

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes

Monday, June 2, 2025

Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. with 54 registered voters and 6 guests in attendance.

A moment of silence was held for residents who passed since our last town meeting.

ARTICLE 1: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to accept the results of the Annual Town Election held on May 5, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to nominate the following:

I nominate David Thompson as Measurer of Bark & Wood.

I nominate David Thompson as Measurer of Lumber.

I nominate the Rutland Animal Control Officer as Pound Keeper.

I nominate Brenda Wisnewski as director of Extension Service.

I nominate Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department to be Field Drivers.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 3. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to accept the reports of the several Town Officers and Committees as written in the Town of New Braintree Annual Report of Officers and Committees.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 4. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for Appointed Officers' Salaries, General Government, Town Finances, Protection of Persons and Property, Highway Related Expenses, Insurance, Debt & Interest, Schools and Assessments as follows and is shown in the omnibus budget provided this evening and as modified by the supplemental budget handout.

Section A: APPOINTED OFFICERS SALARIES:

A-1	Animal Inspector - C	0
A-2	Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden - C	23,000.00
A-3	Register of Voter's Clerk - C	250.00
A-4	Veteran's Agent - C	200.00
	Sub-Total A:	\$23,450.00

Motion carried unanimously

Section B: GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

B-1	Selectmen's Expense	1,800.00
B-3	Select Board Executive Secretary	57,680.00
B-4	Legal Fees	15,000.00
B-5	Printing Expense	500.00
B-6	Care of Clock and Bell	5.00
B-7	Town Hall/Library Oper. & Maint.	30,000.00
B-8	Town Hall O & M Payroll	3,900.00
B-9	Maintenance of Town Garage	27,000.00
B-10	Board of Appeals Expense	200.00
B-11	Council On Aging Expense	600.00
B-12	COA Transportation Expense	5.00

B-13	Conservation Commission Expense	1,020.00
B-14	Historical Commission	350.00
B-15	Agricultural Commission	100.00
B-16	Veteran's Agent Expense	200.00
B-17	Veteran's Relief	100.00
B-18	Board of Health Expense	300.00
B-19	Planning Board Expense	100.00
B-20	Moderator's Expense	10.00
B-21	Town Clerk's Expense	1,000.00
B-22	Elections & Registration	1,250.00
B-23	Elections & Registrations Payroll	3,000.00
B-24	Town Common Land & Cemeteries	15,000.00
B-25	Library Expenses	13,183.00
B-26	Library Payroll	12,666.00
B-27	Recycling	0
B-28	Web Site/Technology	15,000.00
B-29	Town Historian	100.00
B-30	Animal Control Expenses	3,700.00
	Sub-Total B:	\$203,769.00

Motion carries

Section C: FINANCIAL:

C-1	Assessors' Expense	14,210.00
C-2	Payroll for Assessor's Employees	33,600.00
C-3	Assessor's Re-Certification	2,000.00
C-4	Assessor's Comm. Legal Fees	0
C-5	Auditor's Expense	500.00
C-6	Finance Committee Expense	10.00
C-7	Fin. Comm. Reserve Fund	12,000.00
C-8	Tax Collector Expense	9,000.00
C-9	Treasurer's Expense	6,660.00
	Sub-Total C:	\$77,980.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section D: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY:

D-1	Civil Defense (MEMPA)	1,350.00
D-2	Equipment Fuel Expense - Diesel	12,500.00
D-3	Equipment Fuel Expense - Gasoline	20,000.00
D-4	Fire Department Expense	65,000.00
D-5	Fire Department Labor & Training	45,000.00
D-6	Forest Fire Equipment	2,200.00
D-7	Police Department Expense	47,250.00
D-8	Police Department Labor	198,940.00
D-9	Communications	11,000.00
D-10	Street Lights	600.00
D-11	Alarm/Security System	2,000.00
D-12	Emergency Services	10,500.00
	Sub-Total D:	\$416,340.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section E: HIGHWAY EXPENSE:

E-1	Highway Labor	215,000.00
E-2	Highway Expenses	55,000.00
E-3	Road Materials	45,000.00
E-4	Road Materials - Winter	42,500.00
	Sub-Total E:	\$357,500.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section F: INSURANCE:

F-1	Health Insurance	81,000.00
F-2	Insurance (P & C)	58,000.00
	Sub-Total F:	\$139,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section G: DEBT & INTEREST:

G-1	Temporary Loan Expense	0
G-2	Int. & Exp. Temporary Loans	\$3,000.00
G-3	<i>*Debt on Fire Truck</i>	0
G-4	Interest on Debt Exclusion	\$4,395.00
G-5	<i>*Debt Exclusion Air Packs</i>	0
G-6	<i>*Debt Exclusion Town Hall</i>	103,000.00
G-7	<i>*Debt on Broadband</i>	0
	Sub-Total G:	\$110,395.00

Motion carried unanimously

Sec. H-1 SCHOOL ASSESSMENT I:

H-1	Pathfinder Vocational	181,735.00
-----	-----------------------	------------

Motion carried unanimously

Sec. H2 – H4 SCHOOL ASSESSMENT II:

H-2	Quabbin Regional	1,453,819.00
H-3	Quabbin/Debt & Interest	7,915.00
	Subtotal H-2 & H-3	\$1,461,734.00
H-4	Out of District Tuition	0
H-5	Out of District Transportation	0
	Sub-Total H:	\$1,643,469.00

Motion carries

Section J: ASSESSMENTS:

J-1	CMR Planning	323.00
J-2	Medicare Tax	7,600.00
J-3	Unemployment Insurance	600.00
J-4	Worcester County Retirement	79,033.00
	TOTAL	\$87,556.00

Motion carried unanimously.

TOTAL ARTICLE 4: \$3,059,459.00

ARTICLE 5. Motion made and seconded that the town vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the town as follows:

ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES:

Selectman #1	500.00
Selectman #2	450.00
Selectman #3	450.00
Assessor #1	235.00
Assessor #2	210.00
Assessor #3	210.00
Auditor	26,025.00
Tax Collector	12,485.00
Treasurer	12,485.00
Moderator	150.00
Town Clerk	12,485.00

Motion carries

TOTAL ARTICLE 5: \$65,685.00

TOTAL ARTICLES 4 & 5: \$3,125,144.00

ARTICLE 6. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint one or more of their membership to work for additional compensation to be paid from an Assessor's Clerical Expense Account.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 7. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 17.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 8. Motion made and seconded that the Town to vote to authorize the Library Board of Trustees to retain all monies received for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, by the Town Treasurer under Chapter 78 of the M.G.L. (State Aid to Libraries) and any other unexpected source, said sums to be held over and carried forward for the general use of the Library.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 9. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2026 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2026 Spending Limit
Conservation Commission	\$ 5,000.00
Parks and Recreation Commission	\$10,000.00
Inspection Services	\$25,000.00
Board of Health	\$10,000.00
Town Hall Committee	\$ 5,000.00
Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 5,000.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 4,000.00
Planning Board	\$ 7,500.00

Motion carried unanimously

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
Town Clerk