SELECT BOARD MEETING

Town of Dunstable

March 11, 2025

DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL

511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
511 Main Street Dunstable, MA 01827
(978) 649-4514 | select-board@dunstable-ma.gov

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION: Select Board
SUBMITTED TO TOWN CLERK: March 06, 2025 1:20pm
MEETING DATE: March 11, 2025
MEETING TIME: 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Town Hall - Upper Level

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A §18 – 25

Topics the Chair Reasonably Anticipates will or could be Discussed:

Note: All topic placements are estimated and may vary *tremendously* from projections

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment
3.	86 Century Way – consideration of disposition update
4.	Annual Report Dedication*
6.	Chapter 70 formula and Project 211 – consideration of sending a letter to the legislature*
7.	FY26 Budget Update
8.	Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair
9.	Executive Session: Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(10) to discuss confidential, competitively sensitive information provided in the course of activities conducted as a municipal aggregator under G.L. c. 164, section 134 and disclosure will adversely affect the town's ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making, selling or distributing electric power and energy.*
10.	Executive Session: Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a) pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, Jason Silva, Town Administrator and William Farrell, Fire Chief and conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Jason Silva, Town Administrator.*
11.	Town Administrator Contract – July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028*
12.	Fire Chief Contract – July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028*
13.	Municipal Aggregation – authorization to sign electricity supply contract*

*Votes likely to be taken

Meeting will be streaming at: https://www.youtube.com/@townofdunstable3179

(Note: This listing of matters reflects those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.)

PUBLIC COMMENT & 86 CENTURY WAY

Town of Dunstable

March 11, 2025

DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL

511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

LexisNexis

User Name: Christina Granese
Date and Time: Monday, March 3, 2025 4:00:00 PM EST
Job Number: 246749544

Document (1)

1. *ALM GL ch. 60, § 64A*

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: chapter 60 section 80

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type	**Narrowed by**
Statutes and Legislation	Jurisdiction: Massachusetts

ALM GL ch. 60, § 64A

Current through Chapter 407 of the 2024 Legislative Session of the 193rd General Court

Annotated Laws of Massachusetts > PART I ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT (Chs. 1 - 182) > TITLE IX TAXATION (Chs. 58 - 65C) > TITLE IX TAXATION (Chs. 58 — 65C) > Chapter 60 Collection of Local Taxes (§§ 1 — 106)

§ 64A. Procedures for Disposition of Property and Excess Equity After Tax Foreclosure Judgments.

(a) This section shall apply to the sale or retention of property by a municipality or a purchaser of tax receivables following a final judgment of the land court foreclosing the right of redemption under this chapter. Not more than 14 days after the of entry of judgment foreclosing the right of redemption becomes final, with either no appeal having been taken within the applicable time limit or any appeal taken having resulted in the entry of judgment pursuant to the rescript of the supreme judicial court or appeals court, the judgment holder shall elect to: (i) retain possession of the property; or (ii) sell the property. The judgment holder shall notify the former owners of the property and all others known to hold the right of redemption in the property at the time judgment is entered, by certified mail, to their last known address or place of business, of: (i) the judgment holder's election; and (ii) the rights and procedures for claiming excess equity set forth in this section.

(b)

(1) A municipality or a purchaser of tax receivables that has elected to retain the property under subsection (a), shall use reasonable best efforts to have the property appraised not later than 120 days after the final judgment of the land court; provided, however, that the judgment holder and any parties entitled to claim excess equity under this section may agree to a later date for the appraisal. The appraisal shall be: (i) for the highest and best use of the property as of the date of the final judgment of foreclosure; and (ii) conducted by an independent appraiser licensed in the commonwealth in accordance with the usual and customary professional appraisal practices.

Christina Granese

(2) The appraised value shall be used to establish the amount of excess equity, which. shall be paid to any parties who make a valid claim for excess equity as set forth in this section.

(c)

(1) A municipality or a purchaser of tax receivables that has elected to sell the property under subsection (a) shall, not later than 180 days after the final judgment of the land court, list the property for sale with a real estate agent or broker licensed in the commonwealth; provided, however, that the judgment holder and any parties entitled to claim excess equity under this section may agree to a later date for sale; provided further, that the real estate agent or broker shall not hold elected or appointed office or be employed by the municipality in which the property is located.

(2) The judgment holder for a property listed for sale pursuant to paragraph (1) that does not sell within 12 months of the date of listing shall: (i) auction the property with an auctioneer licensed in the commonwealth; provided, however, that the auctioneer does not hold elected or appointed office or is not employed by the municipality in which the property is located; (ii) accept bids that are not less than ⅔ of the appraised value of the property consistent with the appraisal requirements of subsection (b); and (iii) not accept bids by individuals that hold elected or appointed office or are employed by the municipality in which the property is located.

(3) A property shall not be considered retained by a judgment holder that has elected under subsection (a) to sell the property and has complied with the requirements of paragraph (2) but has been without success in such sale. If a property has not been sold after the auction, the judgment holder shall notify any parties entitled to claim excess equity of their intention to continue the sale to another date and not to retain the property. Such notice shall be mailed, by certified mail, to any parties entitled to claim excess equity, or their successors in interest, to their last known address or place of business.

(d)

(1) Upon a sale of a property or an appraisal of property where the judgment holder has elected to retain possession, the judgment holder shall prepare a written itemized accounting setting forth the disposition of the proceeds arising from the sale or a report of the appraisal including, but not limited to, the sale price, legal fees, marketing fees, auctioneer fees, advertising costs, appraisal fees and any excess equity due to any parties entitled to claim excess equity, or their successors in interest. The written itemized accounting shall be mailed, by certified mail, to any parties entitled to claim excess equity, or their successors in interest, to their last known address or place of business, not more than 30 days after the sale of the property or receipt of the appraisal of the property if such property is retained.

(2) Where the judgment holder knows the identity and mailing address of the former property owner and all others known to hold the right of redemption in the property, the judgment holder shall, in addition to the written itemized accounting, provide for the provision of a proportional share of the excess equity to which such individual is entitled.

(3) A judgment holder that does not know the identity and mailing address of the former property owner and all others known to hold the right of redemption in the property shall, in addition to the written itemized accounting, provide a notice that the former owners of the property and all others known to hold the right of redemption in the property at the time judgment of foreclosure entered in the land court, or their successors in interest, may claim excess equity from the sale or retention of the property and that such claims shall be submitted in writing to the judgment holder not more than 18 months after the date of the notice. The excess equity claim shall be delivered to the judgment holder by personal service, receipt of which is acknowledged by the judgment holder, or by certified mail, return receipt requested; provided, however, that a municipality shall allow a claimant to submit a claim at the local collector's office. The excess equity claim shall contain the claimant's name, telephone number, mailing address, the property address or parcel number and a description of their interest in the property and shall include any other persons or entities known to the claimant to have an interest in the property at the time of the final judgment of foreclosure, including any other former owners, mortgagees, lienholders, heirs or other individuals or entities who held a right to redeem or their successors in interests.

(e) Excess equity shall be held in escrow by the judgment holder in a segregated interest-bearing account, in which all excess equity funds from all foreclosures are deposited and separately accounted for on the books and records of the municipality. Excess equity that has not been claimed within 19 months of a sale or appraisal of a property shall be disposed of pursuant to chapter 200A.

(f) The superior court shall have jurisdiction to hear any disputes that arise between or among the judgment holder and any former owners, mortgagees, lienholders, heirs or other individuals or entities who, at the time of the final judgment of the land court, held an interest in the property and right to redeem, or their successors in interest, and who are claiming excess equity including, but not limited to, disputes regarding the valuation of the property, the sale process, the amount of excess equity, its distribution or any other aspect of this section. Any party may seek a determination of the dispute by filing a written complaint in the superior court not more than 12 months after the date of the notice of written itemized accounting following sale or appraisal of the property under subsection (d). Such complaint shall name all parties adversely interested who are known to the plaintiff and process shall issue and service be made consistent with the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure. All matters pertaining to the litigation shall be heard by the superior court department and the parties shall be granted the right to a trial before a jury, unless all parties waive that right and file a written agreement requesting a trial without a jury.

History

2024, 140, § 93, effective November 1, 2024.

Annotations

Notes

Editor's Notes

Acts 2024, 140, § 250 provides:

SECTION 250. Sections 80 to 99, inclusive, shall take effect on November 1, 2024.

End of Document

Unofficial Property Record Card - Dunstable, MA

General Property Data

Parcel ID 10 18 0

Prior Parcel ID 8 --

Property Owner DUNSTABLE TOWN OF

Mailing Address 511 MAIN ST

City DUNSTABLE

Mailing State MA Zip 01827

ParcelZoning

Account Number

Property Location 86 CENTURY WY

Property Use VAC MUNIC

Most Recent Sale Date 12/19/2000

Legal Reference 11240-37

Grantor TAX TAKING

Sale Price 0

Land Area 2.120 acres

Current Property Assessment

Card 1 Value Building Value 0 Xtra Features Value 0 Land Value 222,100 Total Value 222,100

Building Description

Building Style

# of Living Units 0

Year Built N/A

Building Grade

Building Condition N/A

Finished Area (SF) N/A

Number Rooms 0

# of 3/4 Baths 0

Foundation Type

Frame Type

Roof Structure

Roof Cover

Siding

Interior Walls N/A

# of Bedrooms 0

# of 1/2 Baths 0

Flooring Type N/A

Basement Floor N/A

Heating Type N/A

Heating Fuel N/A

Air Conditioning 0%

# of Bsmt Garages 0

# of Full Baths 0

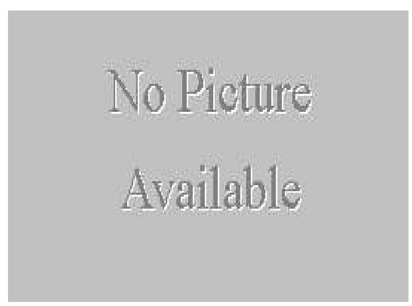
# of Other Fixtures 0

Legal Description

Narrative Description of Property

This property contains 2.120 acres of land mainly classified as VAC MUNIC with a(n) style building, built about N/A , having exterior and roof cover, with 0 unit(s), 0 room(s), 0 bedroom(s), 0 bath(s), 0 half bath(s).

Property Images



Disclaimer: This information is believed to be correct but is subject to change and is not warranteed.

View Details | View Images

Add to Basket | Print Do

Doc. #	Rec Date	Rec Time	Type Desc.	# of Pgs.	Book/Page	Consideration	Doc. Status
50941	10/03/1996	11:38:20.000	TAKING	1	08244/221	0.00	Verified/Certified

Street #	Street Name	Description
	CENTURY WAY	TAKING FOR TAX FOR 1996

Grantor/Grantee-4

DUNSTABLE COLLECTOR OF	Grantor
FAIRLEY RICHARD /COLL O	Grantor
FAIRLEY JANICE /COLL O	Grantor
DUNSTABLE TOWN OF	Grantee

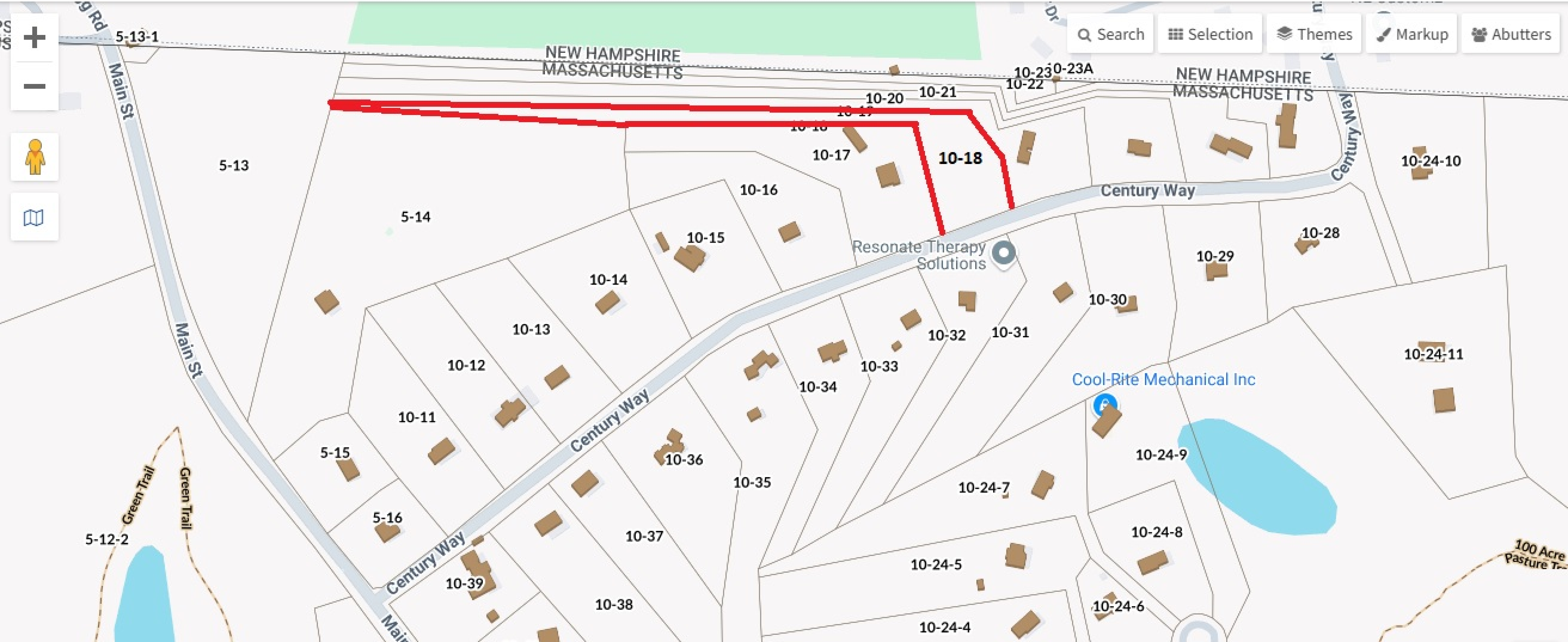
References -2

10157/103	NOTICE	1999
11240/37	JUDGMENT	2000

Town of Dunstable, MA

Property

Zoom To | Share | Print | Property Quick Search



B 0 8 2 4 4 P 2 2 1

[THIS INSTRUMENT NOT VALID UNLESS RECORDED WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE * DATE OF TAKING]

STATE TAX—FORM 301

INSTRUMENT OF TAKING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dunstable
NAME OF CITY OR TOWN

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

I, Bonnie S. Ricardelli, Collector of Taxes for the ~~City~~ Town of Dunstable, pursuant and subject to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Sections 53 and 54, hereby take for said ~~city~~ town the following described land:

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

[The description must be sufficiently accurate to identify the premises and must agree with the notice of taking. In the case of registered land, the Certificate of Title Number and the Registry Volume and Page must be given.]

Richard and Janice Fairley. Land in said Dunstable on Century Way, shown as parcel 18 on Assessors map 10, described in Mx. No. District Deeds, Bk. 2701, Pg. 557.

10/03/96 11:38:20 50941 10.32 12

Said land is taken for non-payment of taxes as defined in Section 43 of said Chapter 60 assessed thereon to Richard and Janice Fairley

for the year 1996, which were not paid within fourteen days after demand therefor made upon Richard and Janice Fairley on May 3 1996, and now remain unpaid together with interest and incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking in the amounts hereinafter specified, after notice of intention to take said land given as required by law.

1996 TAXES REMAINING UNPAID	$ 1,121.98
INTEREST TO THE DATE OF TAKING	112.44
INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND COSTS TO THE DAY OF TAKING	40.73
SUM FOR WHICH LAND IS TAKEN	$ 1,275.15

WITNESS my hand and seal this Tewntieth day of September, 1996
* (DATE OF TAKING)

Bonnie S. Ricardelli, Collector of Taxes for the ~~City~~ Town of Dunstable

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss. September 20 1996

Then personally appeared the above named Bonnie S. Ricardelli and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act ~~and deed~~ as Collector of Taxes,

before me, Ruth Rogers
Notary Public ~~Justice of the Peace~~

My commission expires April 13, 2001

........., 19......, at..........o'clock and..........minutes.........M.

Received and entered with ....Registry of Deeds,

Book.........., Page.......... Document No. ...., Certificate of Title No. ....

Attest: ....
Register

THIS FORM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

FORM 113A A. M. SULKIN, INC.

B I 0 1 5 / P I 0 3

No. 119888 T.L.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Town of Dunstable

hereby gives notice that, on the 13th day of May 1999, it filed in said Court a petition against* Richard E. Fairley and Janice Geist Fairley

to foreclose a tax lien acquired under a certain tax deed (or deeds) from the Collector of Taxes for the ~~City~~ (or Town) of Dunstable, in the County of Middlesex and said Commonwealth, to it dated Sept. 20, 1996 and recorded with Middlesex No. Dist. Reg. of Deeds in Book 8244 Page 221 said deed (or deeds) covers a certain parcel of land situated in Dunstable in the County of Middlesex and said Commonwealth, which is described as follows:

Land in said Dunstable on Century Way, shown as parcel 18 on Assessors map 10, described in Mx. No. District Deeds, Bk. 2701, Pg. 557.

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

By Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Town Treasurer

*Name all respondents as in petition.

STATE TAX FORM 410

Date of Demand 5/3, 19 96

Date Advertised 9/5, 19 96 Lowell Sun
NAME OF NEWSPAPER

Richard and Janice Fairley, Land in said Dunstable on Century Way, shown as parcel 18, on Assessors map 10, ~~described in~~ Mx. NO. Dist. Deeds, Bk. 2701, Pg. 557. 1996 Tax $l,121.98

NOTICES POSTED Date 9/5, 19 96

Places Town Hall Post Office

DEED OF PURCHASE OR INSTRUMENT OF TAKING: Dated 10/3, 19 96

Recorded { Book 8244 Page 221 } Registered { Certificate of Title No. ...... Document No. ...... }

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dunstable
NAME OF CITY OR TOWN

TAX TITLE ACCOUNT

Richard & Janice Fairley 317 Broken Wagon Rd Woodland Park, CO 80863
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON ASSESSED IN THE YEAR OF TAX FOR WHICH LAND WAS SOLD OR TAKEN

FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON ASSESSED FOR SUBSEQUENT TAX — LEVY OF FISCAL YEAR 19......

LEVY OF FISCAL YEAR 19......

LEVY OF FISCAL YEAR 19......

Mortgagee ......
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS

Plan 10 Block 18 Lot ......

RECORD OF TAX TITLE HELD BY CITY OR TOWN

86 Century Way
LOCATION OF PARCEL OF LAND

☐ INSTRUMENT OF ASSIGNMENT
☐ DISCLAIMER AND RELEASE
☐ INSTRUMENT OF REDEMPTION

Recorded or Registered on ......, 19......
Book ...... Certificate of Title No. ......
or
Page ...... Document No. ......

Assigned to ......
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF ASSIGNEE

Date of Notice of Assignment ......, 19......

Redeemed by ......
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON REDEEMING AND HIS INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY

Total Amount Paid for Redemption $......

TAX TITLE DEBITS

YEAR OF TAX FOR WHICH LAND WAS SOLD OR TAKEN FISCAL YEAR	REAL ESTATE TAX OR UNPAID BALANCE (1st / 2nd)	Moth Tax	Street Sprinkling or Oiling Assessment	Sewer	Sidewalk	Street Betterment		Water Lien	District Taxes	Interest to Date of Sale or Taking	CHARGES AND FEES	ORIGINAL SUM FOR WHICH LAND WAS SOLD OR TAKEN	FEES Resulting from Sale or Taking	TAX TITLE ACCOUNT (DEBIT)
19 96	1,121 98									112 44	Demand 5 00; Preparing Advertisement 2 00; Advertisement in Newspaper 36 73; Posting Notice 2 00; TOTAL 45 73	1,280 15	Affidavit ......; Recording ......; Deed or Instr'mnt; Preparing ......; Recording ......; 15 00	1,295 15

APPORTIONED AND UNAPPORTIONED ASSESSMENTS — ENTER ANY COMMITTED INTEREST BELOW THE ASSESSMENT TO WHICH IT APPLIES

SUBSEQUENT TAXES FISCAL YEAR		Moth	Street Sprinkling	Sewer	Sidewalk	Street		Water	District	Interest to Date of Certification	Demand	Date of Certification	TOTAL OF EACH CERTIFICATION	TAX TITLE ACCOUNT (DEBIT)
Levy of 19 97	1,142 87									61 38	5 00	5/20/97	1,209 25	1,209 25
Levy of 19 98	1,190 62									63 94	5 00	5/20/98	1,259 56	1,259 56
Levy of 19 99	1,221 44									63 49	5 00	5/20/99	1,289 93	1,289 93
Levy of 00	1,216 78									66 79	5 00	5/23/00	1,288 57	1,288 57
Levy of 01	1,227 66									65 46	-	5/22/01	1,293 12	1,293 12

NOTIFY ACCOUNTING OFFICER OF INCREASES AND DECREASES IN ABOVE ACCOUNT SO THAT HIS LEDGER CONTROLLING ACCOUNT WILL BE IN AGREEMENT. GIVE DATES OF SUCH NOTIFICATIONS AND IDENTIFY THE AMOUNTS.

TAX TITLE CREDITS

OTHER THAN CASH	Kind	Amount	DATE	CASH Assignment or Redemption: TAX TITLE ACCOUNT Payment	*Added Interest
ABATED					
DISCLAIMED					
FORECLOSED					
ADJUDGED INVALID BY COURT					

LAND COURT AND OTHER COSTS such as under Chapter 60, § 50A
Any amounts in this column must be added to TOTAL of the TAX TITLE ACCOUNT (Debit)

Kind	Amount

Foreclosure proceedings extended to ......, 19...... ...... notified in writing on ......, 19......
NAME OF PERSON REDEEMING

FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS

LAND COURT CASE No.

Notice of filing petition recorded on 4/27, 19 99 Book ...... Page ......

Notice of final disposition recorded on 12/29, ~~19~~ 2000 Book 11240 Page 037

☐ Redemption through Court (Chap. 60, § 68) ☒ Decree barring all Rights of Redemption (Chap. 60, § 69) 12/29/2000

☒ Decree adjudging Tax Title ...... on 9/29/2000, 19...... (Chap. 60, § 70)
VALID OR INVALID

LAND OF LOW VALUE

Commissioner's affidavit recorded on ......, 19......

Treasurer's Sale at public auction on ......, 19...... Place notice posted

Deed to ......, highest bidder, Recorded on ......, 19.... Book ...... Page ......
NAME AND ADDRESS

Sale adjourned to ......, 19...... ☐ No Bid ☐ No Adequate Bid ☐ Bidder Failed to Pay

Purchased for city or town, Deed dated ......, 19...... Recorded on ......, 19...... Book ...... Page ......

*Interest {
6½% on tax titles created prior to August 8, 1966
8% on tax titles created on or after August 8, 1966 — Ch. 263, 1966
10% on tax titles created on or after July 21, 1970 — Ch. 235, 1970
12% on tax titles created on or after October 14, 1976 — Ch. 250, 1976
16% on tax titles created on or after August 16, 1979, Ch. 503, 1979

FINAL DISPOSITION OF THIS ACCOUNT

Assignment	Disclaimer	Decree	Redemption
☐	☐	☒	☐

NOTICE TO ASSESSORS, TO COLLECTOR, AND TO ACCOUNTING OFFICER ON ......, 19

FORM 037 HOBBS & WARREN, INC. REV. CHAP. 263-1966 - 235-1970 250-1976 503-1979 THIS FORM APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

COPPOLA AND COPPOLA
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW
40 SOUTH STREET, MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

JAMES E. COPPOLA
JAMES E. COPPOLA, JR.

JUDITH O. TRUFANT
ELAINE A. BYRNE

781/639-0140
FAX 781/639-4416

October 17, 2000

Mrs. Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Town Treasurer
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dear Mrs. Ricardelli:

Recently the Land Court notified me that it entered a foreclosure decree on September 29, 2000 in the Town's tax lien foreclosure case No. 119888 T.L., against Richard E. Fairley et al, covering the property on Century Way, Parcel 18, Map 10.

Since the Town became the owner of this property on the above referred to date, and thereby incurred all the benefits, responsibilities, and liabilities of ownership, the Town should take immediate steps to secure the property, and have it insured. You should also, in writing, notify the Town Accountant, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Assessors of the foreclosure.

It will take between two and three months for the Court to prepare the document indicating the entry of the decree.

As soon as I receive the decree from the Court, I will record it at the Registry of Deeds, and will forward it to you for your records as soon as it is returned to me.

Sincerely,

James E. Coppola Jr

JEC,Jr.:jw

October 19, 2000

To: Board of Selectmen

Re: Foreclosure
Richard and Janice Fairley
86 Century Way
Map 10, Lot 18
2.120 Acres

I have just been notified by Coppola and Coppola, that recently the Land Court entered a foreclosure decree on September 29, 2000 in the Town's tax lien foreclosure case No. 119888 T.L. against Richard E. Fairley et al, covering the property on Century Way, Parcel 18, Map 10.

Since the Town became owner on September 29, 2000, and thereby incurred all benefits, responsibilities, and liabilities of ownership, the Town should take immediate steps to secure the property, and have it insured.

It will take between two and three months for the court to prepare the document indicating the entry of the decree. As soon as Coppola and Coppola receive the decree from the Court, they will record it at the Registry of Deeds, and forward us the document.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Tax Collector/Treasurer

October 19, 2000

To: Board of Assessors

Re: Foreclosure
Richard and Janice Fairley
86 Century Way
Map 10, Lot 18
2.120 Acres

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Since the Town became owner on September 29, 2000, and thereby incurred all benefits, responsibilities, and liabilities of ownership, the Town should take immediate steps to secure the property, and have it insured.

It will take between two and three months for the court to prepare the document indicating the entry of the decree. As soon as Coppola and Coppola receive the decree from the Court, they will record it at the Registry of Deeds, and forward us the document.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Tax Collector/Treasurer

October 19, 2000

To: Town Accountant

Re: Foreclosure
Richard and Janice Fairley
86 Century Way
Map 10, Lot 18
2.120 Acres

I have just been notified by Coppola and Coppola, that recently the Land Court entered a foreclosure decree on September 29, 2000 in the Town's tax lien foreclosure case No. 119888 T.L. against Richard E. Fairley et al, covering the property on Century Way, Parcel 18, Map 10.

Since the Town became owner on September 29, 2000, and thereby incurred all benefits, responsibilities, and liabilities of ownership, the Town should take immediate steps to secure the property, and have it insured.

It will take between two and three months for the court to prepare the document indicating the entry of the decree. As soon as Coppola and Coppola receive the decree from the Court, they will record it at the Registry of Deeds, and forward us the document.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Tax Collector/Treasurer

Land Court Costs: $380.88 Estimated Legal Fees: $575.00

(SEAL)

Century Way, Parcel 18, Map 10

COPY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Case No. 119888 T.L.

FINAL JUDGMENT IN TAX LIEN CASE

Town of Dunstable

vs.

Richard E. Fairley, Janice Geist Fairley

JUDGMENT

This case came on to be heard and was argued by counsel, and thereupon, upon consideration thereof, it is

ADJUDGED and ORDERED that all rights of redemption are forever foreclosed and barred under the deed given by the Collector of Taxes for the Town of Dunstable in the County of Middlesex and said Commonwealth, dated September 20, 1996 and duly recorded in Book 8244 Page 221

By the Court (Breuer, Deputy Recorder)

Attest:

Charles W. Trombly, Jr.
Recorder

Dated September 29, 2000

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST
Charles W. Trombly Jr.
RECORDER

CS

COPPOLA AND COPPOLA
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW
40 SOUTH STREET, MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

JAMES E. COPPOLA
JAMES E. COPPOLA, JR.

JUDITH O. TRUFANT
ELAINE A. BYRNE

781/639-0140
FAX 781/639-4416

December 14, 2000

Mrs. Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Town Treasurer
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dear Mrs. Ricardelli:

Enclosed herewith please find a check from the Land Court for $14.12. This represents a refund of the unused balance of the deposit paid the Court in the Town's tax lien case against Richard E. Fairley et al, covering the property on Century Way, Parcel 18, Map 10.

The foreclosure decree was entered September 29, 2000. The Land Court costs were $380.88, with estimated legal fees of $575.00.

I have recorded the decree at the Registry of Deeds, and will forward it to you for your records as soon as it is returned to me. Enclosed please find a copy of the decree.

You should, in writing, notify the Town Accountant, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Assessors, of the foreclosure.

Sincerely,

James E. Coppola Jr

JEC,Jr.:jw
Enclosures

JAMES E. COPPOLA
JAMES E. COPPOLA, JR.

COPPOLA AND COPPOLA

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW
40 SOUTH STREET, MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

781 / 639-0140
FEDERAL I.D. 04-2846732

IN ACCOUNT WITH Town of Dunstable

June 18, 1999

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: Foreclosure of Tax Titles

To all services as to last date on attached itemized bill in the matter of foreclosure of tax titles,	
Amounting in all to 8 hours at $100.00 per hour	$800.00
Paid to record notice of filing petition - Fairley case, as per attached receipt	10.00
	$810.00

Town/City of Dunstable

VS.	DATE	WORK COMPLETED	TIME (in hours)
Current Frcls	3/8/99	Letter to treas	0.25
	3/18/99	Reg of Deeds	2.75
1999 Foreclosures	4/1/99	Warning letters	1
	4/1/99	Tel conf w/treas and warning letters	0.25
	4/27/99	Tel confs w/treas, letters w/pet, nots, discl	0.25
Fairley	4/27/99	Pet, not and letter to treas	0.75
LJM Rlty, Newton Ridge	4/27/99	Disclaimers, letter to coll	1.25
	5/11/99	Tel conf w/treas re bkcy	0.25
	5/12/99	Prep pet and not for filing	0.25
	5/13/99	Land Court	0.25
119888 TL	5/14/99	Numbering pet and not, letter to Reg	0.5
119888 TL	5/19/99	Rec not filing pet	0.25
		TOTAL HOURS	**8.00**

May 19, 1999

Received of Coppola and Coppola a notice of filing petition in Land Court Case No. 119888 T.L., Town of Dunstable vs Richard E. Fairley et al

Check No. 6341 $ 10.00

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

COPPOLA AND COPPOLA
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW
40 SOUTH STREET, MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

JAMES E. COPPOLA
JAMES E. COPPOLA, JR.

781/639-0140
FAX 781/639-4416

April 1, 1999

COPY

Mr. Richard E. Fairley and
Ms. Janice Geist Fairley
P.O. Box 728
Woodland Park, CO 80863

Re: Century Way
Parcel 18 on Assessors' Map 10

Dear Mr. and Ms. Fairley:

Mrs. Bonnie S. Riccardelli, Treasurer of the Town of Dunstable, has referred to this office for Land Court foreclosure proceedings a tax title, which the Town holds on the above property assessed to you. The tax taking was made September 20, 1996, for unpaid 1996 taxes and is recorded in Book 8244, Page 221.

If you wish to redeem this tax title, and avoid the additional Court costs, you must do so on or before Friday, April 16, 1999.

This tax title may include subsequent years' taxes, which must also be paid at this time.

Please contact Mrs. Bonnie S. Riccardelli, Town Treasurer, 511 Main Street, Dunstable, MA 01827, telephone 978-649-3257, directly for the amount due.

Very truly yours,

James E Coppola Jr

JEC,Jr:mh

cc: Mrs. Bonnie S. Riccardelli

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

The undersigned hereby represent(s):

that the land hereinafter described was taken on September 20, 1996 (Date of Taking)
for non-payment of taxes by the ~~City of~~/ Town of Dunstable
in the County of Middlesex by instrument dated September 20, 1996
and recorded ~~or registered~~ on October 3, 1996
(if registered) as Doc. No. ______ Cert. No. ______
(if recorded) Book 8244 Page 221 ;

that ~~(A) more than two years from the date of sale/taking (if before November 24, 1971) or~~
(B) more than six months from the date of said ~~sale~~/taking (if after November 24, 1971) have elapsed and no redemption has been made;

that the proceedings aforesaid have been conducted according to law;

that the deed was recorded within 60 days from date of sale;*

that the assessed value of said land and buildings is $ 77,700.00 ;

that said land is described as a certain parcel of land situate in Dunstable
County of Middlesex and said Commonwealth, bounded:

(Description must be same as in tax deed)

Land in said Dunstable on Century Way, shown as parcel 18 on Assessors map 10, described in Mx. No. District Deeds, Bk. 2701, Pg. 557.

that the following are the names and addresses of all persons known to the undersigned who have any interest in said land other than the plaintiff, to wit:

Name	*Address*	*Nature of Interest*
Richard E. Fairley	P.O. Box 728, Woodland Park, CO 80863	Equity
Janice Geist Fairley	P.O. Box 728, Woodland Park, CO 80863	Equity

Wherefore your plaintiff(~~s~~) pray(s) that the rights of all persons entitled to redeem from said proceedings may be foreclosed; that said Court enter a judgment that the title of the plaintiff to said land under said proceedings is absolute and that all rights of redemption are barred; and for such other and further relief as may seem meet and proper to said Court.

Name Town of Dunstable ~~Street~~ By Bonnie S. Ricardelli
~~City or~~ Town Treasurer

On this 28th day of April 19 99
personally appeared before me the within named Bonnie S. Ricardelli, Town Treasurer, as aforesaid, known to me to be the signer ______ of the foregoing complaint, and made oath that the statements therein contained so far as made of her own knowledge are true and so far as made upon information and belief that she believe s them to be true.

Before me,

*(see over)

Notary Public

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

2801

00/00/00 INV#: W45B ACCT: Treasurer's Expense

05/10/99 PAY: The Land Court (LAND01) 310.00

310.00

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
PH: (978) 649-7271

FLEET
56496 ONE FEDERAL STREET OFFICE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02211

5-20/110

CHECK NO. 2801

three hundred ten 0/100

DATE May 10, 1999

AMOUNT *******310.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF The Land Court

Bonnie J. Ricardelli
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈002801⑈ ⑆011000206⑆ 02450 65978⑈

Coppola and Coppola

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW

40 SOUTH STREET, MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

JAMES E. COPPOLA
JAMES E. COPPOLA, JR.

JUDITH O. TRUFANT
ELAINE A. BYRNE

781/639-0140
FAX 781/639-4416

April 27, 1999

Mrs. Bonnie S. Ricardelli
Town Treasurer
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dear Mrs. Ricardelli:

Enclosed herewith please find, in duplicate, the Richard E. Fairley and Janice Geist Fairley petition to the Land Court, together with the notice of filing petition.

You should sign all three instruments where I have placed the pencil checkmarks and return them to me, together with a check made payable to "The Land Court" for $310.00.

I will take your oath on the petitions and file them as soon as I receive them back

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

James E. Coppola Jr

JEC,Jr:mh

Enclosures (3)

ANNUAL REPORT & CHAPTER 70 LETTER

Town of Dunstable

March 11, 2025

DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL

511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

OFFICE OF THE
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X224 FAX (978) 649-4371
e-mail select-board@dunstable-ma.gov

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Margaret Scarsdale
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 109-E
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Scarsdale and Senator Kennedy:

As your committees begin the challenging process of determining funding priorities for the certified FY24 $1.4 billion Fair Share Act surplus and the FY26 state budget, we write to you on behalf of the Town of Dunstable and Groton Dunstable Regional School District and respectfully urge you to prioritize addressing the severe financial difficulties faced by all school districts, including 232 districts classified under "hold harmless" status.

The Chapter 70 education funding formula relies heavily on antiquated model student enrollment assumptions to ensure school districts receive adequate operational funding. Districts with enrollment below these assumptions are guaranteed to receive at least the same aid as the previous year, but the formula lacks additional protections to guarantee sufficient core funding for all essential components of a school district. Since the last update to the Chapter 70 formula in FY07, statewide student enrollment has steadily declined, leaving 232 school districts dependent on "hold harmless" status. As a result, these districts receive only minimal per-pupil aid increases in Chapter 70 funding. This situation shifts the full responsibility of covering budget increases onto municipalities, a burden that has proven unsustainable.

We respectfully present the attached allocation requests for the one-time FY24 Fair Share Act surplus funding and the proposed FY26 state budget line-item increases. By providing school districts with additional FY25 funds, superintendents may realize relief in FY 25 that somewhat eases the strain on financial resources for FY26. Thus helping to offset the significant budget increases that municipalities can no longer sustain.

We are grateful for your tireless efforts and commitment to supporting our students and school districts.

Respectfully,

Leah Basbanes
Chair

Kieran Meehan
Vice-Chair

Ron Mikol
Member

cc: House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz

Senate Way and Means Chair Michael Rodrigues
Dunstable Advisory Board
Governor Maura Healey
Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll
Dr. Geoff Bruno, GDRSD School Superintendent
Sherry Kersey, GDRSD Director of Finance and Administration
GDRSD School Committee
Mark Haddad, Groton Town Manager
Groton Select Board
Groton Finance Committee

K-12 State Funding - FY25 & FY26 Proposals - Final 02.14.25

Funding Proposals that Could be Included in Fair Share (Millionaire Tax) Supplemental Spending Bill (Q1 of 2025) ***Please Note: These proposals are not organized in priority order.*** **TOTAL PROJECTED COST - $323.2M**	
Funding Proposal Description	**Projected Cost**
Increase to Circuit Breaker reimbursements (line item 7061-0012) a) Cover 90% of eligible tuition costs b) Cover 75% of eligible transportation costs **FY25 CB projection: $543,263,794** **Final FY25 line item funded at: $493,177,484** **Increase needed for 90% tuition/75% transportation: $144,000,000**	**a) $85 million** using DESE initial FY25 figures. **b) $59 million** using DESE initial FY25 figures.
Increase to Regional School Transportation reimbursements (line item 7035-0006) to cover 100% of eligible transportation costs **FY25 RT projection: $117,756,809** **Final FY25 line item funded at: $99,456,813** **Increase needed for 100%: $18,299,996**	**$18.3 million** using DESE FY24 figures
Increase to McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Transportation reimbursements (line item 7035-0008) to cover 100% of **eligible transportation** costs **FY25 projection: $40,738,817** **Final FY25 line item funded at: $28,671,815** **Amount needed for 100%: $12,121,002**	**$12.1 million** using DESE FY24 figures
Increase to Out-of-District Vocational	**$4.8 million**

Student Transportation reimbursements (line item 7035-0007) to cover 100% of **eligible transportation** costs **FY25 projection: $5,772,699** **Final FY25 line item funded at: $1,000,000** **Amount needed for 100%: $4,772,699**	using [DESE FY24 figures]
Increase to Rural School Aid (line item 7061-9813) to $60 million between supplemental and regular budget resources **Final FY25 RA line item funded at: $16,000,000** **Amount needed for 60%: $44,000,000**	**$44 million**
Supplemental Funding to MSBA Capital Supports (line item 1596-2431) to cover new and pre-existing municipal school building costs	**$100 million**
c) Funding Proposals that Could be Included in FY 2026 Budget ***Please Note: These proposals are not organized in priority order.*** **TOTAL PROJECTED COST - $436.6M**	
Funding Proposal Description	**Projected Cost**
Reconvene K-12 Funding Review Commission in FY 2026 **FY26 H.1 budget: not funded** **FY26 increase needed: $250,000**	**$250,000** based on Chairman Lewis' bill (SD. 1912)
Inflate Chapter 70 Formula to Better Match Recent Cost Growth - Integrate One-Fourth of the Missed FY 2023 and FY 2024 Inflation Above	**$116 million** using [MassBudget research report].

Statutory 4.5% Cap into FY 2026 Chapter 70 aid **FY26 H.1 budget: 7,097,168,436 (line item 7061-0008), $225M (SOA implementation support, surtax)** **FY26 increase needed: $116,000,000**	
Maintain Minimum Per Pupil Aid at current FY 2025 levels of $104 per student **FY26 H.1 budget: 7,097,168,436 (line item 7061-0008), $225M (SOA implementation support, surtax)** **FY26 increase needed: $15,000,000**	**$15 million above FY26 Governor's budget** using Preliminary FY 2026 Chapter 70 spreadsheet.
Increase the Rural Aid Line to $60 million in the FY 2026 budget **FY26 H.1 budget: $16,000,000** **FY25 final: $16,000,000** **FY26 increase needed: $44,000,000**	**$44 million above FY26 Governor's budget.**
Increase Circuit Breaker reimbursements (line item 7061-0012) a) Cover 90% of eligible tuition costs b) Cover 75% of eligible transportation costs **FY26 H.1 budget: $531,991,844** **FY25 final: $493,177,484** **FY26 increase from FY25 needed: $205,000,000**	a) **$99 million** using DESE initial FY25 figures. b) **$106 million** using DESE initial FY25 figures.
Increase Regional School Transportation reimbursements (line item 7035-0006) to cover 100% of eligible transportation costs	**$22.5 million**

FY26 projected amount: $122,000,000 **FY26 H.1 budget: $72,119,862 (line item 7035-0006), $43M (surtax)** **FY25 final: $99,456,813** **Increase from FY25 needed for 100%: $22,543,187**	
Increase McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Transportation reimbursements (line item 7035-0008) to cover 100% of **eligible transportation** costs **FY26 projected amount: $57,343,630** **FY26 H.1 budget: $28,671,815** **Final FY25 line item funded at: $28,671,815** **Increase needed from FY25 for 100%: $28,617,815**	**$28.6 million** using DESE FY24 figures
Increase Out-of-District Vocational Student Transportation reimbursements (line item 7035-0007) to cover 100% of **eligible transportation** costs **FY26 projection: $6,200,000** **FY26 H.1 budget: $6,200,000** **Final FY25 line item funded at: $1,000,000** **Increase needed from FY25 for 100%: $5,200,000**	**$5.2 million** using DESE FY24 figures

[External] Urgent: Attend FY26 Budget Hearing on Local Aid - March 24, 2025 - Message (HT...

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Ignore Delete Archive Junk Reply Reply All Forward Meeting IM More All Apps Move Rules Send to OneNote Actions Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Find Related Select Read Aloud Immersive Reader Translate Zoom

Delete Respond Apps Move Tags Editing Immersive Language Zoom

[External] Urgent: Attend FY26 Budget Hearing on Local Aid - March 24, 2025

JK project-211hh@googlegroups.com on behalf of Julie Kelley <mars.kelley@mar

To project-211hh@googlegroups.com; Mars Superintendents Listserve; marsbusadmlist.; marsschoolcommitteelistserve@googlegroups.com; Maureen Marshall; Sheila Muir

Cc kimberly.ferguson; Paul.Mark@masenate.gov

Reply Reply All Forward

Fri 3/7/2025 11:23 AM

You forwarded this message on 3/7/2025 1:34 PM.

Hi everyone,

The Joint Committee on Ways & Means has scheduled an FY26 budget hearing focused on Local Aid (Education and Municipal) for **Monday, March 24, 2025, starting at 11 a.m.** The hearing will take place at the UMass Campus Center, 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA.

Currently, the House and Senate Ways & Means committees are crafting their FY26 state budgets, set to be unveiled in April (House) and May (Senate). Your presence at this hearing is vital. Please encourage school committee members, town officials, elected representatives, parents, and community members to join you in attending.

In FY26 (H.1), 232 school districts will be classified as "hold harmless," meaning towns must shoulder the full cost of their budget increases - a situation that has become untenable. The Chapter 70 education funding formula is no longer serving our communities effectively.

We've collaborated with education budget and policy groups to create an advocacy document outlining allocation requests for the $1.4 billion FY24 Fair Share Act surplus and the FY26 State Budget. Access the K-12 Funding Advocacy Letter/Funding List here, and a detailed explanation, along with a call to action, here: Project 211+21 Uniting to Advocate for Increased K-12 Funding Meeting Recording 03.04.25 (link) (Passcode: w@ib6u+d). **Please share the funding list with your state legislators via email, requesting their support and providing specific FY26 fiscal crisis details for your district or town**. They need to hear directly from you about the real numbers and impacts of this funding formula.

Lauren Salmon-Garrett from the Wachusett Regional School Committee has updated the funding list to include a column where your school business official can detail how additional funding for each line item would benefit your district. Find that updated document here (link).

At the hearing, please bring written testimony to submit after the education policy groups (MARS, MASS, MASC, etc.) speak. Legislators must receive concrete data from your district or town about the FY26 budget—such as revenue shortfalls, override needs, or potential layoffs if overrides fail. We suggest bringing a sign identifying your district or town to visually demonstrate the statewide scope of this financial crisis. Additionally, show solidarity by standing in support when MARS, MASS, and similar groups testify.

Your participation is absolutely crucial to drive the change we need. THIS IS THE YEAR YOU NEED TO SHOW UP. Please make every effort to do so.

Julie Kelley

Research Analyst

Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools

Type here to search

1:13 PM 3/8/2025

OFFICE OF THE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X224 FAX (978) 649-4371
e-mail jsilva@dunstable-ma.gov

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Rodrigues, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Urgent Need for Chapter 70 Reform and Increased State Assistance for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Rodrigues:

On behalf of the Town of Dunstable, I write to express our growing concerns regarding the inadequacies of the Chapter 70 school funding formula and the financial strain it is placing on communities like ours. The “hold harmless” and “minimum aid” status, while originally intended to provide stability, have instead resulted in stagnant funding that fails to keep pace with rising educational costs. As a result, Dunstable, our schools, and our taxpayers face an increasingly unsustainable financial burden and uncertainty.

Dunstable, in partnership with Groton, forms the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD), which has been under immense fiscal pressure due to the failure of Chapter 70 keeping up with actual educational needs. Over the past several budget cycles, we have faced difficult decisions regarding the funding of essential services. Dunstable has put forward multiple Proposition 2½ override requests to help fund both the Town and the regional school district, but these efforts have failed due to the existing tax burden on residents. The failure of these override attempts to maintain level services has forced cuts to critical areas, including teaching and public safety personnel, increased class sizes, and deferred investments in buildings, infrastructure, and technology.

Looking ahead to FY26, the Town and GDRSD are once again facing a difficult budget cycle. Despite rising costs in special education, transportation, utilities, and employee salaries and benefits, our Chapter 70 aid remains stagnant under the current formula. This leaves Dunstable with two untenable options: passing tax increases via an override or making further cuts to essential municipal and educational services. The continued reliance on the “hold harmless" status of the Chapter 70 formula locks communities like ours into a cycle of financial distress with no path toward equitable funding.

We recognize the complexities of school funding reform and appreciate the state's efforts through initiatives such as the Student Opportunity Act. However, for districts like Groton-Dunstable, this legislation has had little to no impact. The funding challenges we face are immediate, and without meaningful changes to the Chapter 70 formula, our ability to provide a high-quality education is in jeopardy.

Since FY22, Chapter 70 funding for GDRSD has increased by just 6.15%, an average of 1.5% annually, amounting to a total increase of $675,960. Based on current FY26 budget projections, the district's budget is projected to be approximately $51 million. Meanwhile, Dunstable's school assessment, its required contribution to the regional district, has grown by 22.6% over the same period, averaging an annual increase of 5.6%. This rate of growth is significantly higher than the increase in Chapter 70 funding, and the gap continues to widen each year, placing an even greater financial strain on our Town's budget. Without meaningful state intervention, education costs will continue to rise at a rate far beyond our ability to generate new revenue.

This issue has been a problem for a longer a period of time, but it is now reaching a critical point. In the 15-year period from FY08 through FY22, the Groton Dunstable Regional School District's Chapter 70 funding increased from $10,757,109 to $10,987,643. That's an increase of only $230,534 over 15 years or an average of 0.14% average increase. Furthermore, since 2007, the state's share of Groton Dunstable School District's total revenue has declined by a whopping 14%. These minimal amounts over time have whittled away Town reserves, and municipal and educational services, in order for the Town to fund assessments growing at a much faster rate than municipal revenues.

Compounding this challenge is the constraint of Proposition 2½, which limits Dunstable's ability to raise additional revenue to keep up with these growing costs. As a small community with a limited tax base, seeing an average Chapter 70 increase of 1.5%, tax increase of 2½% plus new growth, and a school district assessment increase of 5.6% on average, the math doesn't work, especially when the FY26 assessment is projected to increase by 8% to maintain the current level of educational services. The School District's FY26 Budget is currently projected to increase by approximately 6%. Based on the revenue Dunstable has available, GDRSD has a projected budget deficit of approximately $2.5 million. This follows the FY25 budget year where GDRSD was forced to reduce their budget by approximately $2 million, cutting 27 positions including teachers, counselors, specialists, nurses, and others.

To address these issues, we respectfully request that the Legislature take immediate steps to:

1. Reevaluate the Chapter 70 formula to ensure it accurately reflects district costs, including inflationary pressures and regional school district needs.

2. Provide a meaningful increase in minimum aid to ensure that all school districts, regardless of their current funding status, receive sufficient resources to support student success.
3. For FY26 and until the Chapter 70 formula is amended, support targeted state assistance for school districts struggling to meet their financial obligations, recognizing the unique challenges faced by towns like Dunstable and more than half of the school districts in the Commonwealth.

Additionally, we urge the Legislature to fully fund regional school transportation reimbursements as required under Massachusetts General Laws. Regional school districts like Groton-Dunstable are disproportionately impacted by the high costs of student transportation, which place an additional strain on local budgets. While the state has historically committed to reimbursing regional districts for transportation expenses, actual funding levels have often fallen short, forcing communities to divert resources from classroom instruction to cover these costs. Fully funding regional transportation reimbursements would provide much-needed relief to municipalities, ensuring that students have reliable access to schools without compromising educational programs or further burdening local taxpayers. We strongly encourage the Legislature to prioritize this issue in the FY26 budget.

Dunstable has been actively engaged in Project 211, a collaborative initiative aimed at advocating for structural reforms to the Chapter 70 formula. Through this effort, we have worked alongside legislative, and other municipal and school district leaders to develop proposals that address the inequities in state aid distribution. We urge the Legislature to consider the input of Project 211 as part of the FY26 budget process and work toward reforms to Chapter 70.

Dunstable and our partner community of Groton are deeply committed to maintaining a high standard of education for our students. However, without meaningful reform to Chapter 70 and additional state assistance, our ability to do so is at serious risk. We urge you to prioritize these issues in the FY26 budget process and stand ready to work with you on solutions that will support our schools and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any opportunity to discuss this matter further and provide additional details regarding the fiscal challenges facing the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District.

Sincerely,

Jason Silva

Jason Silva
Town Administrator

cc: Dunstable Select Board
Dunstable Advisory Board
Governor Maura Healey
Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll
State Representative Margaret Scarsdale
State Senator Edward Kennedy
Dr. Geoff Bruno, GDRSD School Superintendent
Sherry Kersey, GDRSD Director of Finance and Administration
GDRSD School Committee
Mark Haddad, Groton Town Manager
Groton Select Board
Groton Finance Committee

FY26 BUDGET UPDATE

Town of Dunstable

March 11, 2025

DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL

511 Main Street | Dunstable, MA

Joint Meeting of the Towns of Dunstable, Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Monday, March 3, 2025
7 PM
Groton Center

Changes since our last budget review

Revenues

- Increase in New Growth estimate from $110,000 to $120,000
- Increase in Local Receipts estimate from $750,000 to $800,000
- Overlay Surplus of $25,000 being used
- Increase in Free Cash use from $308,724 to $408,724
- State aid and assessments based on Governor's Budget

Expenses

- Groton Dunstable School Assessment Increase to $8,869,053 from $8,831,045
- Greater Lowell Vocational and Technical High School estimated assessment received and increased to $198,074 (10.92% increase)
- Treasurer/Collector Salaries and Communication increased by a total of $21,000
- Election Communications line increased from $100 to $1,000
- Planned appropriation to General Stabilization and CIP Fund in the total amount of $100,000

Major Budget Headwinds

- New contract and salary adjustments → Administrative employees compensation and classification study; new contracts for the Police Union, Fire Chief, and Town Administrator
- Schools Assessments → Groton Dunstable increase of 8.46%; Greater Lowell increase of 10.92%
- Health Insurance Increase → Increase of 14.13%
- Pension Increase → Increase of 24%
- Preparing for Regional Dispatch Assessment → Total of $22,000 of additional funds in FY26
- Major Capital Improvements → Future Public Safety facilities, new fire truck, Highway Garage, Library systems

	FY25	Groton Assessment FY26	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase	School Request FY26	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase
REVENUE							
Prior Year Levy Limit	11,095,321	11,520,861	**425,540**	**3.84%**	11,520,861	**425,540**	**3.84%**
2 1/2 % Allowed Increase	277,383	288,022	**10,639**	**3.84%**	288,022	**10,639**	**3.84%**
New & Amended Growth	148,157	120,000	**-28,157**	**-19.00%**	120,000	**-28,157**	**-19.00%**
Prop 2 1/2 Override							
Levy Limit	11,520,861	11,928,883	**408,022**	**3.54%**	11,928,883	**408,022**	**3.54%**
Excluded Debt	315,217	197,357	**-117,860**	**-37.39%**	197,357	**-117,860**	**-37.39%**
Capital Expenditure Exclusion						**0**	
Maximum Allowable Levy	11,836,078	12,126,240	**290,162**	**2.45%**	12,126,240	**290,162**	**2.45%**
						0	
Cherry Sheet Receipts (State Aid)	384,676	403,149	**18,473**	**4.80%**	403,149	**18,473**	**4.80%**
Local Receipts	750,000	800,000	**50,000**	**6.67%**	800,000	**50,000**	**6.67%**
Transfer Stabilization							
Free Cash for Operating Expenses	358,724	105,117	**-253,607**	**-70.70%**	105,117	**-253,607**	**-70.70%**
Free Cash for Town Articles		220,000	**220,000**		220,000	**220,000**	
Free Cash for GDRSD Capital		83,607	**83,607**		83,607	**83,607**	
Community Preservation	460,000	460,000	**0**	**0.00%**	460,000	**0**	**0.00%**
Other Revenue							
Water Enterprise	210,755	211,041	**286**	**0.14%**	211,041	**286**	**0.14%**
Overlay Surplus (Abatements)		25,000			25,000		
Est. Receipts & Other Rev.	2,164,155	2,307,914	**143,759**	**6.64%**	2,307,914	**143,759**	**6.64%**
Total Available Revenue	14,000,233	14,434,154	**433,921**	**3.10%**	14,434,154	**433,921**	**3.10%**
Excess Levy Capacity							
Trash Revolving Account	144,000	144,000	**0**	**0.00%**	144,000	**0**	**0.00%**
Total Amount to be Appropriated	**14,144,233**	**14,578,154**	**433,921**	**3.07%**	**14,578,154**	**433,921**	**3.07%**
Ties to the Recap							
Total new money for operating	**431,281**	**452,323**	**21,042**	**4.88%**	**452,323**	**21,042**	**4.88%**
Starting Free Cash Balance							
Available Free Cash Balance							

	FY25	Groton Assessment FY26	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase	School Request FY26	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase
EXPENSES							
General Government	631,255	718,759	**87,504**	**13.86%**	718,759	**87,504**	**13.86%**
Public Safety	1,687,507	1,738,399	**50,892**	**3.02%**	1,738,399	**50,892**	**3.02%**
Schools	8,356,152	8,729,090	**372,938**	**4.46%**	9,020,968	**664,816**	**7.96%**
Public Works	895,811	918,189	**22,378**	**2.50%**	918,189	**22,378**	**2.50%**
Human Services	79,328	76,923	**-2,405**	**-3.03%**	76,923	**-2,405**	**-3.03%**
Library & Recreation	310,494	319,881	**9,387**	**3.02%**	319,881	**9,387**	**3.02%**
Town Debt Service	179,627	167,555	**-12,072**	**-6.72%**	167,555	**-12,072**	**-6.72%**
Insurance & Assessments	967,574	1,062,468	**94,894**	**9.81%**	1,062,468	**94,894**	**9.81%**
Total Town Budget	13,107,748	13,731,264	**623,516**	**4.76%**	14,023,142	**915,394**	**6.98%**
Total Town Operating	4,571,969	4,834,619	**262,650**	**5.74%**	4,834,619	**262,650**	**5.74%**
Total School Operating	8,356,152	8,729,090	**372,938**	**4.46%**	9,020,968	**664,816**	**7.96%**
Total Debt(Town)	179,627	167,555	**-12,072**	**-6.72%**	167,555	**-12,072**	**-6.72%**
Overlay - Abatements/Exemptions	30,000	20,000	**-10,000**	**-33.33%**	20,000	**-10,000**	**-33.33%**
Cherry Sheet Charges	2,656	2,685	**29**	**1.09%**	2,685	**29**	**1.09%**
Water Enterprise	210,755	211,041	**286**	**0.14%**	211,041	**286**	**0.14%**
Curbside Trash Pickup Expenses	144,000	144,000	**0**	**0.00%**	144,000	**0**	**0.00%**
Town Warrant Articles Only	119,344	220,000	**100,656**	**84.34%**	220,000	**100,656**	**84.34%**
Other							
Community Preservation	460,000	460,000	**0**	**0.00%**	460,000	**0**	**0.00%**
Total Expenses	**14,074,503**	**14,788,990**	**714,487**	**5.08%**	**15,080,868**	**1,006,365**	**7.15%**
Surplus/(Deficit)		**(210,836)**			**(502,714)**		

Town Administrator's Recommendations versus Department Requests

Town Administrator	FY25	Request	TA Recommendation	
Salary	135,700	178,700	178,700	Increase from FY25
Training	2,500	5,000	5,000	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Salary and Training
Increases based on new contract

Select Board				
Communication	1,200	1,200	7,940	Increase from FY25
Dues	1,500	1,500	1,800	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Communication
Consolidate postage line items
Increase $2,000 for postage and printing to mail newsletter
Dues
NMCOG dues increasing

Fin Comm				
Reserve Account	30,000	30,000	40,000	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Reserve Account
Increase for salary reserve to implement recommendations of compensation and classification study

Accounting				
Annual Audit	16,000	18,000	18,000	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Annual Audit
Actual increase in fee for annual audit

Treasurer/Collector			
Salaries	30,999	30,999	54,670
Communication	6,500	7,000	6,500

Rationale
Salaries
Treasurer/Collector resigned from position; our cost share of the position was being paid for from the health insurance budget, since he received benefits from Dunstable
This may not be the case with the next Treasurer/Collector so we need to be prepared to cover our portion of the salary within the Treasurer/Collector budget
Communication
May need to adjust based on spending trends

Town Clerk			
Communication	300	300	100

Rationale
Communication
Overall budget spend can absorb reduction

Elections			
Communication	3,000	2,000	1,000

Rationale
Communication
Less elections next fiscal year; overall budget can absorb reduction

Conservation and Planning			
Salaries	29,232	31,663	31,663

Rationale
Salaries
Increase by $2,431 to add a total of 2 hours to position based on work load

Town Hall			
Property Related Services	9,000	10,000	10,000

Rationale
Property Related Services
Based on budget spending trends over last several years

Town Administrator's Recommendations versus Department Requests

Town Engineer				
	10,000	8,000	8,000	

Rationale
Budget should be able to absorb reduction based on last several years of spending

Police				
Energy	12,000	13,000	12,000	
Property Related Services	7,000	7,500	7,000	
Police Radio Communications	41,765	51,765	51,765	
Other Supplies	24,000	26,000	26,000	

Rationale
Energy and Property Related Services
Budget should be able to absorb additional costs in other areas of budget
Police Radio Communications
Planning for first payment of regional dispatch; initial payment will be due in FY28; 50% of cost or roughly $50,000
Other Supplies
Based on department need
Salaries
Not included is also the restoration of the 9th police officer position which has been requested by the Chief

Fire				
Chief Salary	62,667	73,000	73,000	Increase from FY25
Wages Full-Time	106,080	108,202	106,080	
Repair and Maintenance	15,000	16,920	16,500	
Communications	12,000	25,000	24,000	

Rationale
Chief Salary
Needed to fund new contract
Wages Full-Time
Budget can absorb reduction based on spending trends
Repair and Maintenance
Increased line based on department needs but less than requested
Communications
Funded based on need to fund regional dispatch center in FY28 to build budget capacity

Inspectors				
Gas Inspector	4,000	5,000	5,000	Increase from FY25
Plumbing Inspector	4,000	5,000	5,000	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Gas and Plumbing Inspector
Increase based on number of inspections conducted

Highway				
Repairs and Maintenance	49,000	55,000	55,000	Increase from FY25
Paving Services	45,500	67,000	45,500	
Brush, Signs, Line Paint	30,000	35,000	30,000	

Rationale
Repairs and Maintenance
Based on budget spending trends and increases in repairs/parts
Paving Services
Recommend level-funded; request was to restore funding to FY24 levels
Brush, Signs, Line Paint
Recommend level-funded; request was to restore funding to FY24 levels

Transfer Station				
Budget	22,500	23,000	22,500	

Rationale
Based on spending trends; can absorb pojected increase in professional/technical within level-funded budget

Council on Aging				
Bus	3,000	3,500	3,500	Increase from FY25
Food Service	2,500	3,000	3,000	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Both increases are based on anticipated need

Town Administrator's Recommendations versus Department Requests

Veterans				
Expenses	4,472	3,700	3,700	
Benefits	15,000	10,000	10,000	

Rationale
Both reductions are based on spending trends and department needs over the last several years

Library Consortium				
M.V.L. Consortium Dues	13,500	14,100	14,100	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Increase is based on actual consortium dues amount

Technical Expenses				
Online Maps/App Geo	0	2,500	2,500	Increase from FY25

Rationale
Request based on cost of assessors' online maps software; still $500 less than actual cost

Parks			
Energy Expense	2,500	3,000	2,500
Other Property Related Services	51,000	63,000	51,000

County Retirement				
Assessment	386,855	479,749	479,749	Increase from FY25

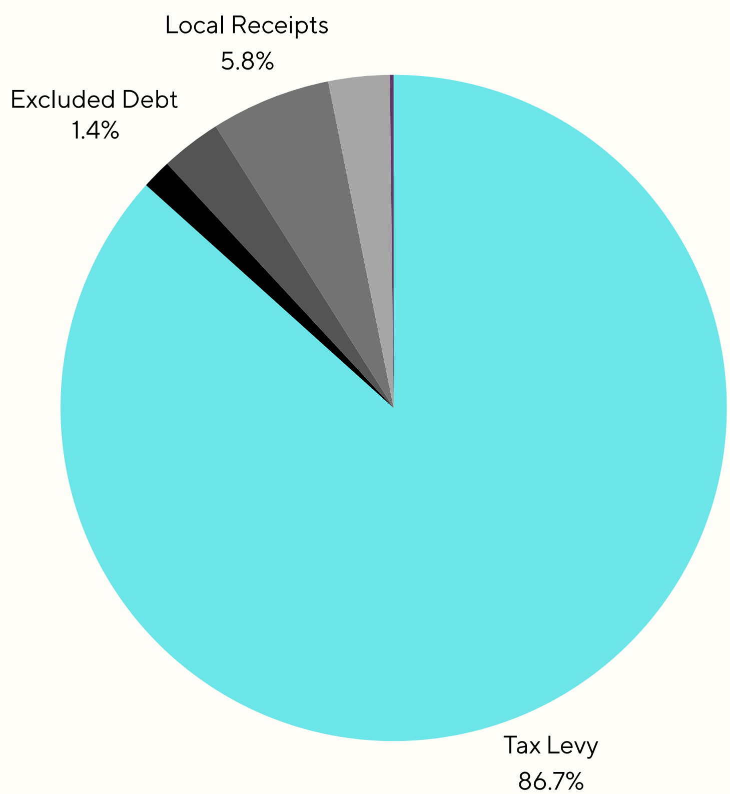
Rationale
Increase based on actual increased assessment

Group Health Insurance			
Insurance	394,929	404,802	394,929

Rationale
Level funded based on budget capacity and spending trends over the last several years

Revenue Overview

Revenue	Amount
Tax Levy	11,918,883
Excluded Debt	$197,357
Cherry Sheet	$403,149
Local Receipts	$800,000
Free Cash	$408,724
Overlay Surplus	$25,000
Total	**$13,763,113**

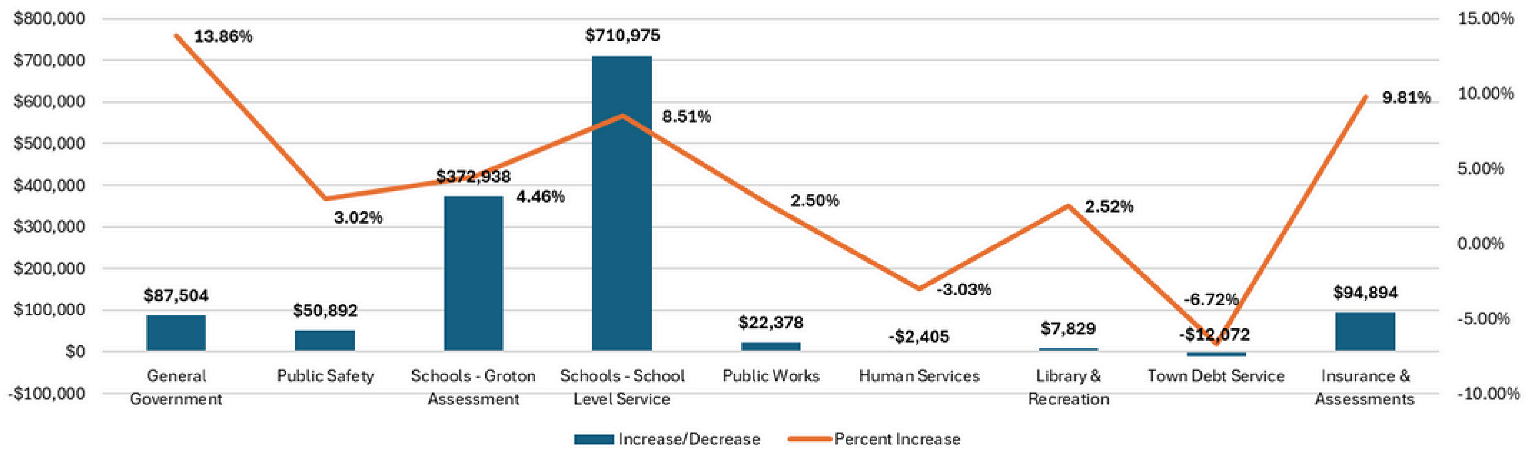


Expense Overview - Groton Assessment

	FY25	Groton Assessment - FY26	Increase/Decrease	Percent Increase
General Government	$631,255	$718,759	$87,504	13.86%
Public Safety	$1,687,507	$1,738,399	$50,892	3.02%
Schools	$8,356,152	$8,729,090	$372,938	4.46%
Public Works	$895,811	$918,189	$22,378	2.50%
Human Services	$79,328	$76,923	-$2,405	-3.03%
Library & Recreation	$310,494	$318,323	$7,829	2.52%
Town Debt Service	$179,627	$167,555	-$12,072	-6.72%
Insurance & Assessments	$967,574	$1,062,468	$94,894	9.81%
Total Town Budget	**$13,107,748**	**$13,729,706**	**$621,958**	**4.74%**

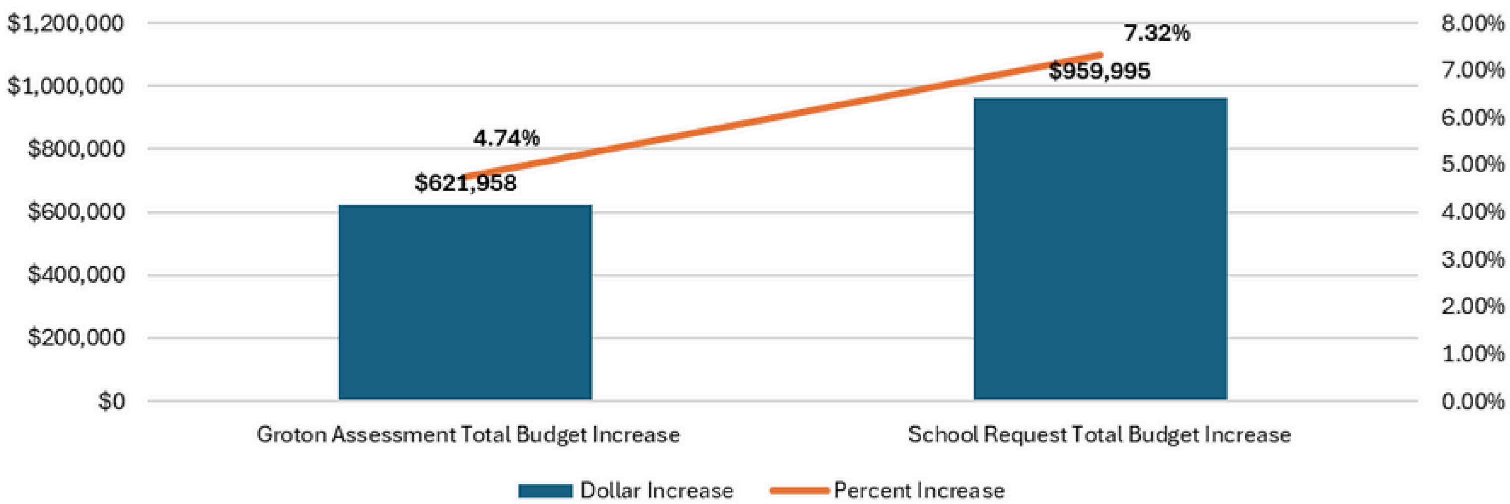
Expense Overview - School Level Services

	FY25	School Request - FY26	Increase/Decrease	Percent Increase
General Government	$631,255	$718,759	$87,504	13.86%
Public Safety	$1,687,507	$1,738,399	$50,892	3.02%
Schools	$8,356,152	$9,067,127	$710,975	8.51%
Public Works	$895,811	$918,189	$22,378	2.50%
Human Services	$79,328	$76,923	-$2,405	-3.03%
Library & Recreation	$310,494	$318,323	$7,829	2.52%
Town Debt Service	$179,627	$167,555	-$12,072	-6.72%
Insurance & Assessments	$967,574	$1,062,468	$94,894	9.81%
Total Town Budget	**$13,107,748**	**$14,067,743**	**$959,995**	**7.32%**

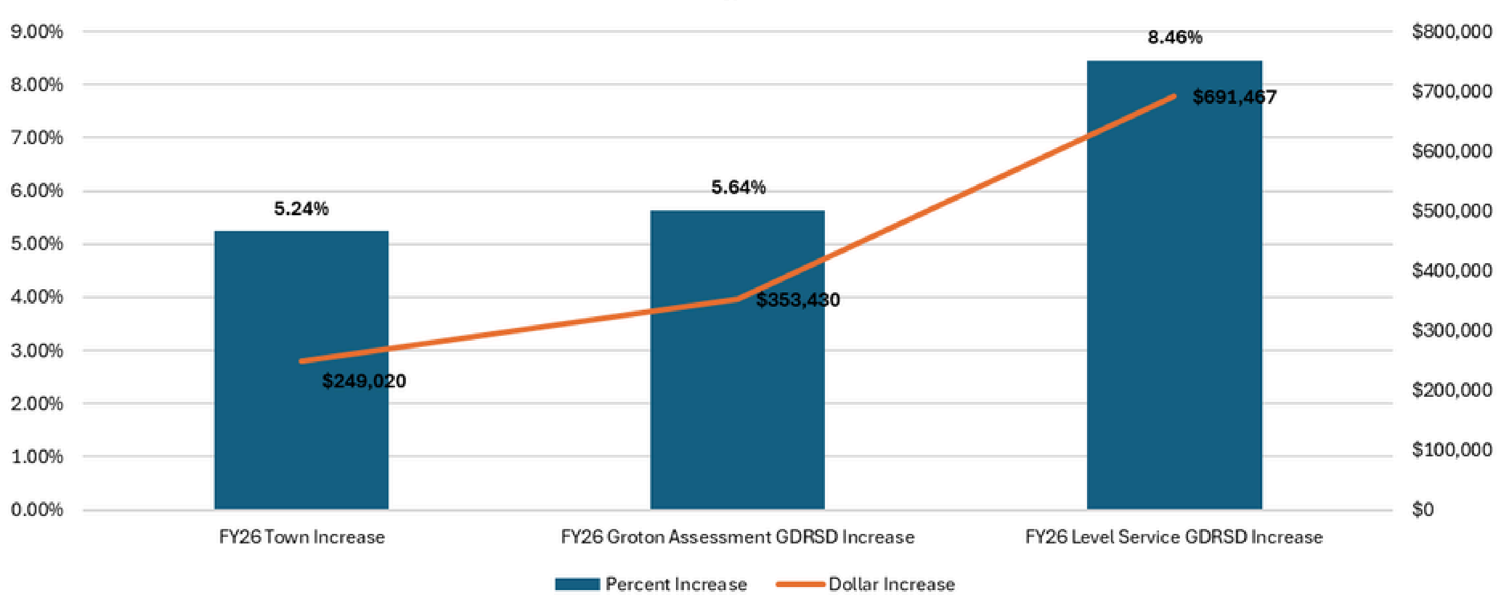


Total Budget Increases

	Groton Assessment - Total Budget Increase	School Request - Total Budget Increase
Dollar Increase	$621,958	$959,995
Percent Increase	4.74%	7.32%



	FY26 Town Increase	FY26 Groton Assessment GDRSD Increase	FY26 Level Service GDRSD Increase
Percent Increase	5.24%	5.64%	8.46%
Dollar Increase	$249,020	$353,430	$691,467



Deficit Analysis

Budget Summary

	Town	GDRSD	GLVTHS	Other
Total	**5,120,616**	**8,869,053**	**198,074**	**22,685**
Operating	4,833,061	8,749,022	168,133	
Capital	120,000	83,607	29,941	
Debt	167,555	36,424		
Proportional Spending	**36.03%**	**62.41%**	**1.39%**	**0.16%**

Budget Increases

Town Operating	261,092
GDRSD	691,467
GLVTHS	19,508
Town Debt	-12,072
Other	-9,971
Town Capital	656
Total	950,680

New Available Revenue

New Revenue	571,225
Free Cash Reduction	50,000
Excluded Debt Reduction	117,860
Available New Revenue	**403,365**

New Revenue GDRSD	251,749
New Revenue Town	145,349
New Revenue GLRVTHS	5,622
New Revenue Other	644

Deficits Breakdown

Groton Dunstable Regional School District Assessment

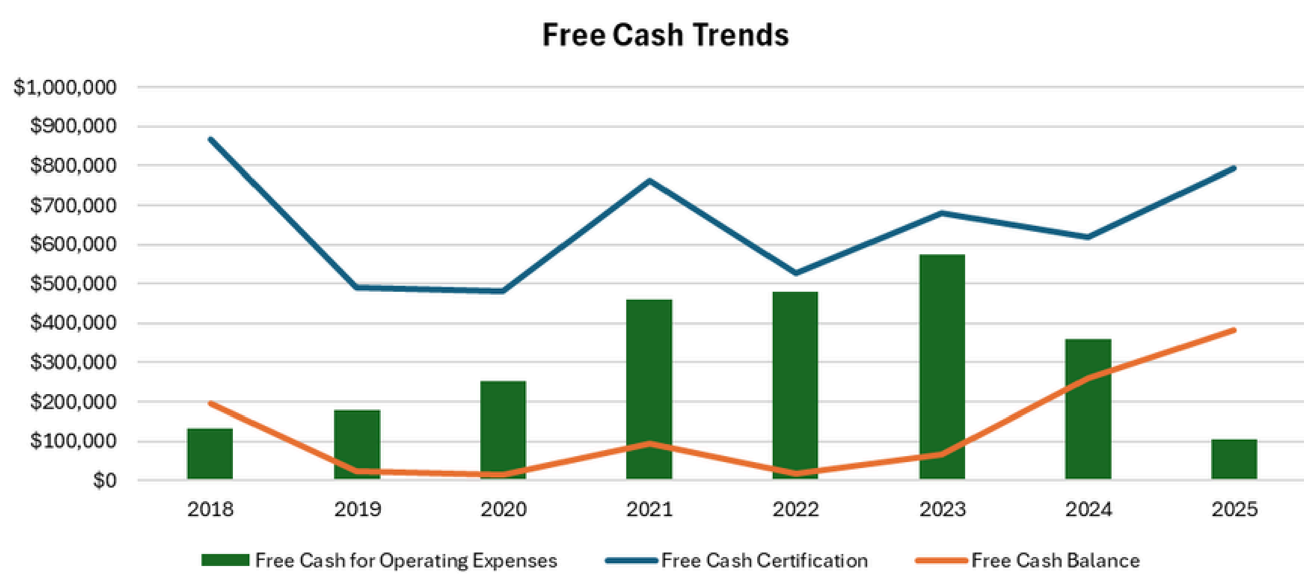
FY26 GDRSD Level Service	8,869,053
New Revenue	251,749
GDRSD Budget under the Levy	8,429,335
Deficit	-439,718

Town Budget

FY26 Town Budget	5,120,616
New Revenue	145,349
Town Budget under the Levy	5,016,289
Deficit	-104,326

Free Cash Overview

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Free Cash Certification	867,129	490,353	480,659	763,086	527,737	680,186	617,368	791,942
Free Cash for Operating Expenses	133,967	179,842	252,320	459,343	479,343	574,343	358,724	105,117
Free Cash for ATM Articles	251,912	166,592	135,609	145,450	29,724	39,705		220,000
Free Cash for GDRSD	284,330	119,618	78,830	64,202				83,607
Balance Remaining	**196,920**	**24,301**	**13,900**	**94,091**	**18,670**	**66,138**	**258,644**	**383,218**



Override Impacts - *ESTIMATED*

Based on Groton Assessment

Deficit (Groton Assessment)	**$209,278**
FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):	$685,358
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):	$9,424
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):	**$164.49**

Based on School Level Service Assessment

Deficit (Level Service)	**$547,315**
FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):	$685,358
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):	$9,424
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):	**$438.63**

Estimated increase without an override is $226.17 for average single family home

Department/Account	FY25	Groton Assessment FY26 Override	School Request FY26 Override
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Town Administrator			
Administrator Salary	135,700	178,700	178,700
Assistant Administrator Salary	46,996.00	47,935	47,935
Communication			
Office Supplies	400.00	400	400
Dues & Subscriptions	880.00	880	880
Training & Meetings	2,500.00	5,000	5,000
350th Celebration			
SALARIES	182,696	226,635	226,635
EXPENSES	3,780	6,280	6,280
Total	***186,476***	***232,915***	***232,915***
Select Board			
Salaries			
Energy			
Professional and Tech	330	330	330
Special Legal	6,000	6,000	6,000
Communication	1,200	7,940	7,940
Office Supplies Expense	300	300	300
In-State Travel	100	100	100
Dues and Membership	1,500	1,800	1,800
No. Midd. Council of Govt	4,800	4,800	4,800
SALARIES	-	**0**	**0**
EXPENSES	14,230	21,270	21,270
Total	***14,230***	***21,270***	***21,270***
Fincom			
Dues and Memberships	150	150	150
Reserve Account	30,000	30,000	30,000
Salary Reserve		10,000	10,000
Total	**30,150**	**40,150**	**40,150**
Accountant			
Accountant Salary			
Assistant Accountant Salary	28,311.00	28,874	28,874
Accountant Services	36,000	36,000	36,000
Annual Audit	16,000	18,000	18,000
Professional Tech	6,000	6,000	6,000
Office Supplies	750	500	500
In-State Travel	850.00	850	850
Dues and Membership	100.00	100	100
SALARIES	28,311	28,874	28,874
EXPENSES	59,700	61,450	61,450
Total	***88,011***	***90,324***	***90,324***
Assessors			
Salaries			
Principle Assessor Salary	34,991.00	35,693	35,693
Associate Assessor Salary	12,628.00	12,924	12,924
Professional and Technical	8,000.000	7,000	7,000
Prof & Tech Prop Review Assessment	9,000.000	8,000	8,000
Communication	125.00	0	0
Office Supplies	900.00	900	900
In-State Travel	500.00	500	500
Dues and Memberships	150.00	150	150
SALARIES	**47,619**	**48,617**	**48,617**
EXPENSES	18,675	16,550	16,550
Total	***66,294***	***65,167***	***65,167***
Treasurer			
Treasurer-Collector	30,999.00	54,670	54,670
Treasurer/Collector Certification			
Professional and Technical	18,700.000	19,000	19,000
Communication	6,500.00	6,500	6,500
Office Supplies	2,050.00	2,000	2,000
In-State Travel	600	600	600
Dues and Memberships	250.00	250	250
Other Bank Charges	490.00	490	490
Tax Title			
SALARIES	30,999	54,670	54,670
EXPENSES	28,590	28,840	28,840
Total	***59,589***	***83,510***	***83,510***
Town Counsel			
Professional and Technical	32,000	32,000	32,000
Dog Program			
Communication	200.00	200	200
Other Supplies	600.00	600	600
Total	800	800	800
Town Clerk			
Salary			
Town Clerk	20,839.00	21,256	21,256
Assistant Clerk	15,665.00	15,979	15,979
Temp Wages			

Department/Account		FY25	Groton Assessment FY26 Override	School Request FY26 Override
Certification				
Professional and Technical		700.00	700	700
Communication		300.00	100	100
Office Supplies		500.00	500	500
In-State Travel		300.00	300	300
Dues and Memberships		300.00	300	300
	SALARIES	36,504	37,235	37,235
	EXPENSES	2,100	1,900	1,900
Total		***38,604***	***39,135***	***39,135***
Elections				
Wages		3,000.00	3,000	3,000
Repairs and Maintenance		500.00	900	900
Professional and Tech		3,250.00	3,000	3,000
Communication		3,000.00	1,000	1,000
Other Supplies		1,500.00	1,100	1,100
	SALARIES	3,000	3,000	3,000
	EXPENSES	8,250	6,000	6,000
Total		***11,250***	***9,000***	***9,000***
Registrar				
Salary		$ 850	850	850
Conservation				
Clerical Wages		14,616.00	15,831	15,831
Professional and Technical		280.00	280	280
Communication		175.00	75	75
Office Supplies		225.00	225	225
Other Supplies		300.00	300	300
In-State Travel		70.00	70	70
Dues and Memberships		800.00	800	800
Other Expenses		150.00	150	150
	SALARIES	14,616	15,831	15,831
	EXPENSES	2,000	1,900	1,900
Total		***16,616***	***17,731***	***17,731***
Planning Board				
Clerical Wage		14,616.00	15,832	15,832
Professional and Tech		950	950	950
Communication		225	125	125
Office Supplies		225	225	225
	SALARIES	14,616	15,832	15,832
	EXPENSES	1,400	1,300	1,300
Total		***16,016***	***17,132***	***17,132***
Zoning Board				
Wages				
Professional & Technical		1,000.00	1,000	1,000
Office Supplies		500.00	500	500
	SALARIES	-	0	0
	EXPENSES	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total		***1,500***	***1,500***	***1,500***
Town Hall				
Clerical Wages				
Part Time Wages				
Janitor/Recycler Wages		5,394.00	5,500	5,500
Hall Energy		15,000.00	15,000	15,000
Non- Energy Utilities		8,500.00	8,500	8,500
Repairs and Maint.		9,420.00	9,420	9,420
Property Related Services		9,000.00	10,000	10,000
Professional and Tech		1,000	1,000	1,000
Communication		5,000	5,000	5,000
Office Supplies		2,000	2,000	2,000
Bldg Repair & Maintenance Supplies				
Custodial Housekeeping Supplies		530	530	530
	SALARIES	5,394	5,500	5,500
	EXPENSES	50,450	51,450	51,450
Total		***55,844***	***56,950***	***56,950***
Town Reports				
Communication		325.00	325	325
Other Services		2,700.00	2,000	2,000
Total		3,025	2,325	2,325
Town Engineer				
Engineering Services		10,000	8,000	8,000
Total		$ 10,000	8,000	8,000
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	***631,255.00***	***718,759***	***718,759***
	SALARIES	364,605.00	437,044	437,044
	EXPENSES	266,650.00	281,715	281,715
		631,255.00	718,759	718,759
		-	0	0
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police Department				
Chief Salary		136,595.00	139,282	139,282

Department/Account	FY25	Groton Assessment FY26 Override	School Request FY26 Override
Wages	$ 910,819	928,026	928,026
Energy	12,000.00	12,000	12,000
Maint and Repair Service	3,000.00	3,000	3,000
Cruiser Repairs and Maint.	10,000.00	10,000	10,000
Radio Repair & Maintain Service	15,450.00	15,450	15,450
Property Related Services	7,000.00	7,000	7,000
Professional & Tech (Training)	14,000.00	14,000	14,000
Tuition Reimbursement	2,700.00	2,700	2,700
Police Radio Communication/School Resource Officer	41,765.00	51,765	51,765
Communication (Phone)	4,000	4,000	4,000
Lockup	2,500	2,500	2,500
Office Supplies	3,500	3,500	3,500
Cruiser Supplies	29,000	29,000	29,000
Other Supplies	24,000	26,000	26,000
Dues and Memberships	13,500	13,500	13,500
Cruiser Cap Lease			
SALARIES	1,047,414	1,067,308	1,067,308
EXPENSES	182,415	194,415	194,415
Total	***1,229,829***	***1,261,723***	***1,261,723***
Fire Department			
Chief Salary	62,667.00	73,000	73,000
Wages Full Time (2) - New Line Item	106,080.00	106,080	106,080
Overtime	7,283.00		
Weekend 8-4 Scheduled Coverage (in station)			
Call Wages for Vacation/Holiday/Sick Coverage			
Call-In Wages	81,874.00	82,511	82,511
Wages, training	13,109.00	13,371	13,371
Station Coverage			
Energy	6,000.00	6,000	6,000
Water	3,000.00	3,000	3,000
Repairs and Maint Expense	15,000.00	16,500	16,500
Professional & Tech Services	2,000.00	2,000	2,000
Computer Repairs & Software Licenses	4,400.00	4,400	4,400
Communications	12,000.00	24,000	24,000
Office Supplies	1,500.00	1,500	1,500
Building Repairs and Maint	6,000.00	6,000	6,000
Vehicular Supplies	11,000.00	11,000	11,000
Firefighting Supplies	6,000.000	6,000	6,000
Custodial	750.00	750	750
Training	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
EMS Equipment & Supplies	6,000.00	6,000	6,000
Uniforms	500.00	500	500
Dues and Memberships	2,300.00	2,300	2,300
Personal Protective Equipment & Supp.	1,500	1,500	1,500
Rehab supplies			
Fire Department Equipment Replacement	12,000.00	12,000	12,000
Annual Testing	-		
Medical for new Hires	1,500.00	1,500	1,500
SALARIES	271,013	274,963	274,963
EXPENSES	92,450	105,950	105,950
Total	***363,463***	***380,913***	***380,913***
	$ 363,463	380,913	380,913
Inspectors			
Building Inspector Salary	27,380.00	27,928	27,928
Building Inspector Part-time Wages	5,000.00	5,000	5,000
Gas Inspector Salary	4,000	5,000	5,000
Plumbing Inspector Salary	4,000	5,000	5,000
Electrical Inspector Salary	12,000	12,000	12,000
Dog Officer Salary	11,000	11,000	11,000
Building Inspector Expense	1,500	1,500	1,500
Dog Officer Expense	2,000	1,000	1,000
SALARIES	63,380	65,928	65,928
EXPENSES	3,500	2,500	2,500
Total	***66,880***	***68,428***	***68,428***
Emergency Management			
Communications	1,500	1,500	1,500
Other Supplies	250	250	250
New Equipment	1,000	1,000	1,000
In-State Travel	150	150	150
Total	2,900	2,900	2,900
Tree Warden			
Other Property Service	22,000	22,000	22,000
Police Details	2,200	2,200	2,200
Public Works Supplies	85	85	85
Dues and Memberships	150	150	150
Total	$ 24,435	24,435	24,435
	$ 1,687,507	1,738,399	1,738,399
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	***1,687,507***	***1,738,399***	***1,738,399***
SALARIES	1,381,807	1,408,199	1,408,199
EXPENSES	305,700	330,200	330,200
	$ -	0	0
SCHOOLS			

Department/Account		FY25	Groton Assessment FY26 Override	School Request FY26 Override
GDRSD	*(GDRSD Operating + Capital)*	*8,177,586*	*8,531,016*	*8,822,894*
Operating		**$7,962,157**	**8,410,985**	**8,702,863**
Capital		86,733	83,607	83,607
Debt		128,696	36,424	36,424
GLRVTS	*(Operating and Debt)*			
Operating		149,536	168,133	168,133
		29,030	29,941	29,941
	TOTAL SCHOOLS	***8,356,152***	***8,729,090***	***9,020,968***
		$ 8,356,152	***8,729,090***	***9,020,968***
PUBLIC WORKS				
Highway Department				
Salary		295,944.00	306,071	306,071
Part-Time Wages		6,500.00	6,500	6,500
Clerical Wages		21,035.00	21,765	21,765
Overtime		8,000.00	8,000	8,000
Clothing		3,600.00	3,600	3,600
Energy		7,174	7,317	7,317
Repairs and Maint Service		49,000.00	55,000	55,000
Paving Service		45,500	45,500	45,500
Brush, Signs, Line Paint		30,000	30,000	30,000
Repairs and Maintain Building		10,000	10,000	10,000
Leases and Rentals		10,000	15,000	15,000
Mach. Professional and Tech		3,200	3,200	3,200
Communication		3,000.00	3,000	3,000
Supplies		900.00	900	900
Machinery Vehicular Supplies		37,500	37,500	37,500
Machinery Public Works Supplies		8,973	9,151	9,151
Basin Cleaning and Sweeping - MS4		10,000	10,200	10,200
Dues and Memberships		500.00	500	500
	SALARIES	331,479	342,336	342,336
	EXPENSES	219,347	230,868	230,868
Total		***550,826***	***573,204***	***573,204***
Snow Removal				
Wages		56,175	56,175	56,175
Repair and Maintenance Services		5,583	5,583	5,583
Plowing Outside Plow Companies		25,583	25,583	25,583
Professional and Technical				
Vehicular Supplies		6,090	6,090	6,090
Supplies Sand & Salt		192,454	192,454	192,454
	SALARIES	56,175	56,175	56,175
	EXPENSES	229,710	229,710	229,710
Total		***285,885***	***285,885***	***285,885***
Street Lights				
Energy		***11,000***	***11,000***	***11,000***
Transfer Station				
Wages				
Landfill Expense		15,000	15,000	15,000
Curbside trash pickup				
Professional and Technical		5,500	6,000	6,000
Other Services		2,000		
Other Supply			1,500	1,500
Rentals and Leases				
	SALARIES	-	0	0
	EXPENSES	22,500	22,500	22,500
Total		***22,500***	***22,500***	***22,500***
Cemetery				
Wages		15,000	15,000	15,000
Non-Energy Utilities(Water)		3,000	3,000	3,000
Repairs and Maint Services		3,000	3,000	3,000
Other Property Related Services		1,000	1,000	1,000
Build and Equip Repair Supplies		1,000	1,000	1,000
Grounds keeping Supplies		1,500	1,500	1,500
Other Supplies		1,100	1,100	1,100
	SALARIES	15,000	15,000	15,000
	EXPENSES	10,600	10,600	10,600
Total		***25,600***	***25,600***	***25,600***
		$ 895,811	918,189	918,189
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	***895,811***	***918,189***	***918,189***
	SALARIES	402,654	413,511	413,511
	EXPENSES	493,157	504,678	504,678
HUMAN SERVICES				
Board of Health				
Board of Health Wages		14,717.00	15,011	15,011

Department/Account		FY25	Groton Assessment FY26 Override	School Request FY26 Override
Nashoba Bd of Health Assm		12,049.00	13,254	13,254
Rentals and Leases		1,700.00	1,700	1,700
Communications		400.00	400	400
Supplies		400.00	400	400
Dues and Memberships		400.00	400	400
Town Nurse Assessment		5,471.00	6,018	6,018
Mental Health		2,000	2,000	2,000
TADS				
	SALARIES	14,717	15,011	15,011
	EXPENSES	22,420	24,172	24,172
Total		***37,137***	***39,183***	***39,183***
Council on Aging				
Council On Aging Wages		9,557.00	9,754	9,754
Council on Aging Bus		3,000.00	3,500	3,500
Council on Aging Office Supplies		250.00	250	250
COA Food and Service		2,500.00	3,000	3,000
Council on Aging In-St Travel		750.00	750	750
COA Dues and Memberships		500.00	500	500
	SALARIES	9,557	9,754	9,754
	EXPENSES	7,000	8,000	8,000
Total		***16,557***	***17,754***	***17,754***
Veterans Affairs				
Veterans Agent Salary		6,162.00	6,286	6,286
Expenses		4,472.00	3,700	3,700
Veterans Benefits		15,000.00	10,000	10,000
	SALARIES	6,162	6,286	6,286
	EXPENSES	19,472	13,700	13,700
Total		***25,634***	***19,986***	***19,986***
		$ 79,328	76,923	76,923
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	***79,328***	***76,923***	***76,923***
	SALARIES	30,436	31,051	31,051
	EXPENSES	48,892	45,872	45,872
LIBRARY, PARKS & RECREATION				
Library Operations				
Salaries and Wages		116,664.00	119,388	119,388
Energy		18,517.00	18,980	18,980
Non-Energy Utilities		2,213.00	2,268	2,268
Repairs and Maint		4,000.00	4,100	4,100
Other Pro Related Serv		2,685.00	2,752	2,752
Professional & Technical Services				
Communication		300.00	308	308
Office Supplies		1,300.00	1,333	1,333
Other Supplies		39,169.00	41,706	41,706
	SALARIES	116,664	119,388	119,388
	EXPENSES	68,184	71,447	71,447
Total		***184,848***	***190,835***	***190,835***
Library Consortium				
M.V.L. Consortium Dues		13,500.00	14,100	14,100
Technical Expenses				
Email Services		3,919	3,919	3,919
Web Domain Fee		400	400	400
Firewall		400	400	400
Web Hosting		2,620	2,620	2,620
Technician Services		24,835	24,835	24,835
Inspections Tablets		672	672	672
Desktop Replacements (3)		1,500	1,500	1,500
Cybersecurity				
Zoom				
Misc/Unanticipated		2,200	2,200	2,200
Online Maps/App Geo			2,500	2,500
Professional & Technical Services				
Other Supplies		1,000	1,000	1,000
Total		***37,546***	***40,046***	***40,046***
Recreation Department				
Rec. Other Purchased Service		***11,400.00***	***11,400***	***11,400***
Parks Department				
Energy Expense		2,500.00	2,500	2,500
Other Property Related Services		51,000.00	51,000	51,000
Other Purchased Services		9,000.00	9,000	9,000
Total		***62,500***	***62,500***	***62,500***
Memorial Day Committee				
Expenses		700.00	1,000	1,000
		310,494.00	319,881	319,881
	TOTAL LIBRARY & RECREATION	***310,494.00***	***319,881***	***319,881***

Department/Account	FY25	Groton Assessment FY26 Override	School Request FY26 Override	
SALARIES	116,664.00	119,388	119,388	
EXPENSES	193,830.00	200,493	200,493	
DEBT & INTEREST				
Long Term Principal				
Long Term Principal	$ 137,878	131,903	131,903	
Long Term Interest				
Long Term Interest	37,974.70	31,878	31,878	
Temporary Loan Interest				
Temporary Loan Interest	3,774.00	3,774	3,774	
TOTAL DEBT & INTEREST	179,627	167,555	167,555	
INSURANCE & ASSESSMENTS				
County Retirement				
County Retirement System	386,855	479,749	479,749	
Group Health Insurance - 914				
Group Health Insurance	394,929	394,929	394,929	
Unemployment Account				
Unemployment				
FICA Town Share				
Medicare Town Share	37,638	37,638	37,638	
Bldg./Vehicle Liab. Ins/Workers Compensation, Etc				
Bldg./Vehicle Liab. Ins.	148,152	150,152	150,152	
TOTAL INSURANCE & ASSESSMENTS	967,574	1,062,468	1,062,468	
Total Budget	**13,107,748**	**13,731,264**	**14,023,142**	
	$ 13,107,748	$ 13,731,264	$ 14,023,142	
Municipal Salaries	2,296,166	2,409,193	2,409,193	4.92%
Municipal Operations	1,308,229	1,362,958	1,362,958	4.18%
Insurance & Assessments	967,574	1,062,468	1,062,468	9.81%
Municipal Operations - TOTAL	4,571,969	4,834,619	4,834,619	5.74%
Municipal Debt & Interest	179,627	167,555	167,555	-6.72%
Town Operations & Debt - TOTAL	4,751,596	5,002,174	5,002,174	5.27%
Schools - Operations	8,198,426	8,662,725	8,954,603	9.22%
Schools - Debt & Interest	157,726	66,365	66,365	-57.92%
Schools Operations & Debt - TOTAL	8,356,152	8,729,090	9,020,968	7.96%
Total Budget for the Fiscal Year	13,107,748	13,731,264	14,023,142	6.98%
Check				

Town Meeting and Election Schedule

Tuesday, April 15	Select Board meeting: Place a question on the ballot of the Annual Town Election (May 20) and Special Town Election (June 10 tentative)	The Town will need to plan for 2 override elections. To provide the Town sufficient time, on April 15, the Select Board should consider approving both ballot questions, and calling a Special Town Election on June 10. One ballot question will be for a level service school budget (May 20) and one to match the Groton assessment (June 10).
Monday, May 12	Annual Town Meeting	At Annual Town Meeting, the Town could consider presenting two budgets - both override budgets.
Monday, May 20	Annual Town Election	Annual Town Election could include a ballot question to approve an override to fund the level service GDRSD budget.
Tuesday, June 10	Special Town Election	If the override request to provide a level service budget to GDRSD fails, this election could include a ballot question with a smaller override request to match the Groton Assessment.
Wed, June 11	Select Board Meeting	If both override requests fail, the Select Board could schedule a meeting the day after the election and call for a Special Town Meeting on June 26
Thurs, June 12	Post Special Town Meeting Warrant	Warrant must be posted two weeks in advance of a Special Town Meeting
Thurs, June 26	Special Town Meeting	Warrant would include one article - adopting a balanced FY26 Budget

FY26 BUDGET

Community Engagement Plan

**Kitchen Conversations and PTO meetings will complement this schedule*