

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25th, 2026, 7:00 pm

This Special Town Meeting was warned for Wednesday, February 25, 2026; pursuant to M.G.L. c. 39, § 10A, the Moderator declared a recess due to an inclement weather emergency, and the meeting was continued to and held on Thursday, March 19, 2026. The Special Town Meeting began at 7:13 pm at the North Middlesex Regional High School, 19 Main Street, Townsend, MA 01469. A quorum was met with 120 voters present. The Moderator instructed those present on the processes of Town Meeting according to Town Meeting Time and our own traditions, and led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance. The Town Clerk read the return of the Warrant. Counters were chosen by the Moderator and sworn in by the Town Clerk prior to the call to order of the meeting.

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$41,599.79 for the purchase, implementation, and initial subscription of budgeting and financial planning software from ClearGov, including onboarding and setup services; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION by Laura Shifrin and seconded by Veronica Kell to move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$41,599.79 for the purchase, implementation, and initial subscription of budgeting and financial planning software from ClearGov, including onboarding and setup services.

VOTE: Motion failed.

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$4,750.00 for professional actuarial services to conduct a retiree health insurance liability study for the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION by Laura Shifrin and seconded by Veronica Kell to move that the Town raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$4,750.00 for professional actuarial services to conduct a retiree health insurance liability study for the Town.

MOTION by Bill Rideout and seconded on the floor to move the question.

VOTE ON MOVING THE QUESTION: Motion passed.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for the payment of legal services provided by Town Counsel; and to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$50,000.00, or any other sum, thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION by Laura Shifrin and seconded by Valerie Goodrich to move that the Town establish a special purpose stabilization fund for the payment of legal services provided by Town Counsel, and raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 thereto.

VOTE: Motion failed.

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$53,500.00 to fund a one-year collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) Fiscal Year 2026; said appropriation to be funded from available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION by Valerie Goodrich and seconded by Veronica Kell to move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$53,500.00 to fund a one-year collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) for Fiscal Year 2026, said appropriation to be funded from available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$327,000.00 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) for Fiscal Year 2027, such appropriation to be contingent upon approval by the Town's voters at the ballot of a Proposition 2½ override, so-called, under G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g); or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION by Veronica Kell and seconded by Laura Shifrin to move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$197,000.00 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) for Fiscal Year 2027, such appropriation to be contingent upon approval by the Town's voters at the ballot of a Proposition 2½ override, so-called, under G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g).

MOTION by Brad Hawn and seconded by Julia Stockwell to amend the motion on the floor to read in full "that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$197,000.00 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) for Fiscal Year 2027."

MOTION UNDER THE AMENDMENT by Bill Rideout and seconded on the floor to move the question.

VOTE ON MOVING THE QUESTION: Motion passed.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Motion failed.

MOTION by Bill Rideout and seconded on the floor to move the question.

VOTE ON MOVING THE QUESTION: Motion passed.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a new fifty (50) year lease agreement with the Townsend Ashby Youth Soccer Association for the use of certain parcels of Town-owned land known as the Open Space parcels at Squannacook Meadows, shown on the Assessors' Maps as Map 11, Block 35, Lots 0, 21, and 22, and Map 11, Block 32, Lot 0, consisting of approximately forty (40) acres, more or less, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 41569, Page 181, excluding therefrom the water well test field shown as "Fields" (the "Well Field") located on Mason Road in West Townsend, Massachusetts, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Select Board may deem appropriate; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION by Laura Shifrin and seconded by Veronica Kell to move that the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into a new fifty (50) year lease agreement with the Townsend Ashby Youth Soccer Association as printed in the Warrant.

MOTION by Kym Craven and seconded on the floor to amend the pending motion inserting in place thereof "to authorize the Select Board to enter into non-exclusive use agreements, licenses, permits, or short-term lease arrangements each for a term not to exceed ten years with youth organizations, recreation groups, and other community users provided that such agreements preserve some municipal oversight, guarantee continued public access, and ensure the land is available for broad recreational purposes and organized youth sports serving the residents and the inhabitants of the Town of Townsend as so stated in the deed conveyed as part of the Open Space residential development related to Horseshoe Drive containing forty (40) acres, more or less, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 41569, Page 181, excluding therefrom the water well test field shown as 'Fields' (the 'Well Field') located on Mason Road in West Townsend, Massachusetts."

MOTION by Cindy M. King and seconded on the floor to move the question.

VOTE ON MOVING THE QUESTION: Motion passed unanimously.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Motion failed unanimously.

MOTION by Maryjane Churchville and seconded on the floor to table.

VOTE ON TABLING: Motion failed.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 104 of the Code of the Town of Townsend, entitled "Revolving Funds," Section 104-1(F), entitled "Authorized Revolving Funds," by striking the existing Revolving Fund No. 1 (Recycling) and inserting in place thereof a revised Revolving Fund No. 1 (Board of Health), as follows:

	Revolving Fund	Authority to Spend Fund	Revenue Sources	Use of Funds
1	Board of Health	Board of Health	All fees, charges, fines, penalties, cost-recovery charges, and other receipts collected by or on behalf of the Board of Health in connection with the Board's programs and activities, including, without limitation, receipts relating to public health and environmental health permitting, licensing, inspections, re-inspections, enforcement, tobacco control, illegal dumping, hauling, solid waste/recycling administration, and non-criminal disposition fines imposed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D; provided, however, that receipts required by general or special law to be credited to another fund or otherwise treated as receipts reserved for appropriation shall not be credited to this revolving fund.	Operating and program costs of the Board of Health, including, without limitation, recycling center operations, public health and environmental health programs, permitting/licensing administration, inspections, enforcement, education/outreach, supplies, equipment, training, and contractual services, consistent with M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E½.

or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION by Harrison Mayotte and seconded on the floor to take no action on Articles 7, 8, and 9.

The moderator inquired as to whether there was still a quorum in the room. It was determined that there was likely no longer a quorum, and the meeting should dissolve, and the articles could be brought back at a further town meeting.

DISSOLUTION

MOTION was made and seconded on the floor to adjourn and dissolve the Special Town Meeting at 9:33 pm.

VOTE: Passed.

2-25-26 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DISSOLVED

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison C. Mayotte, Town Clerk