consent Motion

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

2024 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OFFICIALS

MEETING DATE – MAY 18, 2024

Town Moderator:

Jason Kauppi

Deputy Moderator:

Ed McNierney

Board of Selectmen:

Alison Manugian, Chair
Becky Pine, Vice-Chair
Peter Cunningham, Clerk
Matt Pisani
John Reilly

Finance Committee:

Bud Robertson, Chair
Colby Doody, Vice Chair
Gary Green
Mary Linskey
David Manugian
Michael Sulprizio
Scott Whitefield

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad
Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant

Town Clerk:

Dawn Dunbar

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM on May 18, 2024 at the Groton-Dunstable High School Gymnasium. Moderator Jason Kauppi presided. There is a quorum requirement of 176 for this Special Town Meeting. The Select Board and Town Moderator met at 8:30 AM and voted unanimously to reduce the quorum to 50 voters based on Section 15 of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022. The Moderator was in agreement with this. 159 voters were in attendance for the meeting as of 9:00 AM.

Announcements:

The Moderator reviewed the vote taken by the Select Board to reduce the quorum to 50 and reviewed the rules for the meeting concerning voters and non-voters. The Moderator reviewed the warrant, the consent motions contained within the warrant, and stated that he expected to complete the meeting this morning.

The Moderator asked for unanimous consent to appoint the Deputy Moderator, Edward McNierney for a one term. There was no objection to this and the Town Clerk swore in Mr. McNierney.

There were 199 voters present as of 9:07 AM.

The Moderator reviewed instructions for the use of the electronic voting handsets. A test of the handsets was conducted.

The Moderator called for a moment of silence. The Meeting took the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION – Limit Debate

MOVER: Michelle Collette

I move that debate during this town meeting be limited to three minutes for each speaker, with the exception of the main proponent and opponent of each article, and at the discretion of the Moderator.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO LIMIT DEBATE.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion to Limit Debate: Yes – 188; No – 17; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

The timekeepers were Hannah Moller and Takashi Tada. The Moderator determined that the warrant was duly posted and entertained a motion to waive the reading of the warrant.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Waive the Reading of the Warrant: Yes – 176; No –21; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 14 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 1: Hear Reports

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

Select Board

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

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

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

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

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$1,000 in FY 2025.*

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2025 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board
Town Manager**

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees (Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resources Director and IT Director) covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will receive a 2% cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2025.*

Article 4: *Appropriate FY 2025 Contribution to the OPEB Trust*

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

**Select Board
Town Manager**

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2025, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$190,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$190,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

Article 5: *Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article is a placeholder in the event the Water Department needs funds to complete the current Fiscal Year. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is not anticipated that funding will be required and this Article will be indefinitely postponed.*

Article 6: Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2024 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$52,500 will need to be transferred for this purpose.

Article 7: Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2024 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$20,000 will need to be transferred for this purpose.

Article 8: Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2024 Cable Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Cable Advisory Committee

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article allows the Cable Advisory Committee to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$10,000 will need to be transferred for this purpose.

Article 9: Prior Year Bills

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

Select Board

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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

Article 10: Current Year Line-Item Transfers

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Article 11: Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2024 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 24.*

Article 12: Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2024

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal

Year 2024 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting appropriated an additional \$1,000,000 for the project. Using FY 2024 Funds, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$124,590 (\$120,000 for principal and \$4,590 for interest) in debt service. In addition, they will pay an additional \$20,000 towards un-borrowed construction costs. To fund this appropriation, \$124,590 will come from the Fiscal Year 2024 Unallocated Reserve and \$20,000 will come from the Fiscal Year 2024 Open Space Reserve.*

Article 13: *Debt Service for Middle School Track – Fiscal Year 2025*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article appropriates the debt service payment for the Middle School Track Project. Article 7 of the May 21, 2021 Spring Town Meeting appropriated \$1,405,374 for the project. In FY 2025, the Community Preservation Committee will pay \$235,072 in debt service (\$175,672 in principal payment and \$59,400 in interest payment) for this appropriation. To fund this appropriation the entire amount will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Article 14: *Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds*

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 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

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

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

The Deputy Moderator chaired the meeting through this motion.

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED.

The Chair read the name of each article.

DEBATE: There were no holds and no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Consent Motion #1 for Articles 1-14: Yes – 172; No - 29; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 15: *Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2025), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Finance Committee
Select Board
Town Manager**

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended (5 In Favor, 1 Opposed – Green)

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

Article 15: 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-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

THE MOTION (1A) WAS MOVED BY BUD ROBERSTON AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Robertson provided the meeting with a presentation on the budget and how they ended up where they were today. The Town is anticipating an increase of 3.17% in new revenue for FY25. Mr. Robertson reviewed the minimal increases in State Aid received by both the Town and the Schools. Local Aid has only increased by a net percentage of 1.32% and School Funding has only grown by .48% from 2015-present. He said that they have petitioned their State Legislature to find ways to help communities. He explained how inflation was a huge driving factor. Mr. Robertson said that the Town regionalized their communications operations with Patriot RECC which yielded a savings of over \$300K in the municipal Public Safety Budget. Mr. Robertson said that the overall budget since the Annual Town Meeting held on March 26, 2024 had been reduced enough to yield a budget surplus of \$619K. He said that the Select Board and Finance Committee have voted to provide a one time “operational grant” to the school district of \$619K to help them cover some of their one-time costs in FY25 such as unemployment costs and water needed because of the PFAS issue.

**Mr. Jack Petropoulos moved that they separately consider line item 1413 - Operating Grant of \$619K.
THE MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED.**

Mr. Petropoulos said that they were going to be asked to vote on their Regional School Assessment and also a \$619K grant all under one motion. He said that his motion was to break this down this motion into two distinct questions. He said that this grant was highly unusual and breaks the intent of their Regional Agreement, as Dunstable was not contributing toward its portion of the grant. He said the grant only postpones pains for another year.

Mr. Robertson said that they needed to fully understand what this motion means. The Moderator said this motion was to have two main motions. Mr. Keoseian said he wanted to applaud Mr. Petropoulos for clearly explaining the need to separate this.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion to Separate This Motion: Yes – 117; No - 112; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Mr. Robertson moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$619,000 to fund line 1413 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

Mr. Robertson said that this additional operational grant money was going to be used to cover one-time expenses otherwise the school would need to cut an additional 6-8 staff personnel. He said he understood the Dunstable issue, but thought the schools needed to fund their children’s education.

Ms. Collette said she was speaking in favor of providing this grant to the school district and applauded the Select Board for thinking of ways to help. She said it was time to pay it forward and agreed it was for the children’s education. Mr. Easom asked if they approved this, if it would affect the tax rate. Mr. Haddad said it would increase the tax rate by .21 cents. Mr. Easom said he would like to see them honor the regional agreement. Ms. Lathrop said she was more inclined to vote for this if Dunstable contributed. Mr. Lindemer asked if this was setting a precedent that Groton was always going to bail Dunstable out. Mr. Alberghini said they should adhere to the Regional Agreement and thought they were using the children as political pawns. Ms. Frank said that voting no on this was not making the children a political pawn adding the schools were hurting and scrambling. She asked for a yes vote to provide them additional time.

Mr. Cunningham said he appreciated the concerns raised but said they had a situation of unprecedented inflation and lack of state aid before them. He said this wasn’t precedent setting adding the money was available to help the schools who were hurting.

Mr. Sheldon said that they loved their kids, schools and town and thought they could do something extraordinary to get the attention of the State that they needed to do something to help local towns. Mr. Sopka said that they should support the education of their children. He said that they Select Board and Finance Committee have spent an exorbitant amount of time looking at this and discussing all of this. A resident asked how the money was going to be spent. Superintendent, Dr. Chesson said that they money would be earmarked to PFAS mitigation and unemployment costs and that a memorandum of agreement had been put into place stating all this. Mr. Haddad said that the anticipated unemployment costs would be \$800K and \$150K in PFAS costs. He said that he recommended this grant to help with the costs associated with both of these one-time operational costs. A resident asked for clarification on how the money was going to be used to save teachers jobs and cover unemployment.

Ms. Manugian said that this was a case of their revenue and expenditures not balancing. Ms. Manugian shared the vote that was taken by the Select Board prior to bringing this forward to the Town Meeting. She said it was

not a request they were making lightly but would provide them with an additional year to assess all of these budget and funding issues.

Mr. Petropoulos said he didn't think the \$619K was a do or die for the PFAS mitigation. He said that the money for mitigation was already in the budget but asked if this would be used to free up that money to cover teacher salaries. Mr. Haddad said that was correct adding it allowed the school district the ability to not have to further reduce the number of teachers for this next school year.

Mr. Lathrop moved the question. The motion was seconded.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote On Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 197; No - 42; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

Vote on Main Motion to Appropriate \$619,000 to Fund Line Item 1413: That the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$619,000 to fund line 1413 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote On Main Motion: Yes – 165; No - 76; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

MOTION 1: Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION A: I move that the sum of Twenty-Six Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty Dollars (\$26,857,540) 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 1412 as shown in the Town Meeting Information Handout for this Meeting.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY BUD ROBERTSON AND SECONDED.

Quantum Of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote On Main Motion for Article 1(A): Yes – 172; No - 53; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

CONSENT MOTION #2 – Operating Budget

Mover: Bud Robertson

I move that the town take affirmative action on Motion 1B 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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY BUD ROBERSTON AND SECONDED.

The Moderator read all motions contained within this consent motion.

DEBATE: There were no holds and no debate.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #5 – IT Infrastructure **\$40,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established twelve years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2025, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; replace aging servers and storage arrays; investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage and improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #6 – Municipal Building Repairs **\$25,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in our municipal building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in the Town’s buildings. With a set line item which is separate from minor capital, the DPW can be flexible and change its priorities instead of just doing it because it is on a list. Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program could handle with the flexibility needed.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #7 – Police Station HVAC **\$65,000** **Town Facilities**

Summary: *The current HVAC System at the Police Station is the original system from when the building was constructed in 1999. In 2025 it will be almost 25 years old and in need of replacement. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Baler/Maintenance **\$25,000** **Transfer Station**

Summary: *Due to a fire at the Transfer Station in June, 2021, the 2004 baler was replaced by a newer model with insurance funding. This has now allowed the Town to remove the purchase of a new baler from the capital plan. The money set aside for the baler in FY 2025 will be spent to overhaul and update the newer baler providing for a longer life and not require the Town to replace it for several more years.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #9 – Carpeting **\$50,000** **Library**

Summary: All 20-year-old carpeting was replaced in 2018 EXCEPT in the Children's Room and Main Meeting Rooms, because they were replaced in 2009. These three large spaces are the busiest, most-used, and most stain-prone rooms. In FY2025, these carpets will be 15 years old (expected life 10 years). Carpet squares cost a bit more than broadloom, but make the most sense in such high traffic, high spill, highly busy crafting/activity/refreshment/programming meeting spaces. Despite regular cleaning, stains are visible all over the meeting rooms in particular. Carpet tiles can be replaced easily if stains cannot be removed or if fixed shelving or furniture is changed.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #10 – Property Improvements **\$50,000** **Park Department**

Summary: The Park Commission has been working over the past several years developing a strategy to address deficiencies in the various Park Department Properties located throughout Groton. Since FY 2015, the Town has appropriated \$25,000 each year so that the Park Commission can develop a capital improvement program that will allow them to keep our various park locations in good shape and avoid a major construction project to much success. In FY 2025, the Park Commission has requested \$50,000 to deal with some substantial capital expenditures, including the paving work needed at Carol Wheeler Park, which has been quoted at \$11,500-\$11,900.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #11 – Police Cruisers **\$133,025** **Police Department**

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

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #12 – Police Pick-Up Truck **\$77,000** **Police Department**

Summary: This piece of equipment will benefit the department in that, as a multi-purpose vehicle with a four wheel drive platform, it can be utilized for snow removal, specialized equipment transport, provide accessibility to remote areas, and it will give us the ability to evacuate people in emergencies. This vehicle can be used to assist Emergency Management with transportation of generators and shelter equipment.

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Item #13 – Electronic Control Devices – “Tasers” **\$12,673** **Police Department**

Summary: Current Electronic Control Devices are at end-of-life and not serviceable. The total cost of the ECD replacement is \$95,692. The Police Department applied for and received a JAG grant in the amount of

\$45,000. The Town would be responsible for 4 payments of \$12,673 (beginning in FY 2025) for a total cost to the Town of \$50,692.

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #14 – Golf Carts **\$25,553** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2023, the Town replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with 21 new Yamaha gas powered carts and four Yamaha electric carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$25,553. This is the third of five payments.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #15 – Greens Equipment - Ventrac **\$10,918** **Country Club**

Summary: *In FY 2024, the Town purchased a Ventrac unit using a five year lease-to-purchase agreement at an annual cost of \$10,918. This is the second payment of five payments. The Ventrac unit is a most versatile piece of equipment. The attachments already in use include units for plowing, aeration, seeding, landscaping and mowing difficult terrain. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #16 – Greens Equipment – Hauler Pro X **\$20,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *This is a superintendent utility cart that will replace one of the two carts currently used to travel the course for maintenance. This utility cart provides a bedload capacity of 500 lbs. for material. The two current utility carts are over a decade old and are becoming unreliable. This vehicle is used on a daily basis.*

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Manugian)*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #17 – Greens Equipment – Truckster XD **\$13,500** **Country Club**

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

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #18 – Ventrac Attachments **\$18,000** **Country Club**

Summary: *The Ventrac unit is an attachment driven unit. The following attachments will be purchased and used for Course maintenance: Tough Cut Deck - \$6,000 – This deck will allow for the cutting back of all the overgrown areas of the course. It is expected that this attachment will be used often during the first year and continually when needed to maintain areas that have been improved; Stump Grinder - \$5,000. This attachment will focus on clearing out dead trees and overgrown areas of the course. The stump grinder will remove enough of a stump to clear the area and in some cases allow for reseeding. The expectation is that this attachment would be used a minimum of twenty (20) times annually; Trencher - \$7,000 - This attachment will install new irrigation lines on the course. There are several irrigation projects planned over the next several seasons.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #19 – Greens Equipment – Greens Mower \$10,000 Country Club

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

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #20 – HVAC \$23,000 Country Club

Summary: *The HVAC systems in both the Function Hall and the Groton Publick House (GPH) have been aging to the point that replacement parts are no longer available or are cost prohibitive. The Club has been installing one (1) AC unit per year into the Function Hall and GPH Building over the past three (3) years. This request will complete the process of ultimately having five (5) units in the Function Hall and two (2) units in the GPH Building.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #21 – Building Repairs & Painting \$20,000 Country Club

Summary: *This funding will be used to paint the exterior of the Golf Shop, replace trim board, and install rubber flooring for the high traffic area inside the golf shop. In addition, it will also be used to replace the deck outside of the Golf Shop.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #22 – Function Hall Bathroom Repairs \$10,000 Country Club

Summary: *This funding will be used to install hand dryers in the Function Hall bathrooms, as well as repaint both bathrooms in the Function Hall, and replace the partitions in the Function Hall bathrooms.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #23 – Retaining Walls

\$15,000

Country Club

Summary: *Using the same blocks that were installed several years ago for the pool perimeter, the Country Club will replace the stone wall next to the deck at the Publick House Building and add a small section that has been experiencing washout next to the Publick House Building.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Town Manager

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Reilly provided an explanation for the request to borrow.

Mr. Brown said it was time to keep their capital items longer and cut back on these type of expenditures for now. Mr. Haddad said that the funding came from one-time capital budget fund and couldn't help fund things like the school budget. Mr. Delaney said that this replaced a 2005 vehicle. A resident asked why this was separate. Mr. Reilly said it was because this needed to come from bonding.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion A for Article 16: Yes – 174; No - 46; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

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 16 in the Warrant for the May 18, 2024 Special 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	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	Country Club
Total	\$862,144	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JOHN REILLY AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Petropoulos asked about the Country Club expenses. Mr. Shawn Campbell, General Manager for the Country Club said that these capital items would be covered by anticipated revenue of the Country Club for this year. Mr. Haddad said that they money set aside for the Country Club was coming for revenue that had been turned over to free cash. Ms. Weigel asked how the dollar amounts for the HVAC items were determined. Mr. Haddad said that they look at efficient ways to replace equipment through Green Communities funding. Mr. Lindmer asked if the golf carts were electric. Mr. Haddad said that they started a process of testing electric carts. He said that the 21 gas carts would be replaced with electric carts but would have to install infrastructure to charge them adding this was a lease payment and not a new purchase of carts. A resident asked about the need for a Police Pick-up Truck adding they already had a fleet with tow packages. He said that they could purchase a trailer for towing and didn’t need the officers to be snow plow drivers. Chief Luth said that the pickup truck would be multipurpose for them to include driving an ATV to a needed scene. He added that the Highway Department and its contractors were often busy during storms keeping the roads clear and not always available to plow out the Station.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion B for Article 16: Yes – 190; No - 40; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 17: Transfer From GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund to Cover MNHG Obligations

To see if the Town will vote to repurpose and appropriate the sum of \$263,424 in Fiscal Year 2024 from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, to be expended by the Town Manager, 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Summary: *In an effort to close the anticipated projected Fiscal Year 2025 budget deficit, the Town Manager recommended, and the Select Board approved, that the Town leave the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG), the joint purchasing group that supplies health insurance for Town employees and join the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) for this purpose. While this decision lowered the anticipated FY 2025 projected deficit by approximately \$118,000, there is not enough funding left in the MNHG Trust to cover the so-called runout claims (those claims incurred before June 30, 2024, but billed after June 30th). The Town is responsible for setting aside enough funding to cover this expense, estimated to be approximately \$340,000. Unused money in the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD) Capital Stabilization Fund will be used to offset some of this expense. GDRSD’s Capital Assessment for FY 2025 came in lower than anticipated, leaving the current balance in that fund at \$263,424. This balance will be repurposed to cover a portion of the Minuteman Nashoba run out claims obligation with the rest of the funding (\$75,894) coming from leftover ARPA funds that were set aside for another project that is no longer needed.*

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY PETER CUNNINGHAM AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Cunningham explained the need for money to cover run out costs to dissolve the MNHG consortium in order to switch to another health insurance coverage option.

There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 17: Yes – 184; No - 27; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

Article 18: Revoke Cable Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2025

To see if the Town will 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *At the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, the Town voted to create a Cable Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2016. At the time, Cable Revenues were strong and had a healthy level of reserves. However, since 2019, more residents have moved away from cable to various streaming services and the Town has seen a steady decrease in Cable Fees, so the Cable Enterprise has had to depend more on its Excess and Deficiency Account to balance the budget. There are no longer enough reserves to continue functioning as an Enterprise. To address this and determine the best course of action to continue to provide Local Cable Access while dealing with the loss of revenues, in Fiscal Year 2025, the Town will create a “Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund”. Creation of this fund, similar to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, will allow the Town to collect the fees received from the two cable carriers servicing Groton and put them in this Reserve Account for the exclusive use of the Local Cable Access Department. This Article will revoke the Enterprise Fund. Article 19 will create the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund.*

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: The Moderator allowed discussion for this article and the next article together. Mr. Pisani explained the need to revoke this Enterprise Fund. He said that streaming services were on the rise which meant more people were cancelling their cable services. Mr. Petropoulos said he highly valued their cable services but asked how they would continue to fund this. Mr. Haddad said that the Cable Receipts Reserved Fund would collect funds from Charter and Verizon to offset the operating budget. He said there was a bill before the Legislature to charge for streaming services which would help the operating budget also.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 18: Yes – 209; No - 7; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 19: Cable Department Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund Acceptance

To see if the Town will 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, which begins on July 1, 2024, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: See explanation in the Article 18 Summary.

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY MATT PISANI AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion for Article 19: Yes – 203; No - 9; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 20: Funding for Destination Groton Committee

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2024 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Destination Groton Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge, which is to pursue a course of action intended to engage all Town stakeholders, including the business and non-profit communities, Town leaders, and Town residents in a series of public information forums in order to prepare for an increase in visitors to town while at the same time work to preserve its rural small-town charm. A portion of this funding will be used to hire consultants to assist in procuring grant funding to create tourism programming, strategic marketing, infrastructure and regional transportation mitigation. The Committee is seeking \$15,000 for the above-mentioned activities.*

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY REBECCA PINE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Sheldon provided a detailed explanation for their request.

A resident asked if this was in addition to their annual operating budget. Mr. Sheldon said that this was their annual budget and would be a yearly ask. The same resident asked if they would be providing an annual report outlining their spending and revenue. Mr. Snow said he went to the Select Board meeting two weeks ago to ask the Board if they would place trash cans around town. Mr. Sheldon said they would look at putting trash cans around town to add to the enjoyable destination Groton is. Ms. Frank asked if any of their work was focused on getting people/businesses to move to Groton.

Mr. Lathrop moved the question.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority
Vote on Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 202; No - 12; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

Vote On Main Motion Under Article 20

Quantum Of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote On Motion for Article 20: Yes – 155; No - 52; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 21: Funding for Sustainability Commission

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all cost associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sustainability Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Sustainability Commission to pay for their tire recycling program, climate action program, pollinator garden program, building and delivering trained energy coaching and a central, online repository of information for townspeople, Sustainable Groton Advocates citizens' program, and to provide educational materials to residents in their endeavor to have informational/educational seminars that focus on Sustainability. At the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change and resilience to their purview. Beginning in 2022, the Commission added climate change work projects and a tire recycling program to their ongoing pollinator garden program. Continuing and bringing these projects to fruition requires funding. The Commission is seeking \$9,600 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2025.*

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY REBECCA PINE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Francisco provided an explanation about this request. There was no debate.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion for Article 21: Yes – 171; No - 23; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 22: *Acquire Land for Chlorine Booster Station*

To see if the Town will vote 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 to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide, a sum or sums of money, 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.

Town Manager

Select Board:

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *The Town needs to install a Chlorine Booster Station as part of the installation of the new Water Main to provide clean potable drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and surrounding properties in Dunstable to resolve the PFAS contamination at the High School. The Groton Cemetery Association has agreed to sell a 7500 square foot parcel to the Town for \$70,000 for this purpose.*

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.

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY ALISON MANUGIAN AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Manugian explained the need for this piece of property in order to install the water line to the High School and surrounding properties. Mr. Kenney asked if they could have more information on a booster station. Mr. Orcutt said that they needed to be able to add chlorine due to the length of the pipe, thus requiring a booster station adding the station would make no noise. Mr. Sopka asked how much it would cost for the station itself. Mr. Haddad said that the cost of the station was factored into the original appropriation. A resident asked about the cost and if there were other locations that could be used that might be cheaper. Mr. Orcutt said that they couldn't put this on Williams Barn property as it was under control of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Robertson said that he was the treasurer of the Cemetery Association adding it was owned by a private Association. He said that the price was determined based on the amount a plot cost and the area required by the Town. He said that the proposed price was ½ of what they could get if they kept that piece of property for grave space. Mr. Orcutt said they explored other parcels closer to the center of town but it was too costly.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 22: Yes – 141; No - 56; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 23: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

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

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

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary so that the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2025. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY BRUCE EASOM AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Easom said that this was annual exercise to allocate anticipated revenue from Community Preservation Act funds. Mr. Sopka asked why the unallocated reserve was being appropriated more money. Mr. Easom said that the CPA Law said a minimum of 10% was supposed to be allocated to the specific bins and had been the policy of the CPC to allocate more money to the unallocated for broader project types and use. A

gentleman asked what this money was for, adding it looked like a slush fund of \$1M. Mr. Easom provided an explanation of CPA funds, where they came from and how they could be used.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 23: Yes – 166; No - 17; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 24: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2024

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A: Sustainable Groton Funding \$3,600

Summary: *The Sustainability Commission is requesting \$3,600 in order to create and plant a native plant pollinator corridor along the back of the Groton Center property. The 80-foot-long planting pathway will connect the pollinator garden to the Ice Line Trail. The pollinator corridor will consist of a pedestrian walkway with a border of native pollinator plants and benches. The pollinator habitats at the Groton Center help to offset the loss of habitat and support sustainable environments, contributing to biodiversity. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY PHIL FRANCISCO AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Fransisco explained the request and the need for the funding in FY24 adding this allowed them the opportunity to spend the money now and not have to until July 1, 2024. He said this was for plants for the pollinator garden corridors adding the prime time to plant them was now.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion for Article 24: Yes – 168; No - 20; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

Article 25: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations – Fiscal Year 2025

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2025, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A: Conservation Fund – FY 2025 \$400,000

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 to be added to Groton’s Conservation Fund in order to preserve land for open space, agricultural recreation, and forestry activities, as well as to protect water resources and wildlife habitat. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly when a priority parcel becomes available. In the past, the Conservation Fund has been used to purchase conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, and fee ownership of conservation land within Groton. To fund this project \$100,000 will come from the Open Space Reserve and \$300,000 to come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

CPC Proposal B: Cow Pond Play Fields \$30,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$30,000 to design a master plan for the large area owned by the Town of Groton between Cow Pond Brook Road and Hoyts Wharf Road. The area is currently used by athletic groups and residents. This proposal will utilize the data and site assessments conducted using previously approved CPA funds in 2022 and build upon it to create the Master Plan and concept design. The Park Commission will also incorporate input provided through a survey of Town residents. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously
Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstained – Hewitt)

CPC Proposal C: Milestone Markers Restoration

\$8,950

Summary: *The Groton Historical Commission is requesting \$8,950 to restore 2 of the 27 milestone markers that radiate from Main Street, leading to the Town center. The stones are historical assets, having been installed in approximately 1902. The project will fund the necessary restoration of damaged milestone markers. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

CPC Proposal D:

Prescott School Building Assessment

\$100,000

Summary: *The Groton Town Manager, in conjunction with the Capital Planning Advisory Committee and the Friends of Prescott, are proposing to perform a building condition assessment report for the Prescott School, located at 145 Main Street, to determine the functional adequacy of the primary facilities in the short- and long-term future to preserve the historic structure. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Eliot)

CPC Proposal E:

Outdoor Fitness Court

\$237,500

Summary: *In the Spring of 2023, the Town of Groton applied for and received a \$50,000 2024 Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts Fitness Campaign Grant Award. This Campaign is part of a national movement to make world-class fitness free and accessible in public spaces across the country. The National Fitness Campaign (NFC) is a for-profit wellness consulting firm. NFC's mission is to make "world class fitness free" to support healthy communities across America. This grant provides seed funding for the construction/installation of an Outdoor Fitness Court. Working cooperatively with the Groton Park Commission, it was determined that the best location for the Outdoor Fitness Court is at 32 Playground Road, also known as Town Field, behind the Groton Public Library, adjacent to the outdoor basketball court. The funds requested are representative of the costs over and above the \$50,000 grant and will be utilized to complete the project. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

CPC Proposal F:

SRRT – Phase II Permitting

\$30,000

Summary: *Squannacook Greenways, Inc. is requesting \$30,000 in funding to pay for the design and permitting of the next phase of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT). Phase I currently extends from Depot Street in Townsend to the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in West Groton, for a distance of 3.7 miles. The proposed Phase II will be to continue the rail trail from the Bertozzi WMA to Cutler Field in West Groton for a distance of 2.1 miles along the scenic Squannacook River. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommend (6 In Favor, 1 Abstained – Easom)*

CPC Proposal G: Bancroft Castle Preservation Study \$16,240

Summary: *The Groton Historical Commission is requesting \$16,240 to commission a study by a qualified masonry preservation firm as to the structural integrity of the masonry remains of the Bancroft Castle atop Gibbet Hill. In addition, this study would outline a strategy to preserve those remains to the maximum extent practically and economically possible. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal H: Property Security, Safety and Preservation \$69,600

Summary: *The Groton Historical Society is requesting \$69,600 in order to make updates and repairs to the Boutwell House. These include the addition of demand security lighting, metal railings along a walkway, repairs to deteriorated windows and entryways, and assessment of the existing sprinkler system. The full amount to be paid from the Historic Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal I: 2023-2024 Housing Funding Request \$400,000

Summary: *The Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) is requesting \$400,000 from the Community Housing Reserve in order to continue its work of creating and supporting Affordable Housing in Groton. This money will allow the AHT to respond quickly if property suitable for Affordable Housing comes onto the market. Community Housing Funds can be used to acquire, create, support, rehabilitate and/or restore affordable housing if acquired or created with CPA funds. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal J: Housing Coordinator – FY 2025 \$62,660

Summary: *This application is requesting \$62,660 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*
Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

CPC Proposal K:

Tools and Equipment for Building Trails

\$12,195

Summary: *The Groton Trails Committee is requesting \$12,195 to purchase needed special tools and equipment for them to conduct their work. While it’s not associated with any particular trail construction project(s), the special tools and equipment will be used to improve the Committee’s overall efficiency, and thereby its capacity, for building, repairing, and enhancing trails in the Groton Trail Network (GTN). The GTN comprises trails on land owned by nonprofits (Groton Conservation Trust, New England Forestry Foundation), the Town of Groton (Groton Conservation Commission), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Department of Conservation and Recreation). The CPA Funds will be used to build, repair (for safety and/or erosion control) and enhance (for safety and/or new users) trails that are used by the public. To Fund this Project, \$5,000 will come from the Open Space Reserve and \$7,195 will come from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: A hold was placed on Motion 1 by Richard Nason. A hold was placed by Val Boucher on Motion 2. A hold on Motion 4 was placed by Richard Nason. Multiple holds were placed on Motion 5.

Vote on Consent Motion #3 for Motions 3,6,7,8,9,10,11.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Consent Motion #3 – Motions 3,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 for Article 25: Yes – 163; No - 23; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Lathrop said that this was how the Conservation Commission obtained funding to purchase land. He provided an update of acquisitions that had been most recently been made and additional funding they received to supplement the cost of the purchases. Mr. Nason asked how much of the town was conservation adding this was a year in which they needed money for the schools. Mr. Lathrop said that about a third of the Town was restricted for conservation adding this money could not be used for the schools, only for CPA purposes.

Vote on Motion 1.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion 1 of Article 25: Yes – 147; No - 34; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Ms. Eliot said that this was the beginning of a major project they would like to see between Cow Pond Brook Road and Hoyts Wharf Road adding there was a safety issue for the children who play on those fields. She said there was a strong need to correct the parking, add restrooms and a playground as examples. Ms. Boucher said she was a resident on Cow Pond Brook Road adding the road could not handle any more traffic. She said between the fields, trails and transfer station, along with a potential 40B project it was already a lot. Another resident on Cow Pond Brook Road asked how much more this road could take. She said that the outside groups were not paying anything to use those fields adding those fields were used 7 days a week and not only on weekends as had been stated. She asked that they exercise some real caution with expending funds on this project.

Vote on Motion 2.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion 2 of Article 25: Yes – 123; No - 59; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Haddad explained the funding request. Mr. Nason who held this article had no objection. A resident asked how this assessment would work. Mr. Haddad said that they drafted an RFP for an architect to respond to adding the actual cost was only going to be \$42,000. He said that when proposals for the CPC were due, it was too soon to go out to RFP and why they asked for \$100,000. He said they wanted things like electrical, roof, windows, plumbing, building envelope itself, etc. to be looked at and reported on. Mr. Alberghini asked when the furnace and roof was last replaced. Mr. Haddad said that the furnace was replaced around 2014 and the roof was replaced around 2007. Mr. Petropoulos said he fully supported learning what the outstanding capital costs would be. He said he wasn’t sure why they were just looking at just Prescott School and asked if they could expand this to other town buildings. Mr. Haddad said that they could not use CPA funds for any buildings except Town Hall and Prescott School because they weren’t historical buildings. Mr. Haddad explained that with the exception of the Police Station, all other town buildings were either new or in good shape. Mr. David Manugian said that the Capital Planning Advisory Committee held a couple of public meetings on this last fall and thought that Prescott School was an important building to be looked at.

Mr. Sopka asked if he could make a motion to reduce the amount of the CPA request to \$42,000. The Moderator asked if his motion was to strike the amount of \$100,000 under Motion 4 and replace it with \$42,000. Mr. Sopka said that was correct.

The motion to amend was moved and seconded.

Ms. Pine said she didn’t think this motion was necessary adding any unused funds would be returned to the CPC anyway. Mr. David Manugian said that the Prescott School was a complicated building and additional funds might be necessary to cover unknowns. Mr. Francisco said he wanted to echo what Ms. Pine had said.

Mr. Michael Manugian made a motion to move question to amend the main motion.

Vote to Move the Question.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3s Majority

Vote on Motion to Move the Question: Yes – 132; No - 35; Motion Passed by 2/3s Majority Vote

VOTE ON MOTION 4 – MOTION TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION.

Quantum Of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote On Motion to Amend the Main Motion: Yes – 40; No - 126; Motion Did Not Pass by Majority Vote

VOTE ON MOTION 4 – MAIN MOTION.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Main Motion 4 of Article 25: Yes – 129; No -38; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY RUSSELL BURKE AND SECONDED.

DEBATE: Mr. Haddad said that in the Spring of 2023, the Town applied for and received a BCBS (Blue Cross Blue Shield) Fitness Campaign Grant award to make world class fitness available to all. The outdoor fitness court was moved forward to the CPC by himself and the Select Board. He said that \$50K of the project total would be offset by the grant received. He said he worked with the Park Commission to find a place for this and ended upon the Town Field next to the basketball courts. He said that having it here made the most sense adding it was close to the center and other amenities. Mr. Brown said that an outdoor fitness court didn't feel like it was preserving anything and didn't think the whole town benefited from this. Mr. Burke said that the CPA allowed for spending on recreation, which this project fell into. Ms. Vollmar said she didn't know what an outdoor fitness court was. Mr. Haddad said it was workout equipment and showed a picture on the screen. Ms. Vollmar said it was pointless to have this outdoors adding it would rust. Mr. Haddad said that equipment would not rust and was meant to be outdoors. Ms. Lathrop said it would be nice to spread this out across other parts of town like Four Corners. A gentleman asked why this cost so much. Mr. Haddad said that the work and associated costs included required grading, a concrete platform and the equipment costs. Ms. Collette said that the Board of Health voted unanimously to support this adding no gym membership was required. A resident asked who would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Haddad said that the DPW would be responsible for maintenance. Ms. Bicknell said she thought this money would be better used on the rail trails and thought it was an exorbitant amount of money that wasn't being put toward good use. Ms. McCrossen said she thought this was a fantastic idea but asked about parking. Mr. Haddad said that the usage of the fitness courts might not add to traffic too much but because of its proximity to the center it was why BCBS was attracted to this site. Mr. Alberghini said that the cost was too much and thought the money was better for trails. Mr. Charland said that they had a tax problem and thought they needed to look at needs vs. wants. Mr. Hurley said that he loved the idea and asked if the Town thought they might rent it to groups to generate revenue like the pickleball courts. Mr. Haddad said that they could definitely look into that.

VOTE ON MOTION 5.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Motion 5 of Article 25: Yes – 64; No - 94; Motion Did Not Pass by Majority Vote

Article 26: *Extend Center Sewer District*

To see if the Town will vote 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Board of Sewer Commissioners: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article requests authorization from the Town Meeting to expand the Center Sewer District to include 6 Fairway Drive, Groton. This article, if approved, will make Sewer available for the exclusive use of 6 Fairway Drive.*

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

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY JAMES GMEINER AND SECONDED.

Mr. Ferreira said that the sewer district abutted them but that the property did not have the ability to connect to sewer currently. He said that this article was not to debate the housing project adding that if they were unable to connect to sewer, they were prepared to move forward with a septic system. He provided an overview of the housing proposed for that property and the gallons to be generated per day. Mr. Gmeiner said that the Sewer Commission held a public hearing and voted unanimously to recommend this article. He said that they conditioned their approval to the 24 proposed units and 3,120 gallons per day adding an agreement had been duly put into place. Ms. Collette said that the Board of Health voted to support this. Ms. Perkins said that the Affordable Housing Trust voted unanimously to support this adding the Town needed 55 plus affordable housing and in that area of town. Ms. Pine said that the Select Board was unanimous in support of this. Mr. Burke said that the Planning Board was not in a place to make a recommendation at this time adding they were going through the permitting of this project currently. Mr. Sopka said that the Groton Housing Authority was in favor of the project.

Ms. Lathrop said that the Four Corners area was not for a project of this type. She said that this corner was not connected to sewer and they were promised it wouldn't be. Mr. Gmeiner said that at the time Four Corners was set up, the Sewer Commission was not in charge of the Enterprise Fund adding he didn't remember a promise like that. The Moderator asked if this project would go forward if it was on sewer or septic. Mr. Burke said that was correct.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion for Article 27: Yes – 107; No - 32; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO DISSOLVE THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
Vote on Motion to Dissolve the Special Town Meeting: Yes – 115; No - 8; Motion Passed by Majority Vote

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

Given under our hands this 29th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Peter S. Cunningham
Peter S. Cunningham, Chair

John F. Reilly
John F. Reilly, Vice-Chair

Alison S. Manugian
Alison S. Manugian, Clerk

Rebecca H. Pine
Rebecca H. Pine, Member

Matthew F. Pisani
Matthew F. Pisani, Member

OFFICERS RETURN
Groton, Middlesex

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

Constable

Date Duly Posted

**BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE
TOWN MANAGER
AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

Pursuant to Article 6 “Finance and Fiscal Procedure”, Section 6.4 “The Budget”, of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager are pleased to submit the revised Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. The original proposed budget of \$52,545,551 that was to be considered by the 2024 Spring Town Meeting had an anticipated deficit of \$1,477,146 and required an override of Proposition 2½. The Override Election held on April 2, 2024 was not successful and the Proposed Budget needed to be adjusted to stay within the expected Fiscal Year 2025 Proposition 2½ Levy Limit. It is important to note that a similar Override Request in the Town of Dunstable was also not successful.

Based on this, the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee has made significant revisions to its budget, including the elimination of 27 Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs) resulting in a reduction of \$2,717,353. This reduction has lowered Groton's Assessment by \$2,097,253, leading to a new Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget of \$50,448,297. This adjustment has transformed the previous deficit into a \$619,000 surplus. Please note that the originally proposed Operational Municipal Budget of \$17,271,660, a proposed increase of \$381,271, or 2.26%, remains unchanged.

In light of this development, the Town Manager and Finance Committee are recommending that the Town of Groton provide the Groton Dunstable Regional School District with a one-time \$619,000 Operational Grant. This Grant will enable the District to cover unemployment expenses, based on the reduction of 27 FTEs in FY 2025, and address PFAS-related mitigation at the GDRSD High School.

This Proposed Budget, including the proposed Operational Grant to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, complies with the original FY 2025 Budget Guidance provided to the Town Manager by the Finance Committee and Select Board in October, 2024. If approved by Town Meeting, the new Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget would be \$51,067,297 as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
General Government	\$ 2,388,159	\$ 2,478,370	\$ 90,211	3.78%
Land Use	\$ 499,606	\$ 520,749	\$ 21,143	4.23%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 4,772,597	\$ 4,515,079	\$ (257,518)	-5.40%
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 2,389,516	\$ 38,021	1.62%
Library and Citizen Services*	\$ 1,947,870	\$ 2,192,957	\$ 245,086	12.58%
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 244,327	4.96%
Sub-Total	\$ 16,890,390	\$ 17,271,660	\$ 381,271	2.26%
Debt Service - Excluded	\$ 4,326,957	\$ 4,649,077	\$ 322,120	7.44%
Debt Service - In Levy Only	\$ 474,605	\$ 407,534	\$ (67,071)	-14.13%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$ 21,691,952	\$ 22,328,271	\$ 636,320	2.93%
Nashoba Tech	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 204,063	26.76%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 26,412,384	\$ 474,668	1.83%
Groton Operating Grant	\$ -	\$ 619,000	\$ 619,000	100.00%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$ 406,982	\$ 384,622	\$ (22,360)	-5.49%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$ 58,814	\$ 60,534	\$ 1,720	2.92%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$ 552,203	\$ 295,767	\$ (256,436)	-46.44%
Sub-Total - Education	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 28,739,026	\$ 1,020,655	3.68%
Grand Total - Town Budget	\$ 49,410,323	\$ 51,067,297	\$ 1,656,975	3.35%

*In FY 2025, Library and Citizen Services includes the Cable Access Department for the first time

As stated, the total Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget, including the proposed Assessments of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (and Operational Grant) and the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, and excluded debt, is \$51,067,297, or an increase of 3.35% and is within the anticipated Fiscal Year 2025 Levy Limit. When you take into consideration the proposed Capital Budget, Enterprise Fund Budgets and additional appropriations raised on the recap sheet, the total Proposed Budget is \$55,800,963. Based on this, the estimated Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$15.62, or an increase of \$0.53. In Fiscal Year 2024, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at \$694,934) is \$10,487. Under this proposed Budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$10,855, or an increase of \$368. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2024 and FY 2025:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 36,587,742	\$ 38,055,280	\$ 1,467,538	4.01%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 13.36	\$ 13.80	\$ 0.44	3.29%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,284	\$ 9,590	\$ 306	3.29%
Excluded Debt	\$ 4,732,786	\$ 5,032,590	\$ 299,804	6.33%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.82	\$ 0.09	5.20%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 1,202	\$ 1,265	\$ 63	5.20%
Final Levy Used	\$ 41,320,528	\$ 43,087,870	\$ 1,767,342	4.28%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.09	\$ 15.62	\$ 0.53	3.51%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 10,487	\$ 10,855	\$ 368	3.51%

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Groton Town Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Robertson, Chair

Colby Doody, Vice Chair

Gary Green

David Manugian

Scott Whitefield

Michael Sulprizio

Mary Linskey

Groton Finance Committee

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2025
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

	BUDGETED FY 2024		ESTIMATED FY 2025		CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	\$ 36,832,663	\$	38,055,280	\$	1,222,617
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 4,732,786	\$	5,032,590	\$	299,804
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 1,116,143	\$	1,126,928	\$	10,785
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 244,920	\$	-	\$	(244,920)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,820,583	\$	1,820,583	\$	-
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 400,000	\$	400,000	\$	-
Marijuana Revenue	\$ 150,000	\$	75,000	\$	(75,000)
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$	110,000	\$	-
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 371,500	\$	395,443	\$	23,943
Other Charges for Services	\$ 99,000	\$	15,000	\$	(84,000)
Fees	\$ 392,000	\$	400,000	\$	8,000
Rentals	\$ 40,000	\$	55,000	\$	15,000
Library Revenues	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 800,000	\$	854,063	\$	54,063
Licenses and Permits	\$ 429,300	\$	429,300	\$	-
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 20,000	\$	10,000	\$	(10,000)
Investment Income	\$ 90,000	\$	243,744	\$	153,744
Recreation Revenues	\$ 700,000	\$	750,000	\$	50,000
Miscellaneous Recurring	\$ 75,000	\$	94,000	\$	19,000
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 5,497,383	\$	5,652,133	\$	154,750
Other Revenue:					
Free Cash	\$ 818,137	\$	698,133	\$	(120,004)
Capital Stabilization Fund for GDRSD	\$ 253,407	\$	295,767	\$	42,360
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 620,142	\$	683,500	\$	63,358
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ 525,951	\$	350,000	\$	(175,951)
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Bond Surplus Transfer	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 2,217,637	\$	2,027,400	\$	(190,237)
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 2,090,822	\$	2,310,267	\$	219,444
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 889,499	\$	1,250,475	\$	360,976
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE	\$ 230,137	\$	-	\$	(230,137)
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 77,811	\$	98,040	\$	20,229
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 242,520	\$	247,851	\$	5,331
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 53,929,802	\$	55,800,963	\$	1,871,161

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2025
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS**

FY 2025 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

TOWN MANAGER - Proposed Budget

General Government	\$	2,478,370
Land Use Departments	\$	520,749
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,515,079
Regional School Districts	\$	28,739,026
Department of Public Works	\$	2,389,516
Library and Citizen Services	\$	2,192,957
Debt Service	\$	5,056,611
Employee Benefits	\$	5,174,990

Sub-Total - Operating Budget \$ 51,067,297

A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	51,067,297
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS	\$	862,144
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS	\$	3,590,968
D. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REQUEST		

OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED

1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	\$	-
2. Debt and interest charges not included	\$	-
3. Final court judgments	\$	-
4. Total Overlay deficits of prior years	\$	-
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	29,107
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-
7. Offset Receipts	\$	-
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	-
10. Other	\$	-

E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED	\$	29,107
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	\$	101,446
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS	\$	150,000

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES \$ **55,800,963**

FY 2025 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

Levy Limit	\$	38,055,280
Debt Exclusion	\$	5,032,590

A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY	\$	43,087,870
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$	1,126,928
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED	\$	5,652,133
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS	\$	-
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$	3,906,632
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS	\$	-
G. FREE CASH	\$	698,133

OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS

1. Stabilization Fund	\$	-
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	683,500
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	295,767
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	350,000
5. Bond Surplus Transfer	\$	-
6. Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$	-

H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 1,329,267

TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS \$ **55,800,963**

FY 2025 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$ **0**

APPENDIX A

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2025

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>							
MODERATOR							
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.21	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	0.23	0.00%
SELECT BOARD							
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 2,960	\$ 11,800	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	1.46	0.01%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,649	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	5.17	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 28,609	\$ 35,854	\$ 30,854	\$ 30,854	6.63	0.06%
TOWN MANAGER							
1030	Salaries	\$ 243,254	\$ 252,064	\$ 258,863	\$ 258,863	55.64	0.50%
1031	Wages	\$ 111,392	\$ 117,005	\$ 141,837	\$ 141,837	30.48	0.27%
1032	Expenses	\$ 14,240	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	2.60	0.02%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 368,886	\$ 381,169	\$ 412,800	\$ 412,800	88.72	0.79%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE							
1040	Expenses	\$ 214	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 49,400	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	32.24	0.29%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 49,614	\$ 150,220	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	32.24	0.29%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT							
1050	Salaries	\$ 101,126	\$ 115,615	\$ 118,163	\$ 118,163	25.40	0.23%
1051	Wages	\$ 52,920	\$ 54,491	\$ 56,679	\$ 56,679	12.18	0.11%
1052	Expenses	\$ 40,199	\$ 39,100	\$ 50,523	\$ 50,523	10.86	0.10%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 194,245	\$ 209,206	\$ 225,365	\$ 225,365	48.44	0.43%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS							
1060	Salaries	\$ 85,280	\$ 94,300	\$ 96,186	\$ 96,186	20.67	0.18%
1061	Wages	\$ 65,073	\$ 68,486	\$ 75,272	\$ 75,272	16.18	0.14%
1062	Expenses	\$ 29,012	\$ 47,374	\$ 47,032	\$ 47,032	10.11	0.09%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 179,365	\$ 210,160	\$ 218,490	\$ 218,490	46.96	0.42%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR							
1070	Salaries	\$ 141,733	\$ 150,769	\$ 153,977	\$ 153,977	33.09	0.29%
1071	Wages	\$ 74,499	\$ 80,256	\$ 82,940	\$ 82,940	17.83	0.16%
1072	Expenses	\$ 24,546	\$ 26,253	\$ 28,637	\$ 28,637	6.15	0.05%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 500	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	1.53	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 500	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	0.49	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 241,778	\$ 266,678	\$ 274,954	\$ 274,954	59.10	0.53%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 58,577	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	19.34	0.17%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 58,577	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	19.34	0.17%
HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 87,983	\$ 94,300	\$ 96,936	\$ 96,936	20.83	0.19%
1091	Expenses	\$ 14,927	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	2.67	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 102,910	\$ 106,700	\$ 109,336	\$ 109,336	23.50	0.21%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 121,981	\$ 121,627	\$ 124,810	\$ 124,810	26.83	0.24%
1101	Wages	\$ 61,194	\$ 70,261	\$ 73,459	\$ 73,459	15.79	0.14%
1102	Expenses	\$ 21,455	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	5.33	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 204,630	\$ 216,688	\$ 223,069	\$ 223,069	47.94	0.43%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.78	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,000	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.78	0.02%
TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 95,550	\$ 98,472	\$ 98,591	\$ 98,591	21.19	0.19%
1131	Wages	\$ 81,648	\$ 73,125	\$ 81,040	\$ 81,040	17.42	0.16%
1132	Expenses	\$ 9,539	\$ 18,450	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,900	2.99	0.03%
1135	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 186,737	\$ 190,047	\$ 193,531	\$ 193,531	41.60	0.37%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS							
1140	Stipend	\$ 27,416	\$ 22,930	\$ 33,053	\$ 33,053	7.10	0.06%
1141	Expenses	\$ 15,597	\$ 22,927	\$ 21,088	\$ 21,088	4.53	0.04%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 43,013	\$ 45,857	\$ 54,141	\$ 54,141	11.64	0.10%
STREET LISTINGS							
1150	Expenses	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950	1.28	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,818	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950	1.28	0.01%
INSURANCE & BONDING							
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 286,667	\$ 320,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 330,000	70.93	0.63%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 10,060	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	2.58	0.02%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 3,744	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.37	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 300,471	\$ 357,000	\$ 367,000	\$ 367,000	78.88	0.70%
TOWN REPORT							
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,472	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180	Expenses	\$ 68,297	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	13.97	0.12%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 15,954	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	6.45	0.06%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 25,433	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	3.65	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 109,684	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	24.07	0.21%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$ 2,077,874	\$ 2,388,159	\$ 2,478,370	\$ 2,478,370	532.67	4.74%
LAND USE DEPARTMENTS							
CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200	Salary	\$ 73,972	\$ 73,351	\$ 79,070	\$ 79,070	16.99	0.15%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 4,597	\$ 8,770	\$ 8,270	\$ 8,270	1.78	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 78,569	\$ 82,121	\$ 87,340	\$ 87,340	18.77	0.17%
PLANNING BOARD							
1210	Salaries	\$ 89,237	\$ 95,922	\$ 97,696	\$ 97,696	21.00	0.19%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 8,844	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,625	2.07	0.02%
1215	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,846	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,041	\$ 4,041	0.87	0.01%
1216	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 101,927	\$ 110,072	\$ 111,362	\$ 111,362	23.93	0.21%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
1220	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1221	Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,335	0.29	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 50	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,335	0.29	0.00%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION							
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR							
1240	Salaries	\$ 104,758	\$ 104,904	\$ 107,030	\$ 107,030	23.00	0.20%
1241	Wages	\$ 55,067	\$ 61,453	\$ 63,935	\$ 63,935	13.74	0.12%
1242	Expenses	\$ 23,257	\$ 21,750	\$ 24,897	\$ 24,897	5.35	0.05%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 183,082	\$ 188,107	\$ 195,862	\$ 195,862	42.10	0.37%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR							
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 54,800	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	8.38	0.07%
1251	Expenses	\$ 4,876	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	0.75	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 59,676	\$ 43,000	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,500	9.13	0.08%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR							
1260	Stipend	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.54	0.00%
1261	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.06	0.00%
1262	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,800	0.60	0.01%
BOARD OF HEALTH							
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 983	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	0.34	0.00%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	3.83	0.03%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 51,483	\$ 38,833	\$ 43,081	\$ 43,081	9.26	0.08%
1274	Herbert Lipton MH	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 9,133	\$ 10,600	\$ 13,834	\$ 13,834	2.97	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 69,599	\$ 68,806	\$ 76,288	\$ 76,288	16.40	0.15%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES							
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 680	\$ 3,200	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1281	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	0.70	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 680	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,262	\$ 3,262	0.70	0.01%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 496,083	\$ 499,606	\$ 520,749	\$ 520,749	111.92	1.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 283,207	\$ 286,466	\$ 305,889	\$ 305,889	65.74	0.59%
1301	Wages	\$ 2,067,435	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 2,222,071	\$ 2,222,071	477.59	4.25%
1302	Expenses	\$ 207,915	\$ 215,370	\$ 264,552	\$ 264,552	56.86	0.51%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.07	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 7,588	\$ 6,420	\$ 12,984	\$ 12,984	2.79	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,571,145	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 2,810,496	\$ 2,810,496	604.06	5.38%
FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 256,900	\$ 281,595	\$ 292,712	\$ 292,712	62.91	0.56%
1311	Wages	\$ 1,165,166	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 1,160,261	\$ 1,160,261	249.37	2.22%
1312	Expenses	\$ 202,231	\$ 207,096	\$ 212,146	\$ 212,146	45.60	0.41%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,624,297	\$ 1,601,181	\$ 1,665,119	\$ 1,665,119	357.88	3.19%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.45	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.09	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,352	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.53	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	0.45	0.00%
1341	Expenses	\$ 270	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	0.09	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,352	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.53	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350	Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.86	0.01%
1351	Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	2.15	0.02%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	3.01	0.03%
DOG OFFICER							
1360	Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	3.76	0.03%
1361	Expenses	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.64	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,929	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	4.41	0.04%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370	Wages	\$ 444,288	\$ 448,073	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1371	Expenses	\$ 20,382	\$ 23,875	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 464,670	\$ 471,948	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 4,696,745	\$ 4,772,597	\$ 4,515,079	\$ 4,515,079	970.42	8.64%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</u>							
NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL							
1400	Operating Expenses	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 966,719	207.78	1.85%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ 966,719	\$ 966,719	207.78	1.85%
<u>GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>							
1410	Operating Expenses	\$ 24,802,222	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 26,412,384	\$ 26,412,384	5,676.79	50.55%
1411	Debt Service, Excluded	\$ -	\$ 406,982	\$ 384,622	\$ 384,622	82.67	0.74%
1412	Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$ -	\$ 58,814	\$ 60,534	\$ 60,534	13.01	0.12%
1413	Operating Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 619,000	\$ 619,000	133.04	1.18%
1414	Capital Assessment	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ 295,767	\$ 295,767	63.57	0.57%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 25,379,248	\$ 26,955,715	\$ 27,772,307	\$ 27,772,307	5,969.07	53.15%
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 28,739,026	\$ 28,739,026	6,176.85	55.00%
<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS</u>							
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT							
1500	Salaries	\$ 120,670	\$ 120,293	\$ 122,664	\$ 122,664	26.36	0.23%
1501	Wages	\$ 750,224	\$ 743,323	\$ 753,789	\$ 753,789	162.01	1.44%
1502	Expenses	\$ 136,529	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	\$ 136,900	29.42	0.26%
1503	Highway Maintenance	\$ 81,712	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	17.19	0.15%
1504	Minor Capital	\$ 5,526	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.22	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,094,661	\$ 1,095,516	\$ 1,108,353	\$ 1,108,353	238.22	2.12%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS							
1510	Expenses	\$ 12,202	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.22	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,202	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.22	0.03%
SNOW AND ICE							
1520	Expenses	\$ 171,937	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	35.46	0.32%
1521	Overtime	\$ 268,100	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	30.09	0.27%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 45,349	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	7.52	0.07%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 485,386	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	73.08	0.65%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET							
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.64	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 9,515	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	6.45	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,515	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	7.42	0.07%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE							
1540	Wages	\$ 156,174	\$ 166,348	\$ 162,845	\$ 162,845	35.00	0.31%
1541	Expenses	\$ 257,888	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	58.24	0.52%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 9,849	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.37	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 423,911	\$ 437,298	\$ 458,795	\$ 458,795	98.61	0.88%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL							
1550	Wages	\$ 145,954	\$ 154,315	\$ 157,651	\$ 157,651	33.88	0.30%
1551	Expenses	\$ 38,661	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	9.82	0.09%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 139,668	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	31.16	0.28%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	1.26	0.01%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 4,717	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.07	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 334,850	\$ 355,851	\$ 359,187	\$ 359,187	77.20	0.69%
PARKS DEPARTMENT							
1560	Wages	\$ 13,804	\$ 17,571	\$ 17,922	\$ 17,922	3.85	0.03%
1561	Expenses	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	11.98	0.11%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 69,076	\$ 73,330	\$ 73,681	\$ 73,681	15.84	0.14%
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS		\$ 2,432,601	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 2,389,516	\$ 2,389,516	513.58	4.57%
LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES							
COUNCIL ON AGING							
1600	Salaries	\$ 87,986	\$ 87,446	\$ 162,023	\$ 162,023	34.82	0.31%
1601	Wages	\$ 116,035	\$ 103,143	\$ 55,733	\$ 55,733	11.98	0.11%
1602	Expenses	\$ 12,384	\$ 12,254	\$ 12,700	\$ 12,700	2.73	0.02%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 216,405	\$ 202,843	\$ 230,456	\$ 230,456	49.53	0.44%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN							
1610	Wages	\$ 62,342	\$ 74,808	\$ 76,611	\$ 76,611	16.47	0.15%
1611	Expenses	\$ 16,823	\$ 18,023	\$ 21,023	\$ 21,023	4.52	0.04%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 79,165	\$ 92,831	\$ 97,634	\$ 97,634	20.98	0.19%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER							
1620	Salary	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,242	\$ 6,242	1.34	0.01%
1621	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.24	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 18,919	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.37	0.05%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 24,919	\$ 32,220	\$ 32,342	\$ 32,342	6.95	0.06%
GRAVES REGISTRATION							
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.05	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	0.16	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	0.22	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES							
1640	Contract Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.32	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE							
1650	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
LIBRARY							
1660	Salary	\$ 426,346	\$ 441,807	\$ 453,630	\$ 453,630	97.50	0.87%
1661	Wages	\$ 331,618	\$ 317,104	\$ 355,706	\$ 355,706	76.45	0.68%
1662	Expenses	\$ 214,238	\$ 226,873	\$ 219,966	\$ 219,966	47.28	0.42%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 972,202	\$ 985,784	\$ 1,029,302	\$ 1,029,302	221.23	1.97%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS							
1670	Expenses	\$ 263	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.11	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 263	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.11	0.00%
WATER SAFETY							
1680	Wages	\$ 2,520	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	0.98	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ 2,887	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	1.01	0.01%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,900	\$ 10,900	2.34	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,407	\$ 18,243	\$ 20,143	\$ 20,143	4.33	0.04%
WEED MANAGEMENT							
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	4.73	0.04%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 12,001	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	2.66	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 34,001	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	7.39	0.07%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB							
1700	Salary	\$ 170,866	\$ 172,675	\$ 177,727	\$ 177,727	38.20	0.34%
1701	Wages	\$ 234,595	\$ 237,305	\$ 243,941	\$ 243,941	52.43	0.47%
1702	Expenses	\$ 193,969	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	36.06	0.32%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 599,430	\$ 577,754	\$ 589,442	\$ 589,442	126.69	1.13%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT							
1710	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,048	\$ 71,048	15.27	0.14%
1711	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,219	\$ 61,219	13.16	0.12%
1712	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,175	\$ 18,175	3.91	0.03%
1713	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	1.07	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,442	\$ 155,442	33.41	0.30%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,943,292	\$ 1,947,870	\$ 2,192,957	\$ 2,192,957	471.33	4.20%
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>							
DEBT SERVICE							
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 2,267,786	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000	435.23	3.88%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 153,506	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	35.46	0.32%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 1,332,573	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 1,340,252	\$ 1,340,252	288.06	2.57%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 77,474	\$ 110,364	\$ 110,364	23.72	0.21%
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 212,949	\$ 123,526	\$ 123,526	26.55	0.24%
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non Excluded	\$ 13,803	\$ 30,676	\$ 8,644	\$ 8,644	1.86	0.02%
2005B	Short Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ -	\$ 1,038,105	\$ 1,283,825	\$ 1,283,825	275.93	2.46%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,801,562	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 5,056,611	1,086.81	9.68%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 3,614,162	\$ 4,801,562	\$ 5,056,611	\$ 5,056,611	1,086.81	9.68%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2025 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2025 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2025 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000	County Retirement	\$ 2,538,910	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 2,653,019	\$ 570.21	5.08%
3001	OPEB	\$ 177,094	\$ 185,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 40.84	0.36%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 195,465	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2.15	0.02%
INSURANCE							
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,811,069	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 2,161,151	\$ 2,161,151	\$ 464.49	4.14%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 3,642	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 0.82	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 153,710	\$ 147,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 33.74	0.30%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,879,890	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 5,174,990	1,112.26	9.90%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 4,879,890	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 5,174,990	\$ 5,174,990	1,112.26	9.90%
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 663,000	\$ 800,142	\$ 901,971	\$ 901,971	\$ 193.86	1.73%
	Offset Reciepts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 25,054	\$ 29,051	\$ 29,107	\$ 27,107	\$ 6.26	0.06%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ 168,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	State and County Charges	\$ 95,249	\$ 98,662	\$ 101,443	\$ 101,443	\$ 21.80	0.19%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 43,020	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 32.24	0.29%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 994,363	\$ 1,077,855	\$ 1,182,521	\$ 1,180,521	254.16	2.26%
GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET		\$ 47,324,294	\$ 50,488,178	\$ 52,249,818	\$ 52,247,818	11,230	100.00%

FY 2025 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 APPROPRIATED	FY 2025 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2025 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT								
	WD Salaries	\$ 151,444	\$ 152,121	\$ 163,248	\$ 166,505	\$ 176,650	\$ 176,650	6.09%
	WD Wages	\$ 186,050	\$ 255,303	\$ 269,339	\$ 278,587	\$ 300,075	\$ 300,075	7.71%
	WD Expenses	\$ 499,510	\$ 526,019	\$ 573,697	\$ 737,900	\$ 637,300	\$ 637,300	-13.63%
	WD Debt Service	\$ 361,977	\$ 369,185	\$ 478,239	\$ 907,830	\$ 1,196,241	\$ 1,196,241	31.77%
100	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,198,981	\$ 1,302,628	\$ 1,484,523	\$ 2,090,822	\$ 2,310,267	\$ 2,310,267	10.50%
SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Sewer Salaries	\$ 20,488	\$ 21,579	\$ 23,104	\$ 22,623	\$ 24,300	\$ 24,300	7.41%
	Sewer Wages	\$ 50,727	\$ 51,737	\$ 45,907	\$ 49,872	\$ 57,195	\$ 57,195	14.68%
	Sewer Expense	\$ 534,552	\$ 683,919	\$ 781,027	\$ 783,578	\$ 1,142,338	\$ 1,142,338	45.78%
	Sewer Debt Service	\$ 5,504	\$ 5,316	\$ 5,099	\$ 33,426	\$ 26,642	\$ 26,642	-20.30%
200	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 611,271	\$ 762,551	\$ 855,137	\$ 889,499	\$ 1,250,475	\$ 1,250,475	40.58%
FOUR CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT								
	Four Corners Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,361	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	100.00%
	Four Corners Sewer Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,683	\$ 5,541	\$ 6,355	\$ 6,355	14.68%
	Four Corners Sewer Expense	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 128,224	\$ 69,909	\$ 88,985	\$ 88,985	27.29%
	Four Corners Sewer Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
300	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 135,907	\$ 77,811	\$ 98,040	\$ 98,040	26.00%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT								
	Cable Salaries	\$ 93,104	\$ 69,975	\$ 69,290	\$ 69,656	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Wages	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,827	\$ 62,574	\$ 58,510	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Expenses	\$ 58,737	\$ 52,535	\$ 85,774	\$ 91,971	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
	Cable Minor Capital	\$ 2,357	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
400	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 209,470	\$ 183,337	\$ 217,638	\$ 230,137	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
STORMWATER UTILITY								
	Stormwater Wages/Benefits	\$ 31,330	\$ 74,091	\$ 77,629	\$ 79,520	\$ 84,851	\$ 84,851	6.70%
	Stormwater Expenses	\$ 27,537	\$ 57,416	\$ 81,441	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	0.00%
	Stormwater Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 42,201	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	0.00%
500	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 58,867	\$ 173,708	\$ 210,070	\$ 242,520	\$ 247,851	\$ 247,851	2.20%
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS		\$ 2,116,492	\$ 2,476,779	\$ 2,903,275	\$ 3,530,790	\$ 3,906,632	\$ 3,906,632	10.64%

APPENDIX B

FACTOR: 1.0200

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2025 (Effective July 1, 2024)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
4	Salary	42,288	52,333
	Wages	20.36	25.14
5	Salary	44,703	54,192
	Wages	21.51	26.60
7	Salary	51,690	65,474
	Wages	25.45	31.48
8	Salary	58,680	72,656
	Wages	28.21	34.93
9	Salary	60,093	74,361
	Wages	28.90	35.75
10	Salary Executive Assistant to Town Manager	68,919	86,985
	Wages	33.15	41.82
11	Salary	71,912	91,625
	Wages	34.57	44.05
12	Salary Human Resources Director	74,264	93,844
	Wages	35.70	45.18

APPENDIX B
Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2025 (Effective July 1, 2024)

FACTOR: 1.0200

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
13	Salary	76,916	97,624
	Wages	36.98	46.93
14	Salary	78,550	99,412
	Wages	37.76	47.79
15	Salary	81,095	100,321
	Wages	38.99	48.23
16	Salary	84,025	106,000
	Wages	40.40	50.96
17	Salary	94,135	116,453
	Wages	45.28	55.99
18	Salary	101,801	125,986
	IT Director Wages	48.94	60.57
19	Salary	104,474	129,271
	Wages	50.23	62.15
20	Salary	112,022	137,771
	Wages	53.86	66.23

APPENDIX B
NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS

NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Call Captain: Fire	26.66
Call Lieutenant: Fire	26.12
Call Firefighter	22.86
Call Emergency Medical Technician	22.86
Probationary Firefighter	19.04
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	19.04
Call Fire Mechanic	63.98

Country Club Seasonal Employees

Pro Shop Staff	MW *- 19.00
Pool Staff	MW - 19.00
Lifeguards	MW - 20.00
Swim Coaches	MW - 25.00
Camp Staff	MW - 19.00
Counselors	MW - 20.00
Buildings & Grounds	MW - 29.00
Library Shelves	MW - 20.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Veteran's Agent	6,000
Earth Removal Inspector	2,500
Dog Officer	17,500
Animal Inspector	2,082
Animal Control Officer	2,082
Town Diarist	1.00
Keeper of the Town Clock	1.00
Per Diem Van Driver	19.51 - 21.96
Park Ranger	Minimum Wage
Graves Registration Officer	250
Emergency Management Director	4,000
Election Worker: Warden	Minimum Wage
Election Worker: Precinct Clerk	Minimum Wage
Election Worker: Inspectors (Checker)	Minimum Wage

* - Minimum Wage

NOTES

Town of Groton
Select Board
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Groton, MA 01450
PERMIT #3

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA