



MOTIONS
2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 5, 2025
Draft as of April 30 May 6, 2025
(Subject to Change)

PRELIMINARY MOTION

ORDER OF THE ARTICLES

MOVED: That the Town Meeting hear the motions in the following order:
1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 6, 14, 16, 4, 3, 12, 13, 17, 18, 5, 19, 15, 20

[Note - Articles 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 6, 14, 16 and 4 were addressed on May 5th.](#)

(Majority vote.)

ARTICLE 1

REPORTS

MOVED: That the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers, any Committee heretofore appointed be accepted.

MOVED: That Article 1 be laid on the table.

MOVED: Article 1 be taken from the table.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 3

**AMEND FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT ZONING BYLAW TO COMPLY WITH
NATIONAL FLOODPLAIN REQUIREMENTS**

MOVED: That the Town approve Article 3 as printed in the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Select Board and Planning Board will report on this Article.

Two-thirds majority vote required for passage.

MOVED: That the Town reserve for appropriation the following amounts from FY2026 estimated receipts of **\$2,000,000** as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee:

1. **\$200,000** for acquisition, creation and preservation of open space and for recreational use, or for the rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use;
2. **\$200,000** for acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources;
3. **\$200,000** for the creation, preservation and support of community housing;
4. **\$1,400,000** to the budgeted reserve; and
5. **\$90,000** to be appropriated from the budgeted reserve for Administrative Expenses and all other necessary proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for FY2026.

(Majority Vote)

And that

MOVED: A. A total of **\$2,200,000** be appropriated for the **Chenery Park Renovation – Phase 2** project, (1) **\$200,000** of which shall be appropriated from Fund Balance reserved for Open Space and Recreation of the Community Preservation Fund; (2) **\$1,800,000** of which shall be appropriated from the Undesignated Fund Balance; and (3) **\$200,000** of which shall be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve of the Community Preservation Fund for a project bid reserve for said Chenery Park Renovation – Phase 2 project. Appropriations (1) and (2) will lapse as to any funds not expended by June 30, 2028. Appropriation (3) will lapse as to any funds not encumbered by June 30, 2026.

MOVED: B. That **\$100,000** be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve for the **Clay Pit Pond Walking Path – Full Design with Construction Documents and Drawings**; said appropriation will lapse as to any funds not expended by June 30, 2028.

MOVED: C. A total of **\$472,338** be appropriated for improvements for the **West of Harris Softball Field** project, (1) **\$429,438** of which shall be appropriated from the Undesignated Fund Balance, and (2) **\$42,900** of which shall be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve for a project bid reserve for said West of Harris Softball Field project. Appropriation (1) will lapse as to any funds not expended by June 30, 2028. Appropriation (2) will lapse as to any funds not encumbered by June 30, 2026.

MOVED: D. A total of **\$650,000** be appropriated for **Predevelopment Planning for Redevelopment of Belmont Village**, (1) **\$427,125** of which shall be appropriated from Fund Balance reserved for Community Housing of the Community Preservation Fund; and (2) **\$222,875** of which shall be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve. Appropriations (1) and (2) will lapse as to any funds not encumbered by June 30, 2028.

MOVED: E. That **\$60,000** be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve for the **Complete Restoration of “Burial Hill” Original Cemetery – Design**, said appropriation to lapse as to any funds not expended by June 30, 2028.

MOVED: F. A total of **\$605,396** be appropriated for the **Homer Building Restoration (Town Hall Annex)**, (1) **\$550,396** of which shall be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve, and (2) **\$55,000** of which shall be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve for a project bid reserve for said Homer Building Restoration (Town Hall Annex) project. Appropriation (1) will lapse as to any funds not expended by June 30, 2028. Appropriation (2) will lapse as to any funds not encumbered by June 30, 2026.

MOVED: G. A total of **\$825,000** be appropriated for the **Restore Failed Retaining Wall, Town Hall** project, (1) **\$482,000** of which shall be appropriated from Fund Balance reserved for Historic Resources of the Community Preservation Fund, (2) **268,000** of which shall be appropriated from the Undesignated Fund Balance, and (3) **\$75,000** of which shall be appropriated from the Budgeted Reserve for a project bid reserve for said Restore Failed Retaining Wall, Town Hall project. Appropriations (1) and (2) will lapse as to any funds not expended by June 30, 2028. Appropriation (3) will lapse as to any funds not encumbered by June 30, 2026.

All said projects being more particularly described in the Final Applications on file with the Community Preservation Committee.

The Select Board, Community Preservation Committee, Warrant Committee, and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 12 MWRA LOCAL WATER SYSTEM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PHASE IV

MOVED: That the Town appropriate **\$3,133,000.00** to pay costs of the water main replacement program under Phase IV, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §8(5), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. All or any portion of this borrowing may be undertaken through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority’s Loan Program (MWRA). The Treasurer and the Select Board are authorized to execute and deliver any and all documents and agreements that may be required by the MWRA in connection with any borrowing through the MWRA.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board, Warrant Committee and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee will report on this Article.

Two-thirds vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 13**ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR WATER, SEWER AND STORMWATER SERVICES**

MOVED: A. That **\$7,809,224** be appropriated from Water Revenues, and **\$188,617** be appropriated from Water Retained Earnings, to fund the expenses of the Water Department pursuant to Chapter 44, §53F½ of the General Laws as follows:

FY2026 Water Enterprise Fund Operating Budget	\$ 7,359,986
Water Department Capital Expenditures	\$ 637,855
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Total Water Enterprise Fund Appropriation	\$ 7,997,841

MOVED: B. That **\$10,409,903** be appropriated from Sewer and Stormwater Revenues, and **\$66,763** be appropriated from Sewer Retained Earnings, to fund the Sewer and Stormwater Enterprise Fund pursuant to Chapter 44, §53F½ of the General Laws as follows:

FY2026 Sewer and Stormwater Enterprise Fund Operating Budget	\$ 9,054,346
Sewer / Stormwater Capital Expenditures	\$ 1,147,320
Stormwater Capital Expenditures	\$ 275,000
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Total Sewer and Stormwater Enterprise Fund Appropriation \$10,476,666

Note - values have changed in response to Preliminary MWRA Assessments, and refined revenue projections developed for the Select Board FY2026 rate discussion.

The Select Board, Warrant Committee, and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee will report on this article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 15**TRANSFERS TO STABILIZATION FUNDS**

MOVED: A. That the Town transfer ~~TBD~~**\$3,324,701** from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the General Stabilization Fund.

~~**MOVED:** B. That the Town transfer TBD from the TBD to the Capital Stabilization Fund.~~

~~**MOVED:** C. That the Town transfer TBD from the TBD to the Override Mitigation General Stabilization Fund.~~

The Select Board and the Warrant Committee will report on this article.

Majority vote required for passage.

MOVED: A. That the following sums be appropriated for the purchase of Public Safety Equipment, Site Improvements, Public Works Equipment, Equipment for Town Facilities, and consulting services in connection therewith, to construct public ways, and for Building and Facility and Public Works Construction; and for Major Maintenance and Alterations (including design work), said sums to be expended under the direction of the Select Board:

MOVED: Department of Public Works

Street Tree Planting	\$	35,000
DPW Highway Equipment	\$	100,000
Total Department of Public Works		\$ 135,000

MOVED: Fire Department

Ambulance Replacement	\$	118,000
Breathing Apparatus Fill Station	\$	90,000
Total Fire Department		\$ 208,000

MOVED: Information Technology Department

Fiber/Cabling and AV Upgrades	\$	100,000
IT Infrastructure Upgrade Plan	\$	150,000
Total Information Technology Department		\$ 250,000

MOVED: Council On Aging

COA Transportation Accessible Van	\$	75,000
Total Council On Aging		\$ 75,000
Total Capital Authorizations		\$ 668,000

MOVED: That to meet the foregoing appropriations, \$151,897 shall be transferred from the Capital Endowment Fund, and to raise and appropriate the remaining amount of \$516,103, for a total appropriation of \$668,000.

MOVED: B. That \$2,000,617 be raised and appropriated for road paving projects, and \$512,266 be raised and appropriated for sidewalks as follows:

Capital Roads Non-Discretionary	\$	2,000,617
Sidewalks	\$	512,266
Total Paving/Sidewalks		\$ 2,512,883

Majority vote required for passage.

The Select Board, Warrant Committee, School Committee and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee will report on this article.

ARTICLE 18**APPROPRIATE FOR CHENERY ROOF PROJECTS**

MOVED: That **\$3,700,000** be appropriated to replace the rooftop air handling units at the Chenery Upper Elementary School; provided further, that if any funds remain after the replacement of the rooftop air handling units, to replace the roof; and provided further, that to meet this appropriation, raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,525,195.00**, transfer **\$214,239.39** from the Capital Projects Fund (Turnbacks), transfer **\$30,568.48** from the Public Works and Police Department Building Committee, transfer **\$951,197.13** from the Capital Stabilization Fund, and appropriate **\$978,800.00** from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash).

The Select Board, Warrant Committee, School Committee and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee will report on this article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 19**APPROPRIATION TO OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) STABILIZATION FUND**

MOVED: That the Town appropriate and transfer **\$440,364** from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash), and to appropriate and transfer a total of **\$32,130** from the Water Enterprise Fund, the Sewer Enterprise Fund and the Light Enterprise Fund to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding Other Post-Employment Benefits, as follows:

Town	93.2%	\$	440,364
Light	4.1%	\$	19,372
Sewer	0.9%	\$	4,404
Water	1.8%	\$	8,354
Total	100%	\$	472,494

The Select Board and the Warrant Committee will report on this article.

Majority vote required for passage.

MOVED: That the following amounts be raised and appropriated for the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget or from general revenues from the Town:

MOVED:	A. General Government	\$ 6,068,213
MOVED:	B. Employee Benefits, Retirement Expenses	\$ 10,128,274
MOVED:	C. Employee Benefits, Other Reserves, including \$33,383 pursuant to G.L. Ch. 40, section 13	\$ 18,166,680
MOVED:	D. Public Facilities	\$ 7,898,460
MOVED:	E. Public Safety	\$ 14,696,297
MOVED:	F. Belmont Public Schools	\$ 70,618,619
MOVED:	G. Vocational Education	\$ 234,580
MOVED:	H. Public Services	\$ 9,455,457
MOVED:	I. Human Services	\$ 3,954,408
MOVED:	J. Principal Debt and Interest	\$ 17,684,656

MOVED: That the Town transfer the following sums to meet, in part, appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget appropriations made at this Town Meeting:

from Belmont Municipal Light Department (PILOT Payment)	\$ 650,000
from Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash)	\$ 2,559,636
from Parking Meters Receipts	\$ 30,000
from Water Revenues for indirect costs	\$ 279,311
from Sewer Revenues for indirect costs	\$ 282,168
from Perpetual Care Fund, Interest Earnings for Cemetery operations	\$ 25,000
from Bond/BAN Premium Amortization Fund for Exempt Debt Service	\$ 56,402

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.