

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2025

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Brynn C. Durno

Brynn C. Durno, Town Clerk

RETURN OF THE WARRANT

Pursuant to a warrant signed by Select Board Members Ron Mikol, Leah Basbanes and Kieran Meehan and posted by Constable Steven Tully in five public places as well as attested copies online, we, the inhabitants of the Town of Dunstable whom are qualified to vote in Elections and Town affairs, are convening here today at Swallow Union Elementary School on this 17th day of November, A.D. 2025 to act on the following 13 (thirteen) articles.

There were – *125 – one hundred and twenty-five registered voters* and *-9- nine visitors* in attendance.

The following Election Workers checked in voters for the Special Town Meeting:
Mary Dow, 63 Oak Street Anne Fenochetti, 504 Main Street

Moderator Glod opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7:03PM. The assembly was presented flags by the Color Guard of Troop 28 and proceeded to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Glod followed with introductions of the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk as well as the Advisory Board & Select Board. Rules of order were also explained.

MEETING MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MOTION

Simple Majority required for passage

MOTION: Ron Mikol, Select Board

I move the Moderator allow non-voters or non-residents to speak on issues related to Town Meeting warrant articles where appropriate.

MOTION PASSED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

PRELIMINARY MOTION

Simple Majority required for passage

MOTION: Rafael Glod, Moderator

I move that Town Meeting adopt a rule of this Town Meeting to provide that any motion requiring a 2/3rd's favorable vote, by statute or otherwise, shall be determined and declared by the Moderator and a count shall not be required.

MOTION PASSED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

PRELIMINARY MOTION

Simple Majority required for passage

MOTION: Rafael Glod, Moderator

I move to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

MOTION PASSED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 1 - Unpaid Bills of Prior Fiscal Years:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) a sum of money for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of FY2025, or other prior fiscal years, as needed, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Advisory Board

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate funds from Free Cash to pay the following bill from a prior fiscal year:

DS Graphics: $488

Requires a 9/10ths vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 2 – Library HVAC Improvements:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for improvements to the Library's HVAC system, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Board of Library Trustees, Advisory Board, and Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $58,750 from the CPA Historic Resources Allocation for the purpose of replacing the HVAC system that serves the Special Collections area of the Dunstable Public Library, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

Amy Watson presented information on this request and the reasoning for the request.

Jeff Rosen made an amendment to the original motion. Amendment made – I move that the Town appropriate an additional $90,000 from the CPA Historic Resources Allocation for the purpose of replacing the remaining boilers at the library, subject to CPC review and approval, in consultation with Town Counsel. Amendment requires majority vote.

A discussion ensued. Amendment failed as declared by the moderator.

ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 3 – Library Digitization of Historical Records:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money to digitize historical records at the Library, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Board of Library Trustees, Advisory Board, and Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $41,000 from the CPA Historic Resources Allocation for the purpose of digitizing the Special Collection and Historic Records at the Dunstable Public Library, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 4 – Replacement of Town Hall Chimney:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the replacement of the chimney at Town Hall, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board, Advisory Board, and Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $25,000 from the CPA Historic Resources Allocation to supplement the $20,000 of CPA funds previously appropriated under Article 14 of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, for the replacement of the Town Hall chimney, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 5 – Town Hall HVAC Improvements:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for improvements to the HVAC system at Town Hall, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board, Advisory Board, and Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $35,000 from the CPA Historic Resources Allocation for the purpose of HVAC replacements at Town Hall, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 6 – Baseball Fields Rehabilitation:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the rehabilitation of the baseball fields behind Swallow Union Elementary School, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $36,800 from the CPA Open Space/Recreation Allocation for the purpose of renovating the Babe Ruth baseball field at the Town Field behind Swallow Union Elementary School, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 7 – Swallow Union Elementary School Playground Upgrades:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the installation of additional playground equipment and a shade structure at the Swallow Union Elementary School, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $131,370 from Undesignated CPA Funds for the purpose of installing a shade structure at the Swallow Union Elementary School playground, including all incidental and related costs, contingent upon the Groton Dunstable Regional School District covering the cost of the base material for the structure as voted by the Community Preservation Committee.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 8 – Fire Department Forestry Truck Grant Match:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) the sum of $15,000 for the purpose of providing the required local matching funds for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of $285,000, which will support the purchase of a new forestry truck for the Fire Department, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Advisory Board

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $15,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of providing the required local matching funds for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of $285,000, to allow for the acquisition of a new Forestry Truck for the Dunstable Fire Department, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

Article 9 - CPA Appropriation for PARC Grant Match and Field Stabilization at Larter Family Memorial Field:

To see if the Town of Dunstable will vote to transfer from available funds, including Community Preservation Act funds, borrow pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, Section 11, (the Community Preservation Act), or any other applicable statute, or otherwise provide a sum of money not to exceed $1,352,000 for the purpose of stabilizing and restoring Larter Family Memorial Field, including but not limited to site work, grading, drainage, field surfacing, and all other costs incidental and related thereto, which is dedicated to active recreational purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3, and to authorize the Select Board to file on behalf of the Town of Dunstable any and all grants deemed necessary under the Urban Self-Help Act (301 CMR 5.00) and the Town of Dunstable be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the town to affect said project, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Community Preservation Committee

Motion: I move that the Town take no action on this article.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 10 – Route 113 Complete Streets Redesign One Stop for Growth (Housing Works) Grant Match:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds including Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) the sum of $28,000 for the purpose of providing the required local matching funds for a One Stop for Growth (Housing Works) Grant in the amount of $475,000, which will support the Complete Streets redesign of Route 113, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Advisory Board

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $28,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of providing the required local matching funds for a One Stop for Growth (Housing Works) Grant in the

amount of $475,000, to support the Complete Streets redesign of Route 113, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 11 – Town Website Update:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds including Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) the sum of $17,000 for costs associated with updating and redesigning the Town of Dunstable website, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Advisory Board

Motion: I move that the Town appropriate the sum of $17,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of updating and redesigning the Town of Dunstable website, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 12 – Primary and General Election for State Senate:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds including Free Cash (Surplus Revenue), or otherwise provide the sum of $5,000 for costs associated with the Primary and General Election to fill the vacant State Senate seat representing the First Middlesex District, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Advisory Board

Motion: I move that the Town vote to amend the FY26 Town budget by increasing the FY2026 Election Expenses line item appropriated at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting by $5,000, which shall be funded by reducing the FY2026 Groton Dunstable Regional School District Operating Expenses line item appropriated at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting by $5,000, for costs associated with the Special Primary and General Elections to fill the vacant State Senate seat representing the First Middlesex District, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 13 – Emergency Medical Services:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds including Free Cash (Surplus Revenue), or otherwise provide the sum of $25,000 for costs associated with entering into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Tyngsborough for the provision of Emergency Medical Services to the Town of Dunstable, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Advisory Board

Motion: I move that the Town vote to amend the FY26 Town budget by increasing the FY2026 Fire Department Expenses line item appropriated at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting by $25,000, which shall be funded by reducing the FY2026 Groton Dunstable Regional School District Operating Expenses line item appropriated at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting by $25,000, for costs associated with entering into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Tyngsborough for the provision of Emergency Medical Services to the Town of Dunstable, including all incidental and related costs.

Requires a Majority Vote

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

All Business on the Warrant having been acted upon, a motion was made and seconded to dissolve said Town Meeting at 8:29pm.