

**2025 Spring Annual Town Meeting  
Kennedy Middle School Auditorium  
May 1, 2025, Third Session**

The third session of the 2025 Spring Town Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Town Moderator, Jeffrey Alderson, who declared a quorum present. The Moderator welcomed residents, taxpayers, town officials, Town Meeting Members and interested parties to the third session of 2025 Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator asked that all recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office.

The Moderator asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in recognition of all the men and women serving on our behalf throughout the world.

The Moderator introduced the officials present for the meeting: Andrew Ghobrial, Town Clerk; Todd Gillenwater, Finance Committee Chair; Cody Jacobs, Finance Committee Secretary; Karis North, Town Counsel; James Errickson, Town Administrator; and Kathryn Coughlin, Select Board Chair. Gloria Huang will operate the slides and Jeff Horan, a representative from Option Technologies, will operate the electronic voting system.

The Moderator reviewed the seating arrangement of the auditorium and the rules for this Town Meeting. The proceedings of Town Meetings shall be governed by *Town Meeting Time, third edition*, the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter, the Natick Bylaws and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Moderator reviewed the general rules and procedures of Town Meeting. He indicated that all residents and taxpayers of the town, town officers and employees, whether or not residents, have the same right to speak as Town Meeting Members; however they do not have the right to submit motions for consideration at Town Meeting, nor vote on any matter before Town Meeting. Non-residents may only speak at Town Meeting after approval by Town Meeting Members. No person shall speak upon any debatable motion more than once when any other person desires to be heard, nor more than twice on the same question without permission of Town Meeting; and no person shall speak more than five (5) minutes at one time without permission of Town Meeting. All motions offered for the consideration of Town Meeting shall be in writing if required by the Moderator; and all motions involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing when required by any Town Meeting Member. Written motions shall be presented to the Moderator on prescribed forms.

Consistent with the Natick Bylaws, once a member is recognized, it has been the practice of Town Meeting Members to first ask a question(s), then propose a motion and/or debate the highest-ranking motion. Once a speaker is called upon by the moderator, the speaker's time will begin. Time expended asking questions will be considered part of the speaker's time, pursuant to the Natick Bylaws. Responses to the speaker's question will not be considered part of the speaker's requisite time. Each speaker will be limited to three questions, whether they are stated singularly or in a compound question, such will be responded to at the direction of the Moderator. Motions shall be made and have precedence as listed in the table entitled "Precedence of Motions," found in the Natick Bylaws, the Town Meeting Member Handbook and *Town Meeting Time, third edition*. The

motion for the previous question shall not be entertained by the Moderator if three or more persons are seeking recognition, who have not previously spoken to the question.

Any person having a monetary or equitable interest in any matter under discussion at a Town Meeting, and any person employed by another having such an interest, shall disclose the fact of his/her interest or employment before speaking on the matter.

Regarding advance communications of amendments or alternate motions which may be presented at Town Meeting, the Moderator and the Clerk must receive draft motions in advance; 48 hours before Town Meeting is preferred to deliberate such. In addition, with complex motions, motions need to be provided via a document file format (Word or Google Docs), so that motions may be displayed on the stage screen. Finally, the Moderator, must accept as “in order” or rule “out of order” all motions. Therefore, complex motions that have not been reviewed by the Moderator and the Clerk (and in some cases town counsel) will likely cause a delay at Town Meeting, and/or may be - unilaterally ordered or - suggested that you folks postpone consideration of the current question for technical review.

**ARTICLE 15 – Community Preservation Act (CPA) Administrative Funds:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the five (5) percent Administrative Funds from the Community Preservation Fund for use by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for administrative expenses in the Fiscal Year 2026, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 6, or otherwise act thereon. Bill Ramage, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, appears to answer questions relating to this.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>13-1-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>March 4, 2025</b>

**MOTION** (Requires a Majority Vote)

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to appropriate administrative funds from the Community Preservation Fund for use by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for administrative expenses in the Fiscal Year 2026, in the amount of \$73,709.15, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

***The motion under Article 15 passed by a majority vote (107/11/0).***

**ARTICLE 5 – Rescind Authorized, Unissued Debt:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide for the payment of unpaid bills of previous years, incurred by the departments, boards and officers of the Town of Natick; or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

<i>The Finance Committee took the following action:</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<i>Favorable</i>
	<b>QUANTUM OF VOTE:</b>	<i>13-0-0</i>
	<b>DATE VOTED:</b>	<i>April 1, 2025</i>

**MOTION** (Requires a  $\frac{4}{5}$  Vote)

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to appropriate from FY 2025 Certified Free Cash the sum of \$41,300.20 for the purpose of paying the following unpaid bills from prior fiscal years:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Facilities	Woodard & Curran	May 2024	\$7,813.50
Natick Public Schools	Academic Therapy Publications	April 2022	\$173.25
Natick Public Schools	Academic Therapy Publications	August 2022	\$1,259.00
Natick Public Schools	Academic Therapy Publications	November 2022	\$1,700.00
Natick Public Schools	Primary Source	April 2024	\$1,000.00
Natick Public Schools	Blue Hills	December 2023	\$15,064.00
Natick Public Schools	Kathryn Garcia	July 2022 - December 2022	\$249.75
Natick Public Schools	Kathryn Garcia	January 2023 - June 2023	\$449.00
Natick Public Schools	JFK Transportation, Inc.	June 2024	\$1,050.00
Natick Public Schools	League School	June 2024	\$550.00
Natick Public Schools	Keys North Atlantic	June 2024	\$845.00
Natick Public Schools	Pearson	February 2022	\$362.52
Natick Public Schools	Pearson	May 2022	\$284.08
Natick Public Schools	MSLA	March 2024	\$150.00
Natick Public Schools	Crystal Transport	February 2024	\$1,600.00
Police	T Mobile	May 2024	\$1,154.68
Recreation & Parks	John Turner	February 2024	\$1,130.00
Town Administrator	J&R Graphics, Inc.	June 2023	\$6,465.42
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,300.20</b>

Motion to amend made by Roger Scott, seconded by Michael Linehan to amend the total appropriation to \$26,236.20

*The amended motion passed by a majority vote (112/2/2).*

*The amended main motion under Article 5 passed by a 4/5 majority vote (106/11/1).*

**ARTICLE 6 – Revolving Funds:**

To see if the Town will vote on the limit on the total amount that may be expended from each revolving fund established pursuant to Chapter 44 section 53E 1/2 of the General Laws and Town by-law; or otherwise act thereon. James Errickson, Town Administrator, spoke on this article.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>12-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>March 11, 2025</b>

**MOTION (Requires a Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to authorize the following maximum expenditures for FY2026 for the listed revolving funds, established by the Town of Natick Bylaws, Article 41 A pursuant to Chapter 44, §53E 1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as follows:

Section 4 - DPW Vehicles and Equipment, maximum expenditure \$350,000;

Section 5 - Morse Institute Library Materials Purchase of New Books and Related Materials, maximum expenditure \$85,000;

Section 6 - Morse Institute Library Maintenance and Repair of Library Facilities and Equipment, maximum expenditure \$25,000;

Section 7 - Community-Senior Center Rental, Maintenance and Improvement Projects, maximum expenditure \$75,000;

Section 8 - Flu Clinics, Immunization Programs, Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness, maximum expenditure \$60,000;

Section 9 - Community-Senior Center Programs and Activities, maximum expenditure \$120,000;

Section 10 - Tobacco Control Programs and Enforcement, maximum expenditure \$25,000;

Section 11 - Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Projects, maximum expenditure \$5,024;

Section 12 - Tax Title Takings or Tax Title Foreclosures, maximum expenditure \$100,000;

Section 13 - Curbside Compost Collection Program, maximum expenditure \$20,000;

Section 14 - Community Gardens, maximum expenditure \$30,000;

Section 15 – Energy Efficiency and Clean Capital Program, maximum expenditure \$300,000;

Section 16 – Recreation and Parks Programs, maximum expenditure \$2,000,000;

and,

Section 17 - Cochituate Rail Trail Maintenance and Enhancements, maximum expenditure \$75,000.

*The motion under Article 6 passed by a majority vote (117/0/1).*

**ARTICLE 7 – Stabilization Funds and OPEB:**

**General Stabilization**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund established under Article 22 of the warrant for Annual Town Meeting of 1961, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended;

**Operational Stabilization**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purpose of supplementing the Operational Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 4, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended;

**Capital Stabilization**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2010 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 2, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.

**OPEB**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for, the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established by vote of the 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws as amended by section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016; or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>14-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>April 1, 2025</b>

James Errickson, Town Administrator, spoke on this article.

**MOTION (Requires a Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to appropriate \$3,171,178 from FY 2025 Certified Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the Town’s Capital Stabilization Fund and OPEB Trust Fund as follows:

- \$2,883,885 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established by the vote of Article 2 of the 2010 Fall Annual Town Meeting, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.
- \$287,293 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the OPEB Trust Fund established under Article 15 of the 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting, as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

*The motion under Article 7 passed by a majority vote (114/2/0).*

***ARTICLE 8 – Transfer of Unexpected Bond Proceeds:***

To see if the Town will authorize the transfer of unexpended proceeds from amounts previously borrowed to pay costs of various capital projects, which projects are now complete, and for which such funds are no longer needed, to pay costs of one or more capital projects; or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>No Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>13-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>March 4, 2025</b>

**MOTION (Requires a Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town take NO ACTION on Article 8.

*The motion under Article 8 passed by a majority vote (112/5/1).*

***ARTICLE 9 – PEG Access and Cable Related Fund:***

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, established by vote of 2019 Special Town Meeting #1 under Article 1, as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53F 3/4 of the General Laws, as amended, to fund PEG access programming, as well as certain other municipal cable related expenses; or otherwise act thereon. James Errickson spoke on this article.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>14-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>April 1, 2025</b>

**MOTION (Requires a Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, established by vote of the 2019 Special Town Meeting #1, Article 1, as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53F 3/4 of the General Laws, as amended, the sum of \$340,067.73 to fund PEG access programming.

*The motion under Article 9 passed by a majority vote (115/0/1).*

***ARTICLE 10 – School Bus Transportation Subsidy:***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and raise, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the purpose of operation and administration of the school bus transportation system, and to reduce or offset fees charged for students who elect to use the school bus transportation system for transportation to and from school, for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026); or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>No Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>11-2-1</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>April 1, 2025</b>

**MOTION (Requires a Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town take NO ACTION on Article 10.

*The motion under Article 10 passed by a majority vote (91/16/7).*

***ARTICLE 11 – Capital Equipment and Improvement***

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide to implement a Capital Improvement Program as may be required for capital equipment for the various departments of the Town of Natick; to protect the physical infrastructure of the Town of Natick, to add new physical infrastructure, or to improve community assets; and further to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

<i>The Finance Committee took the following action:</i>	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<i>Favorable</i>
	<b>QUANTUM OF VOTE:</b>	<i>12-0-0 (A, B, C)</i>
		<i>14-0-0 (D)</i>
	<b>DATE VOTED:</b>	<i>March 11, 2025 (A, B, C)</i>
<i>April 1, 2025 (D)</i>		

**MOTION A:** (Requires 2/3rds Vote)

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$550,000 to be expended as follows:

- Under the direction of the Fire Department for the purpose of:
- Ambulance Replacement

shown as item 1 in Table A below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$550,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$550,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. Jon Marshall, Deputy Town Administrator, speaks on this article.

**Motion A (Table A)**

Item #	Department	Request Title	Amount	Funding Source
1	Fire Department	Ambulance Replacement	\$550,000	Tax Levy Borrowing

***Motion A under Article 11 passed by a unanimous vote (113/0/0).***

**Motion B:** (Requires Majority Vote)

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$544,000 to be expended as follows:

- Under the direction of the Facilities Management Department for the purpose of:
- Space Renewal
- Building Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Upgrades
- Under the direction of the Public Works Department for the purpose of:

- Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program

all individually shown as items 1 through 3 in Table B below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$544,000 be raised from Free Cash.

Moved by Frank Foss, seconded by William Gath that the Town vote to amend Article 11, Motion B following the text "Table B below" insert the text "and substantially similar as described on pages 53 through 55, excluding Elevator Stewardship, of the 2025 SATM Finance Committee Recommendation Book.

**Motion B (Table B)**

Item #	Department	Request Title	Amount	Funding Source
1	Facilities Management	Space Renewal	\$200,000	Free Cash
2	Facilities Management	Building Mechanical , Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Upgrades	\$100,000	Free Cash
3	Public Works	Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program	\$244,000	Free Cash
Total			\$544,000	Free Cash

*The amendment of Motion B under Article 11 passed by a majority vote (105/4/4).*

*The amended motion under Article 11 Motion B passed by a majority vote (110/1/1).*

**Motion C: (Requires Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the sum of \$150,000 be transferred from amounts previously appropriated or borrowed under the following warrant articles and for the purposes set forth below:

Warrant Article	Meeting Date	Original Purpose	Amount to be Transferred
Article 13, Motion A Item # 5	10/22/2020	Police/Fire Station - Engineering for HVAC Controls Upgrades	\$50,000
Article 13, Motion A Item # 6	10/22/2020	Wilson Middle School - Engineering for RoofTop Units Replacement	\$50,000
Article 14, Motion A Item # 6	10/22/2020	Replacement "Pine Grove Park" Retaining Wall - design work	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$150,000</b>

which amounts are no longer needed to complete the projects for which they were initially appropriated or borrowed, to pay costs of the following project:

- Under the direction of the Facilities Management Department for the purpose of:
- Elevator Stewardship

***Motion C under Article 11 passed by a majority vote (104/2/0).***

**Motion D: (Requires Majority Vote)**

Moved by Cody Jacobs, seconded by Todd Gillenwater that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$497,000 to be expended as follows:

- Under the direction of the Public Works (Water/Sewer) Department for the purpose of:
- SCADA Equipment Replacement
- Water Distribution System Enhancements
- Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Program
- Under the direction of Sassamon Trace Golf Course for the purpose of:
- Lightweight Utility Vehicle
- Aerator
- Driveway Expansion & Cart Path Repair

all individually shown as items 1 through 6 in Table D below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$370,000 be raised from

Water/Sewer Retained Earnings and \$127,000 be raised from Sassamon Trace Golf Course Retained Earnings.

**Motion D (Table D)**

Item #	Department	Request Title	Amount	Funding Source
1	Public Works (Water/Sewer)	SCADA Equipment Replacement/Upgrade	\$80,000	Water/Sewer Retained Earnings
2	Public Works (Water/Sewer)	Water Distribution System Enhancements	\$150,000	Water/Sewer Retained Earnings
3	Public Works (Water/Sewer)	Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Program	\$140,000	Water/Sewer Retained Earnings
4	Golf Operations	Lightweight Utility Vehicle	\$12,000	Golf Retained Earnings
5	Golf Operations	Aerator	\$35,000	Golf Retained Earnings
6	Golf Operations	Driveway Expansion and Cart Path Repair	\$80,000	Golf Retained Earnings
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$370,000</b>	<b>Water/Sewer Retained Earnings</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>Golf Retained Earnings</b>

Moved by Michael Linehan, seconded by Frank Foss to postpone consideration of Motion D under Article 11 to the first order of business on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

*The motion to postpone consideration of Motion D under Article 11 to the first order of business on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, passed by a majority vote.*

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 until Tuesday May 6 at 7:30 PM.

A record of the Third Session of  
2025 Spring Annual Town Meeting  
May 1, 2025

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Andrew Ghobrial