



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 04, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Town Hall - Chapin Hall- Second Floor- 41 South Main Street
Randolph, MA 02368

AGENDA

This is a hybrid meeting. The public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access. This meeting is being posted pursuant to the state statute authorizing temporary remote participation as described here:<https://www.randolphma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1864/remotemeetings23>

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86495385600>

Or One tap mobile: +13017158592, 86495385600#

Or Dial: +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 864 9538 5600

Please note that this Town Council Meeting will be video and audio recorded and will be broadcast, including over local cable and the internet. Any person, upon entering a council meeting or hearing for any purpose, including the purpose of participating, viewing, listening or testifying, grants permission to the Town Council to record and televise or otherwise publish their presence and testimony. Public comments shall only be provided in person and shall not be provided remotely.

A. Call to Order - Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance (Led by Troop 47)

B. Moment of Silent Prayer

C. Approval of Minutes

- [1.](#) Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2026

D. Announcements from the President

E. Presentations

- RHS Color Guard

F. Public Hearings

G. Public Comments/Discussions

Public comments shall only be provided in person and shall not be provided remotely.

H. Proclamations

I. Appointments

J. Motions, Orders, and Resolutions

K. Old/Unfinished Business

1. Council Order 2026-017: Amendment To Town Council Rules Section 27 Pertaining to Public Comments/Discussion and Public Hearings (Continued from April 27, 2026 Meeting)

L. New Business

1. Council Order 2026-034: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash to Overlay in the Amount of \$350,000 (Same Night Action)
2. Council Order 2026-035: Transfer of Water/Sewer Retained Earnings for Joint Water Board Operations in the Amount of \$100,000 (Same Night Action)
3. Council Order 2026-036: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash to Establish and Fund an Energy Resiliency Fund (Same Night Action)

M. Town Manager's Report

N. Correspondence

O. Committee Reports

P. Open Council Comments

Q. Adjournment

Notification of Upcoming Meeting Dates

May 11 and 18- May 11 is Joint with the School Committee

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

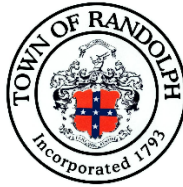
August 10 and 24- August 10 Regular Meeting and Joint with the School Committee

September 14 and 28

October 5 and 19

November 2 and 23

December 7- Regular Meeting and Joint with the School Committee



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:05 p.m.

Randolph Town Hall-Chapin Hall 2nd Floor

This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access.

Call to Order: Council President Ryan Egan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (Via Zoom), James F. Burgess Jr. (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (Via Zoom), Ryan Egan (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (Via Zoom). Katrina Huff-Larmond arrived after roll call.

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Gordon.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting minutes of April 13, 2026 made by Councilor Alexopoulos, seconded by Vice Councilor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent at Vote: Huff-Larmond and O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President: None

Presentations: None

Public Hearings: None

Public Comments: None

Councilor Huff-Larmond arrived in person at 6:09PM

Proclamations:

- 1. RHS Color Guard
 - a. This proclamation is for their second win at NESBA.

Motion: Motion to approve the proclamation to the Randolph High School Color Guard made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-1 (Abstention: Huff-Larmond; Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Appointments:

1. Review of Randolph Republican Town Committee (RDTC) Submission of Members for Consideration to Serve on the Board of Registrars and Appointment of Registrars
 - a. The Board of Registrars meet, they supplied the nominations for the Republican registrar for Town Council to review.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to appoint James Buiel as the Republican Registrar. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

2. Appointment of Nina Smith to the Disability Commission
 - a. The appointment of Nina Smith has been recommended by the Town Manager. Mrs. Smith’s resume was attached to the packet for the Council to review.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to appoint Nina Smith to the Disability Commission. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Motions, Orders, and Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2026-003: Budget Resolution on the Will of the Council on the DPW Budget (Referred back from Resolutions and Proclamations Subcommittee on April 22, 2026)
 - a. President Egan gave the floor to the Sponsor of the Resolutions which is Councilor Gordon.
 - b. Councilor Gordon spoke on this resolution which is to increase the DPW staff for the purpose of town park/ trails clean up and maintenance. Councilor Gordon stated that the Resolutions and Proclamations subcommittee met and voted to bring this back to the Council for discussion.
 - c. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked for the Town Managers input. Town Manager Howard would use caution adding to the budget since we have been using free cash to cover the budget. Councilor Huff-Larmond stated the position would be helpful but could we maintain it?
 - d. Councilor Clerger reiterated what the Town Manager Howard stated with the budget concerns.
 - e. Councilor Thompson asked about the total cost of a full time employee besides the salary. Town Manager Howard added that the town has a generous benefits package and the cost is much more than just a salary.
 - f. Councilor Gordon rebutted that Council Order 2026-027 (voted last meeting) used funds from free cash to fund overtime expenses for park cleanup. This position would be used for the same tasks. Town Manager Howard clarified that those funds were not just used for park maintenance and cleanup but also to clean up after the hard winter we had.
 - g. Councilor Burgess defined a resolution. Also stated that these resolutions do not dictate what is in the budget. Councilor Burgess does not want this to be precedent setting and believes we need to be fiscally responsible.
 - h. Councilor Gordon says the goal of these resolutions is to prioritize budget items.

- i. Councilor Alexopoulos asked if Councilor Gordon has spoken with the Town Manager on his budget requests.

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos motioned to call the question, seconded by Councilor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 4-3-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Thompson; Nays: Clerger, Gordon, Huff-Larmond; Abstention: Egan, Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to table Resolution 2026-003, seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 5-2-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Egan, Thompson; Nays: Gordon, Huff-Larmond; Abstention: Clerger; Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

- 2. Resolution 2026-004: Budget Resolution on the Will of the Council on the RICC Budget (Referred back from Resolutions and Proclamations Subcommittee on April 22, 2026)
 - a. President Egan gave the floor to the sponsor for introduction on the Resolution.
 - b. Councilor Gordon would like to have the hours extended at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. Stating that many nights at 8 p.m. there are still kids there using the center.
 - c. Councilor Huff-Larmond recommended that the RICC programming be discussed at the Appointments, Operations and Oversight first for discussion on how the money will be spent.
 - d. Councilor Thompson reiterated that his recollection of the subcommittee meeting was to discuss RICC happenings/programs with the new Director of Community Programs.
 - e. Councilor Clerger replied to Councilor Gordon saying that 8 p.m. is late and kids should be home. Councilor Clerger reminded that the RICC is not producing any money so to add for funding for the RICC will stretch the tax payers money.
 - f. Councilor Brewer does not believe that we can take on any additional hours unless we start charging membership fees.

Motion: Councilor Gordon motioned to approve Resolution 2026-004. This motion was seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond. Under Roberts Rules a motion to table takes precedence over a motion to approve.

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to table Resolution 2026-004. This motion was seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clever, Egan, Thompson; Nays: Gordon and Huff-Larmond; Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- 1. Council Order 2026-017: Amendment To Town Council Rules Section 27 Pertaining to Public Comments/Discussion and Public Hearings (Refer back from Zoning and Ordinance Committee on March 24, 2026)
 - a. Town Attorney Griffin added before discussion that attached to Council Order 2026-017 is 2026-017A which has a correction of “Section 13” to ‘Section 27’.
 - b. Councilor Gordon would like to create a method for residents to ask the Council questions during the meetings. Some of the concepts in the order such as a sign in sheet at the podium have been implemented and this would codify that.
 - c. Councilor Burgess stated that Zoning and Ordinance met and has amended the order by changing the text in its entirety. Councilor Burgess read the recommended amendment into the record.

Motion: Councilor Burgess moved to amend the Town Council Rules on Public Comments, Discussions and Public Hearings by striking in its entirety Section 27 and replacing it with the following:
“SECTION 27: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DELIBERATIONS The purpose of the section is to provide rules of public participation at town council meetings that allow for the council to conduct the business of the town in an orderly and efficient manner while protecting the vital tradition of commentary and feedback by the public The Open Meeting Law grants the public the right to attend any meeting of a public body except an executive session. An individual in attendance may not address the public body without the permission of the Chair. Section 1: Public Comments During the portion of the meeting that calls for public comment the public May comment on any topic or ask a question of the council or its government Section 2: Agenda Items During the meeting, the public at the discretion of the president may ask a question or comment on the topic being currently debated Section 3: Public Hearings During a public hearing the public may make comments or ask a question on the matter that the public hearing addresses. Section 4: Participation The public shall sign in the book named “Resident Inquiries” at the podium with their name, address and question or topic. This should be done prior to or during that section of the meeting they wish to participate in. The person shall sign and write their name, address, and questions even if they do not wish to speak at the meeting. Section 5: The President In all circumstances, the public has a right to expect an answer, if one is available from their government. To that end, the President may answer the speaker or may choose to recognize a district councilor and/or councilors to respond or may choose to have the question answered at a later date by staff. Section 6: Attendance The public in the case of agenda items and public comment shall be in person at the meeting. Public hearings may be done in person or remotely. Any person upon entering the council meeting by physical attendance or virtually, 27 Section K, Item 1. grants permission to the town council to record and disseminate their presence and testimony at the meeting. The Chair may, in the Chair’s discretion and upon request, allow a group representative more time to speak in order to avoid repetitive comments from multiple speakers and aid in the efficient conduct of the meeting. Nothing in this Section shall prevent the Town Council from inviting individuals to speak to the Council on a particular topic of interest to the Council or for the length of time. Anyone who reads from a document, displays an exhibit shall file a copy with the Town Council Clerk. All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Council as a whole through the President and not to any member thereof. No person other than members of the Council and the person having the floor shall enter into discussion either directly or through a member of the Council without permission of the presiding officer. No one shall use the council meetings for the purpose of: 1. To promote or oppose any candidate running for office 2. For the purposes relating to an election 3. To advertise for private commercial purposes or private monetary gain 4. to engage in illegal conduct 5. To use threatening language or to engage in the use of fighting words, threats of violence or other speech At the meeting anyone making out of order comments or acting in an unruly manner shall be subjected to removal from the meeting at the call of the President. No signs or banners of any kind shall be displayed in the council chamber. No demonstration of approval or disapproval from members of the public will be permitted (including, but not limited to cheering, clapping, booing, etc.), and if such demonstrations are made the gallery may be cleared upon instruction of the Council President. Public comments may also be provided to the council by providing them in writing to the council clerk by hand or by mail or email. Members of the public seeking reasonable accommodation to gain access to the meeting; contact the Council Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting”.

- d. Councilor Clerger asked if this motion allows for back and forth with the residents. Councilor Gordon says that this would just allow for the Council to provide an answer. Councilor Clerger is concerned that this will increase the meeting lengths. Councilor Clerger mentions that we can be reached via email and phone by residents to answer questions.

- e. Councilor Burgess reminded the Council that conversations that happen out of the meeting can not be documented or filed as a public record. Councilor Clerger is hesitant to allow this considering not every resident will get an answer only some.
- f. Councilor Alexopoulos is concerned with potential issues this amendment can cause. He believes the staff is handling inquiries from residents.

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos motioned to table Council Order 2026-017. This motion was seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 4-3-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Egan, Huff-Larmond; Nays: Gordon, Burgess, Thompson; Abstention: Clerger; Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2026-030: Authorization and Approval for New Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Town of Randolph, Massachusetts and New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Local 18 (Patrol Officers) (“Union”)
 - a. The Town Manager presented a three contract to the Town Council to vote on, he stated both Patrol and Superior contracts were similar. The COLA is 0%, 2.5%, 2.5% for each of the three years. A drug and alcohol policy was added and the sick leave policy was updated. Thanked the Union for having great conversation during negotiations. As well as gave thanks to the labor counsel and the Chief.
 - b. Town Manager Howard mentioned that the promotion process was adjusted as well- which allows for a more robust process with promotions.
 - c. Councilor Burgess asked about the POST percentage and the administration fee with the detail rate. Town Manager Howard stated that as the detail rate goes up so does the percentage that is paid to the town.
 - d. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked about lateral transfers. Town Manager Howard stated that it is rare to see high level lateral transfers. Police Chief Marag stated that this new hybrid program is only for entry level officers starting with the Town of Randolph.

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos moved to approve Council Order 2026-032, seconded by Councilor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2026-031: Authorization and Approval For New Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement By and Between The Town of Randolph, Massachusetts and New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Local 34 (“Superior Officers’ Union”)
 - a. The Town Manager went over both contracts at the same time. The superior contract has a senior officer and education component to the contracts.

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos moved to approve Council Order 2026-032, seconded by Councilor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

3. Council Order 2026-032: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for Emergency Mechanical Repairs at Stetson Hall

- a. Town Manager Howard started the introduction of the Council Order and then had Interim Assistant Town Manager Kevin Dumas go into detail.
- b. Stetson Hall’s boiler and chilled had failed and are in need of repairs.
- c. Assistant Town Manager Dumas stated that the Town recently entered into a maintenance agreement with MTech to help with building preventative maintenance.
- d. Councilor Burgess asked about the possible cause of the failure.
- e. Councilor Clerger thanked Interim Assistant Town Manager Dumas for his work that he is doing around town.
- f. Councilor Thompson asked for a maintenance plan for our municipal buildings.

Motion: Councilor Burgess moved to approve Council Order 2026-032, seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.
 Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

- 4. Council Order 2026-033: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash to Fund Financial Consultants (CLA)
 - a. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order which is to pay invoices to cover the cost of the financial firm the town is using. The Town is currently without a Town Accountant.
 - b. Councilor Burgess asked Town Manager Howard if he will need an extension on the Budget. Town Manager Howard planned to ask for an extension during his Town Managers report.

Motion: Councilor Alexopoulos moved to approve Council Order 2026-033 and also to approve an extension of two weeks for the Town Manager to meet the budget section of the Charter for the Town Manager to submit a budget to the Town Council. Extension is until May 15, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Burgess.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Town Manager’s Report:

- 1. Had the opportunity to attend Hartley’s Grand Opening. It was a great turnout and the owners have done a wonderful job renovating the facility. We wish them great success in Randolph.
- 2. The Sickie Cell Event was great, given the heat issue at Stetson Hall. This symposium consisted of many healthcare officials and members of the Red Cross. This event was recorded and can be watched on RCTV (Randolph Community Television).
- 3. Councilor Huff-Larmond thanked Town Manager Howard for getting some pot holes filled.

Correspondence: None

Subcommittee Reports:

Motion: Councilor Burgess motioned to take Council Order 2026-017 off the table. This motion was seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 4-3-1 (Yays: Thompson, Huff-Larmond, Gordon, Burgess; Nays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Egan; Abstention: Clerger)

Motion passes.

This order will be placed on the next Town Council Agenda.

Council Comments:

1. Councilor Huff-Larmond thanked all involved and attendees of the Sickle Cell Symposium. It was a great event even though there were heat issues at Stetson Hall. A mental health summit will take place at the RICC on May 2nd at 1 pm. The DEI is working on increasing community engagement as well as a Pride Event. Councilor Huff-Larmond has started working on the summer internship program and will provide more information soon.
2. Councilor Thompson: Red Sox v Yankees trip through the RICC was a success even though they lost. Councilor Thompson stated that the weather is warming up and he is seeing more residents out and about. He looks forward to speaking with residents.
3. Councilor Alexopoulos congratulated Hartley's on their grand opening. There is a mini Greek Festival this weekend at 547 Oak Street in Brockton.
4. Councilor Burgess mentioned there is a new traffic calming measure in town.
5. Councilor Gordon plans to take his resolutions off the table at the next meeting. Randolph Democrats are meeting May 7th in the Lincoln room in Town Hall. May 14th at 6:30, the Randolph Foundation for Education is meeting. The fundraiser for the Randolph band last weekend was a success.
6. Councilor Clerger mentioned that Ayanna Pressley supported the extension of the TPS for Haitians. May 18th is Haitian Flag day, the flag will be risen at 10 am; at Town Hall. Councilor Clerger welcomes Hartley's to town. May 16th there will be a mental health event, more information to follow.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Clerger and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0

Meeting adjourned.

The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Notification of Upcoming Council Meetings:

- May 4 and 18
- June 8 and 22
- July 13 and 27
- August 10 and 24
- September 14 and 28
- October 5 and 19
- November 2 and 23
- December 7

Council Order: 2026-017

**Introduced by: Councilor Gordon
March 9, 2026**

**Amendment To Town Council Rules Section 27
Pertaining to Public Comments/Discussion and Public Hearings**

To see if the Randolph Town Council will amend Section 27 of the “Town Council of Town of Randolph Rules Manual” (“Rules Manual”) pertaining to Public Comments/Discussion and Public Hearings, as follows:

1. Delete the portion of Section 13 that reads as follows:

During “Public Comments/Discussion”, the public may comment on any topic. During the public comments portion of a public hearing, the public may comment only on the topic of that public hearing. The Council may change the order of items on an agenda during a meeting to promote the efficient business of the Council. “Public Comments/Discussion” shall occur as early as feasible at each meeting where it is on the agenda.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" for general comments must be in person, and may be on any topic, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" are also welcomed during hearings, but the comments must pertain to the topic of the hearing, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" for general comments shall occur as early as possible in Town Council meetings. If a hearing is scheduled early in the Town Council meeting, "Public Comments" may begin and then be interrupted for the legal opening of the hearing, and then continued as soon as possible.

2. Delete the portion of Section 13 that reads as follows:

Unless otherwise required by law, during both the Public Comments/Discussion portion of a meeting and during the public comments portion of any public hearing, each person requesting to make a public comment/discussion or to speak at a public hearing may be recognized by the President, and shall state his/her name and address for the record. Public comment at meetings and at public hearings will be limited to three (3) minutes for each individual speaking. No speaker may yield to another speaker without the permission of the Chair.

The Chair may, in the Chair’s discretion and upon request, allow a group representative more time to speak in order to avoid repetitive comments from multiple speakers and aid in the efficient conduct of the meeting.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" for general comments must be in person, and may be on any topic, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" are also welcomed during hearings, but the comments must pertain to the topic of the hearing, for up to 3 minutes.

3. Delete the portion of Section 13 that reads as follows:

All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Council as a whole through the President and not to any member thereof. No person other than members of the Council and the person having the floor shall enter into discussion either directly or through a member of the Council without permission of the presiding officer.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" may include questions to the Councilors or Town Manager or Town staff, and answers may be provided, and the questioner may follow up, within the allotted three minutes.

4. Delete the portion of Section 13 that reads as follows:

No Councilor shall speak during Public Comments/Discussion without being recognized by the President and no Councilor shall make Public Comments/Discussion during this portion of the meeting.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" may include questions to the Councilors or Town Manager or Town staff, and answers may be provided, and the questioner may follow up, within the allotted three minutes.

5. Delete the portion of Section 13 that reads as follows concerning Public Comments:

So long as it is permitted under the Open Meeting Law and other applicable law, the Council President may decide, on a meeting to meeting basis, whether Public Comments/Discussion will be permitted only virtually, only in person, or both. The agenda for each meeting that contains a Public Comments/Discussion agenda item shall indicate how Public Comments/Discussion shall be made by the public at that meeting.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" during hearings may include virtual attendees.

Council Order: 2026-017A

**Introduced by: Councilor Gordon
March 9, 2026**

**Amendment To Town Council Rules Section 27
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Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" for general comments must be in person, and may be on any topic, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" are also welcomed during hearings, but the comments must pertain to the topic of the hearing, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" for general comments shall occur as early as possible in Town Council meetings. If a hearing is scheduled early in the Town Council meeting, "Public Comments" may begin and then be interrupted for the legal opening of the hearing, and then continued as soon as possible.

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The Chair may, in the Chair’s discretion and upon request, allow a group representative more time to speak in order to avoid repetitive comments from multiple speakers and aid in the efficient conduct of the meeting.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" for general comments must be in person, and may be on any topic, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" are also welcomed during hearings, but the comments must pertain to the topic of the hearing, for up to 3 minutes.

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Replace that portion with the following:

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Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" may include questions to the Councilors or Town Manager or Town staff, and answers may be provided, and the questioner may follow up, within the allotted three minutes.

5. Delete the portion of Section 27 that reads as follows concerning Public Comments:

So long as it is permitted under the Open Meeting Law and other applicable law, the Council President may decide, on a meeting to meeting basis, whether Public Comments/Discussion will be permitted only virtually, only in person, or both. The agenda for each meeting that contains a Public Comments/Discussion agenda item shall indicate how Public Comments/Discussion shall be made by the public at that meeting.

Replace that portion with the following:

"Public Comments" during hearings may include virtual attendees.

**REDLINE SHOWING PROPOSED CHANGES TO
TOWN COUNCIL RULE SECTION 27**

**SECTION 27: PUBLIC COMMENTS/DISCUSSION AND
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The purpose of this Section is to provide rules of public participation at Town Council Meetings that allow for the Council to conduct the business of the Town in an orderly and efficient manner, while protecting the vital tradition of commentary and feedback by the public.

The Open Meeting Law grants the public the right to attend any meeting of a public body except an executive session. An individual in attendance may not address the public body without the permission of the Chair. Ordinarily, public comment and participation will be permitted only:

1. If “Public Comments/Discussion” is on the agenda, during that portion of the agenda; or
2. During the public comments portion of any public hearing.

~~During “Public Comments/Discussion”, the public may comment on any topic. During the public comments portion of a public hearing, the public may comment only on the topic of that public hearing. The Council may change the order of items on an agenda during a meeting to promote the efficient business of the Council. “Public Comments/Discussion” shall occur as early as feasible at each meeting where it is on the agenda.~~

“Public Comments” for general comments must be in person, and may be on any topic, for up to 3 minutes. “Public Comments” are also welcomed during hearings, but the comments must pertain to the topic of the hearing, for up to 3 minutes. “Public Comments” for general comments shall occur as early as possible in Town Council meetings. If a hearing is scheduled early in the Town Council meeting, “Public Comments” may begin and then be interrupted for the legal opening of the hearing, and then continued as soon as possible.

Any person, upon entering a Council meeting or hearing for the purpose of participating, viewing, listening or testifying, grants permission to the Town Council to record and televise or otherwise publish their presence and testimony.

~~Unless otherwise required by law, during both the Public Comments/Discussion portion of a meeting and during the public comments portion of any public hearing, each person requesting to make a public comment/discussion or to speak at a public hearing may be recognized by the President, and shall state his/her name and address for the record. Public comment at meetings and at public hearings will be limited to three (3) minutes for each individual speaking. No speaker may yield to another speaker without the permission of the Chair.~~

~~The Chair may, in the Chair's discretion and upon request, allow a group representative more time to speak in order to avoid repetitive comments from multiple speakers and aid in the efficient conduct of the meeting.~~

"Public Comments" for general comments must be in person, and may be on any topic, for up to 3 minutes. "Public Comments" are also welcomed during hearings, but the comments must pertain to the topic of the hearing, for up to 3 minutes.

Any speaker who reads from a document or displays an exhibit to the Council must leave a copy with the Council Clerk to be filed with the minutes of the meeting.

~~All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Council as a whole through the President and not to any member thereof. No person other than members of the Council and the person having the floor shall enter into discussion either directly or through a member of the Council without permission of the presiding officer.~~

"Public Comments" may include questions to the Councilors or Town Manager or Town staff, and answers may be provided, and the questioner may follow up, within the allotted three minutes.

Public Comments/Discussion:

The Chair will determine the duration of the Public Comment/Discussion period of the agenda. The duration of the Public Comment/Discussion period will ordinarily not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

~~No Councilor shall speak during Public Comments/Discussion without being recognized by the President and no Councilor shall make Public Comments/Discussion during this portion of the meeting.~~

"Public Comments" may include questions to the Councilors or Town Manager or Town staff, and answers may be provided, and the questioner may follow up, within the allotted three minutes.

Participants in the Public Comments/Discussion portion of a meeting or in the public comment portion of a public hearing shall not use Public Comments/Discussion or the public hearing:

1. To promote or oppose any candidate running for office.
2. For political purposes relating to an election.
3. To advertise for private commercial purposes or private monetary gain.
4. To engage in illegal conduct.
5. To use threatening language or to engage in the use of fighting words. Threats of violence, or other speech likely to provoke a violent reaction, are prohibited and the Chair may issue a warning or order the dismissal of the speaker.

Conduct of the Meeting:

Anyone making out of order comments or acting in an unruly manner shall be subject to removal from the meeting at the call of the President.

No signs, placards or banners of any kind shall be displayed in the Council Chamber by any member of the public at any time during a meeting.

No demonstration of approval or disapproval from members of the public will be permitted (including, but not limited to cheering, clapping, booing, etc.) during any portion of a meeting unless specifically invited by the Council President, and if such demonstrations are made, the gallery or public seating area may be cleared upon the instruction of the Council President.

Nothing in this Section shall prevent the Town Council from inviting individuals to speak to the Council on a particular topic of interest to the Council.

~~So long as it is permitted under the Open Meeting Law and other applicable law, the Council President may decide, on a meeting to meeting basis, whether Public Comments/Discussion will be permitted only virtually, only in person, or both. The agenda for each meeting that contains a Public Comments/Discussion agenda item shall indicate how Public Comments/Discussion shall be made by the public at that meeting.~~

"Public Comments" during hearings may include virtual attendees.

Public comments may also be provided to the Council by providing them in writing to the Council Clerk, by hand, by mail or by email.

Any member of the public seeking a reasonable accommodation to assist in gaining access to a meeting should contact the Town Clerk or the Town Council Clerk at least 24 business hours in advance of the meeting.

Zoning and Ordinance Subcommittee recommends to move to amend the Town Council Rules on Public Comments, Discussions and Public hearings by striking in its entirety Section 27 and replacing it with the following:

SECTION 27: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DELIBERATIONS

The purpose of the section is to provide rules of public participation at town council meetings that allow for the council to conduct the business of the town in an orderly and efficient manner while protecting the vital tradition of commentary and feedback by the public

The Open Meeting Law grants the public the right to attend any meeting of a public body except an executive session. An individual in attendance may not address the public body without the permission of the Chair.

Section 1: Public Comments

During the portion of the meeting that calls for public comment the public May comment on any topic or ask a question of the council or its government

Section 2: Agenda Items

During the meeting, the public at the discretion of the president may ask a question or comment on the topic being currently debated

Section 3: Public Hearings

During a public hearing the public may make comments or ask a question on the matter that the public hearing addresses.

Section 4: Participation

The public shall sign in the book named “Resident Inquiries” at the podium with their name, address and question or topic. This should be done prior to or during that section of the meeting they wish to participate in. The person shall sign and write their name, address, and questions even if they do not wish to speak at the meeting.

Section 5: The President

In all circumstances, the public has a right to expect an answer, if one is available from their government. To that end, the President may answer the speaker or may choose to recognize a district councilor and/or a councilors to respond or may choose to have the question answered at a later date by staff.

Section 6: Attendance

The public in the case of agenda items and public comment shall be in person at the meeting. Public hearings may be done in person or remotely.

Any person upon entering the council meeting by physical attendance or virtually,

grants permission to the town council to record and disseminate their presence and testimony at the meeting.

The Chair may, in the Chair's discretion and upon request, allow a group representative more time to speak in order to avoid repetitive comments from multiple speakers and aid in the efficient conduct of the meeting. Nothing in this Section shall prevent the Town Council from inviting individuals to speak to the Council on a particular topic of interest to the Council or for the length of time.

Anyone who reads from a document, displays an exhibit shall file a copy with the Town Council Clerk.

All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Council as a whole through the President and not to any member thereof. No person other than members of the Council and the person having the floor shall enter into discussion either directly or through a member of the Council without permission of the presiding officer.

No one shall use the council meetings for the purpose of:

1. To promote or oppose any candidate running for office
2. For the purposes relating to an election
3. To advertise for private commercial purposes or private monetary gain
4. to engage in illegal conduct
5. To use threatening language or to engage in the use of fighting words, threats of violence or other speech

At the meeting anyone making out of order comments or acting in an unruly manner shall be subjected to removal from the meeting at the call of the President.

No signs or banners of any kind shall be displayed in the council chamber.

No demonstration of approval or disapproval from members of the public will be permitted (including, but not limited to cheering, clapping, booing, etc.), and if such demonstrations are made the gallery may be cleared upon instruction of the Council President.

Public comments may also be provided to the council by providing them in writing to the council clerk by hand or by mail or email.

Member of the public seeking a reasonable accommodation to gain access to meeting; contact Council Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Council Order: 2026-034

**Introduced by: Town Manager Brian Howard
May 4, 2026**

**Transfer of General Fund Free Cash
To Overlay in the Amount of \$350,000**

To see if the Randolph Town Council will vote to transfer \$350,000.00 from certified General Fund Free Cash for the purpose of funding the Town of Randolph overlay account for FY 2026.

Explanation: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires the Town to maintain sufficient funds in the Town's overlay account to cover any uncollected tax amounts, should they fail to be collected. This transfer will replenish that account to maintain compliance with the requirements of the DOR.

Council Order: 2026-035

**Introduced by: Town Manager Brian Howard
May 4, 2026**

**Transfer of Water/Sewer Retained Earnings
For Joint Water Board Operations
in the Amount of \$100,000**

To see if the Randolph Town Council will vote to transfer \$100,000.00 from the Retained Earnings of the Town's Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund to cover costs related to the Joint Water Board operations.

Explanation: The Joint Water Board is usually staffed at between 5 and 6 water plant operators. Currently there are three. Because the Joint Board water treatment plant will be decommissioned when the new water treatment plant comes online, it has been difficult to hire and retain plant operators. The plant is currently being operated with the assistance of water staff from the Town of Braintree, on an overtime basis. The OT costs have risen substantially to accommodate the staffing to operate the plant 24 hours a day and in compliance with all state staffing and licensing requirements. This transfer will cover OT for all staff as well as the cost of a recently ratified union contract with town employees. In addition, there are various repairs and operational expenses that will need to be covered with this transfer.

Council Order: 2026-036

**Introduced by: Town Manager Brian Howard
May 4, 2026**

**Transfer of General Fund Free Cash to
Establish and Fund an Energy Resiliency Fund**

To see if the Randolph Town Council will vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from certified General Fund Free Cash to establish and fund an Energy Resiliency Fund to support targeted energy initiatives that support the use of clean energy, reduce municipal energy consumption, lower Town operating costs, and mitigate the Town's exposure to rising energy prices, including but not limited to:

- Municipal building commissioning, retro-commissioning, system optimization, and building management system (BMS) improvements, including energy efficiency measures.
- Professional consulting services for solar net metering credit management, energy cost optimization, and energy project development and implementation support.
- Participation in cooperative energy procurement programs, including PowerOptions membership and strategic energy sourcing.

Said funds shall be expended under the direction of the Town Manager in accordance with all applicable requirements of law.

Explanation: In October 2025, the Randolph Town Council unanimously adopted the Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan, establishing a goal of reducing municipal energy consumption by 20 percent over a five-year period as part of the Town's broader Energy and Climate Initiative.

Since that time, the Town has undertaken a comprehensive effort to better understand and manage its energy use. This work has included detailed analysis of building-level energy consumption to identify both capital-intensive and operational opportunities for energy savings. In parallel, the Town has pursued external funding sources to support larger-scale energy initiatives, including Green Communities designation funding and grant opportunities for energy improvements.

While these larger initiatives are essential to achieving long-term energy reduction goals and modernizing public facilities, the Town continues to encounter immediate, lower-cost opportunities that can yield significant and measurable savings if addressed in a timely manner. These opportunities are typically operational in nature, requiring modest upfront investment while generating strong and recurring returns through reduced energy consumption and improved system performance.

Examples include:

- Participation in PowerOptions, a nonprofit energy procurement consortium that leverages the collective purchasing power of municipalities to secure favorable energy pricing and contract terms. For an estimated annual membership cost of approximately \$3,000, the Town would gain access to competitive electricity supply contracts and solar power

purchase agreements, with the potential to generate substantial annual savings. Where solar installations are paired with power purchase agreements, preliminary estimates indicate the potential to reduce building-level energy costs by 30 percent or greater.

- Building commissioning and system optimization measures have demonstrated strong return on investment. Recent analysis at Randolph High School identified targeted improvements, such as refrigeration control upgrades and building system scheduling adjustments, that can be implemented at relatively low cost while producing meaningful and recurring savings. In some cases, these measures can reduce building energy consumption by a significant margin, resulting in material cost reductions across the Town's portfolio of facilities.
- The Town is currently managing a substantial volume of solar net metering credits and requires specialized consulting services to maximize the value of those credits. Strategic management of these credits will enable the Town to offset electricity costs and deploy approximately \$200,000 in excess credits toward high-impact energy efficiency projects, particularly in advance of expiring Mass Save incentives for LED conversion in October 2026. The estimated annual cost of these consulting services is approximately \$3,000.

Collectively, these actions will generate immediate and ongoing budgetary savings for both the Town and the Schools.