

Annual Town Meeting Official Results  
Town of Rowe  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Town Clerk: Kevin Balawick  
Moderator: Bob Clancy  
Constable: Henry Dandeneau  
Town Counsel: Michael D'Ortenzio Jr.

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at the Rowe Elementary School, 86 Pond Road. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Town Moderator.

Moderator Clancy lead the meeting in the pledge of allegiance, he then asked for a moment of silence for those Rowe residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting. Moderator Clancy also asked the room to join him in thanking all of the town officials and employees along with those elected and appointed for boards and committees. Moderator Clancy set a four minute limit for presentations of information about Town Meeting Articles, a two minute limit for voter comments and questions, and let the room know that voting would be done by show of hands.

Rick Williams, the Chair of the Board of Assessors addressed the room and explained that the projected tax rate would be \$5.57. Board of Selectmen Chair Joanne Semanie moved to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Finance Chair Daniel Pallotta recognized Loretta Dionne's eleven years of service on the Financial Committee and her dedication to speaking up for those who work for the town.

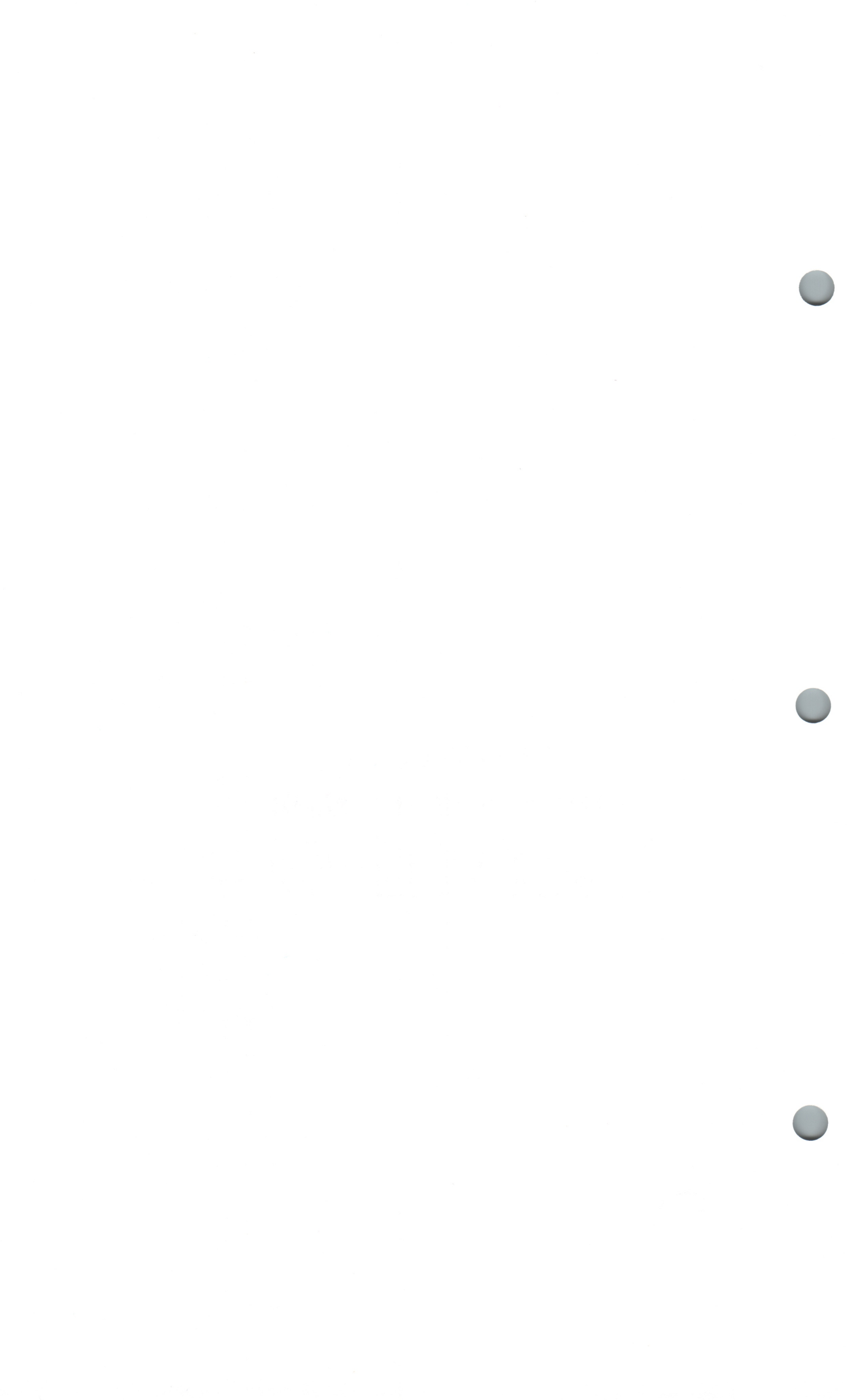
**ARTICLE 1:** A motion was made and seconded to act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 2:** A motion was made and seconded to update the town's revolving Funds by (1) Revising the table show in section 13 of the General Bylaws by deleting the present table in its entirety and inserting in its place the following table:

**Town of Rowe Revolving Funds**

| Revolving Fund            | Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund | Fees, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund                  | Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Emergency Dispensing Site | Board of Health                      | Receipts Related to the Emergency Dispensing Site Operations | Dispensing medicines or medical supplies during an emergency  |
| Recycling Program         | Board of Health                      | Receipts Related to the Recycling Program                    | Operation of solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products |
| Vaccine Services          | Board of Health                      | Receipts from Insurance Billing                              | Providing vaccine clinics, distribution, and related services   |
| School Programs           | School Committee                     | Fees for School Programs                                     | Offset costs of school programs   |
| Old Home Day              | Old Home Day Committee               | Receipts Generated by Old Home Day Activities and Programs   | Expenses of Old Home Day  |
| Refuse Garden             | Board of Health                      | Receipts Related to the Refuse Garden Operations             | Operation of the town Refuse Garden   |



|                                  |                 |   |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Planning Board Legal/ Consulting | Planning Board  | Receipts Related to Fees for Special Permits and Other Work of the Planning Board | Legal consultation and representation             |
| Park Programs                    | Park Commission | Receipts Related to Park Programs   | Operation of programs run by the Pelham Lake Park |

and (2) **ESTABLISHING** annual expenditure limits for such revolving funds as:

| Revolving Fund                  | Annual (Fiscal Year) Expenditure Limit |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Emergency Dispensing Site       | \$1,000.00                             |
| Recycling Program               | \$5,000.00                             |
| Vaccine Services                | \$6,000.00                             |
| School Programs                 | \$10,000.00                            |
| Old Home Day                    | \$2,000.00                             |
| Refuse Garden                   | \$5,000.00                             |
| Planning Board Legal/Consulting | \$50,000.00                            |
| Park Programs                   | \$2,000.00                             |

(3) Voting that such expenditures limits shall apply from fiscal year to fiscal year until Town Meeting revises the same prior to June 30 in any fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 3:** A motion was made and seconded to **AUTHORIZE** the **BOARD OF SELECTMEN** to apply for, accept, and expend federal and state grants as may be available, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 4:** A motion was made and seconded to **AUTHORIZE** the **TREASURER** to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2027, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 53F, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*

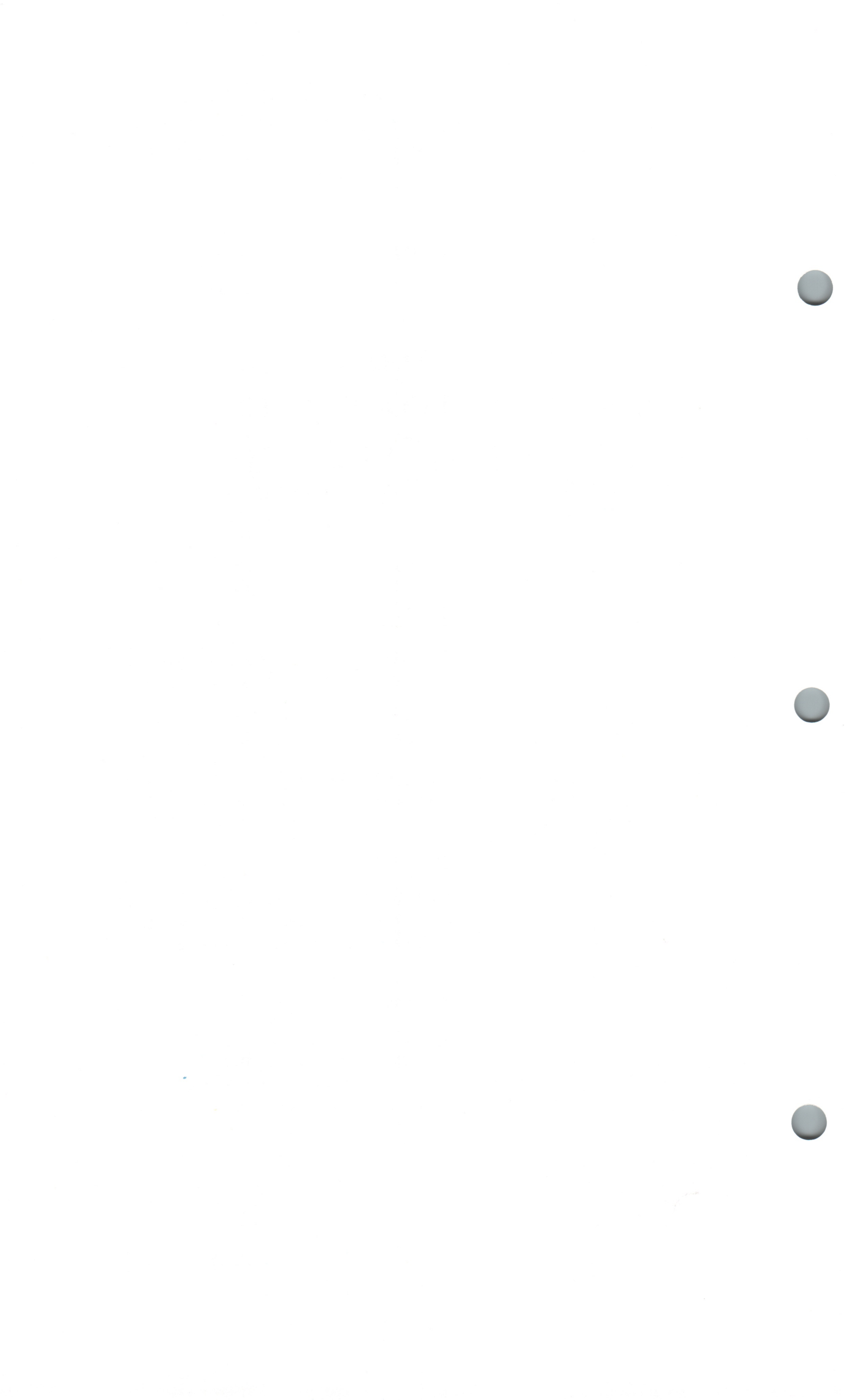
**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums, and to set the stipends/salary compensation for all elected officials of the Town for Fiscal Year 2027, pursuant to G.L. c. 41, § 108, to be made effective from July 1, 2026, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 6:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of \$370,000.00 for the purpose of paying down **PRINCIPAL ON THE TOWN ROAD PAVING BOND** and **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of \$28,411.00 for the **INTEREST ON THE TOWN ROAD PAVING BOND** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto.

**Elected Boards & Committees:**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Board of Assessors (3) .....                | \$5,354.00  |
| Board of Health (3) .....                   | \$4,938.00  |
| Board of Selectmen (3) .....                | \$5,928.00  |
| School Committee (3) .....                  | \$4,564.00  |
| Planning Board (5) .....                    | \$5,200.00  |
| Subtotal Election Boards & Committees ..... | \$25,984.00 |



|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Elected Town Officers</b>               |                 |
| Constable.....                             | \$549.00        |
| Moderator.....                             | \$439.00        |
| <u>Subtotal Elected Town Officers.....</u> | <u>\$988.00</u> |

**TOTAL ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES FROM TAXATION.....\$26,972.00**

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 7:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto.

**Administration**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| General Administration.....                       | \$167,350.00        |
| Town Administrator Salary.....                    | \$75,351.58         |
| Administrative Assistant to the Boards Wages..... | \$40,848.94         |
| Town Hall Custodian Wages.....                    | \$18,599.48         |
| Custodian Expenses.....                           | \$4,500.00          |
| Facilities Maintenance Manager Wages.....         | \$14,119.58         |
| Facilities Maintenance Manager Operations.....    | \$15,000.00         |
| Snow Removal Wages.....                           | \$1,569.96          |
| Legal.....  | \$45,000.00         |
| Treasurer/Tax Collector Salary.....               | \$61,478.68         |
| Treasurer/Tax Collector Operations.....           | \$21,000.00         |
| Town Clerk Stipend.....                           | \$16,035.00         |
| Assistant Town Clerk Stipend.....                 | \$1,920.00          |
| Board of Registrars/Election Teller Wages.....    | \$6,555.00          |
| Town Clerk Operations/Dues & Education.....       | \$1,335.00          |
| Conservation Commission.....                      | \$2,370.00          |
| Council on Aging.....                             | \$11,000.00         |
| Goal Post Editor Wages.....                       | \$7,517.06          |
| Goal Post Operations.....                         | \$2,500.00          |
| Veteran's Services.....                           | \$6,022.00          |
| FRCOG Services.....                               | \$26,729.00         |
| Town Accountant Salary.....                       | \$32,419.99         |
| <u>Town Accountant Expenses.....</u>              | <u>\$4,420.00</u>   |
| <b>Subtotal Administration.....</b>               | <b>\$586,391.57</b> |

**Board of Assessors**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Assessors' Admin Assistant Wages.....   | \$14,502.61        |
| Assessors' Reval.....                   | \$3,500.00         |
| <u>Assessors' Operations.....</u>       | <u>\$39,000.00</u> |
| <b>Subtotal Board of Assessors.....</b> | <b>\$57,002.61</b> |

**Planning Board**

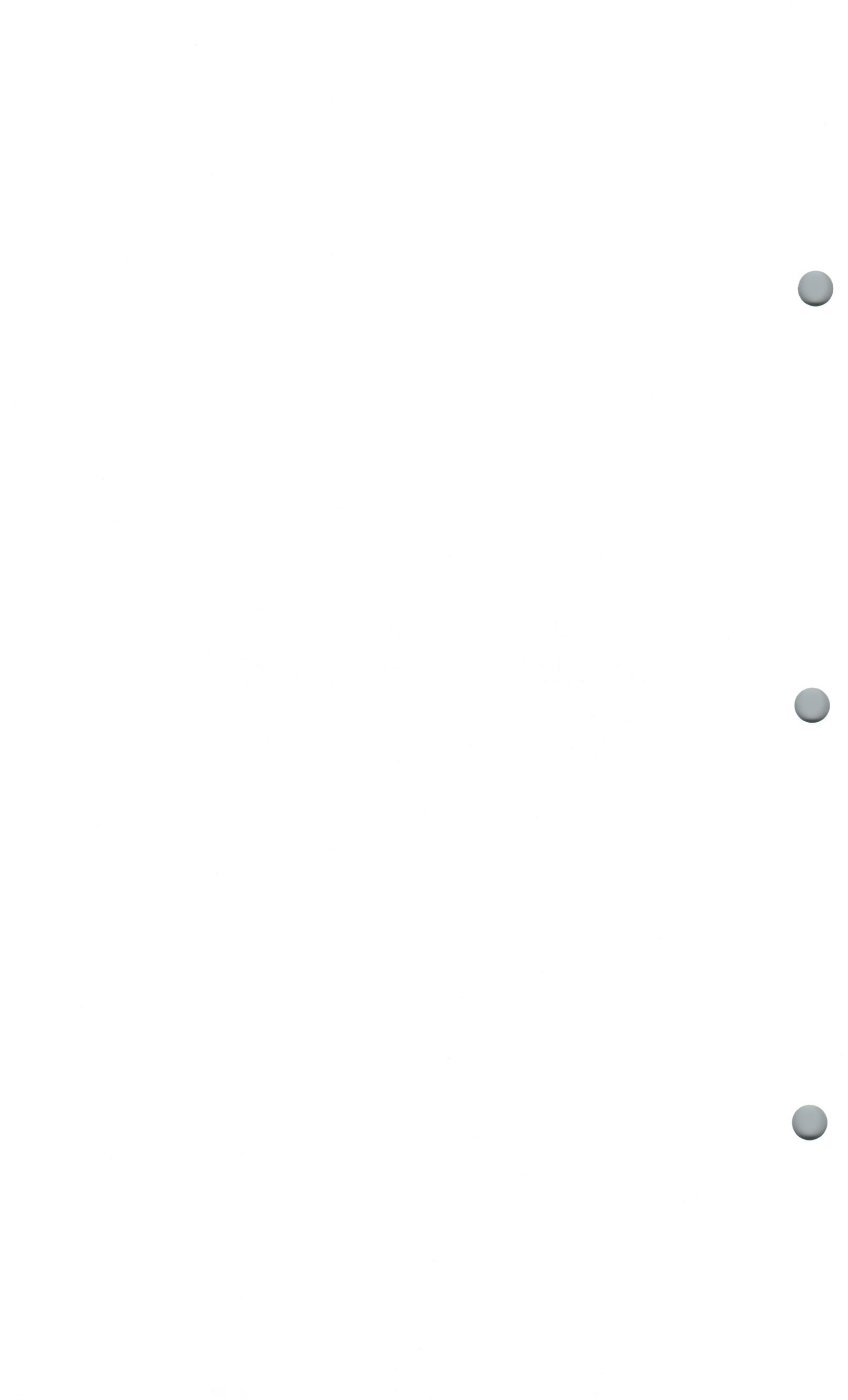
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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Planning Board Operations.....</u> | <u>\$1,650.00</u> |
| <b>Subtotal Planning Board.....</b>   | <b>\$1,650.00</b> |

**TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION.....\$645,044.18**

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 8:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of \$30,000.00 to be used as a **RESERVE FUND**, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 6, for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*



**ARTICLE 9:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Highway Department</b>                                     |                     |
| DPW Salaries and Wages.....                                   | \$354,633.23        |
| DPW Operations.....   | \$211,626.00        |
| Winter Roads.....   | \$72,100.00         |
| Subtotal Highway Department.....                              | \$638,359.23        |
| <br>  |                     |
| <b>Other Public Works &amp; Facilities</b>                    |                     |
| Street Lighting .....   | \$8,000.00          |
| Dam Maintenance/Repair.....                                   | \$1,200.00          |
| Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities .....                | \$9,200.00          |
| <br>  |                     |
| <b>Cemetery Commission</b>                                    |                     |
| Cemetery Operations .....                                     | \$18,500.00         |
| <br>  |                     |
| <b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS &amp; FACILITIES FROM TAXATION.....</b> | <b>\$666,059.23</b> |

*Passed unanimously*

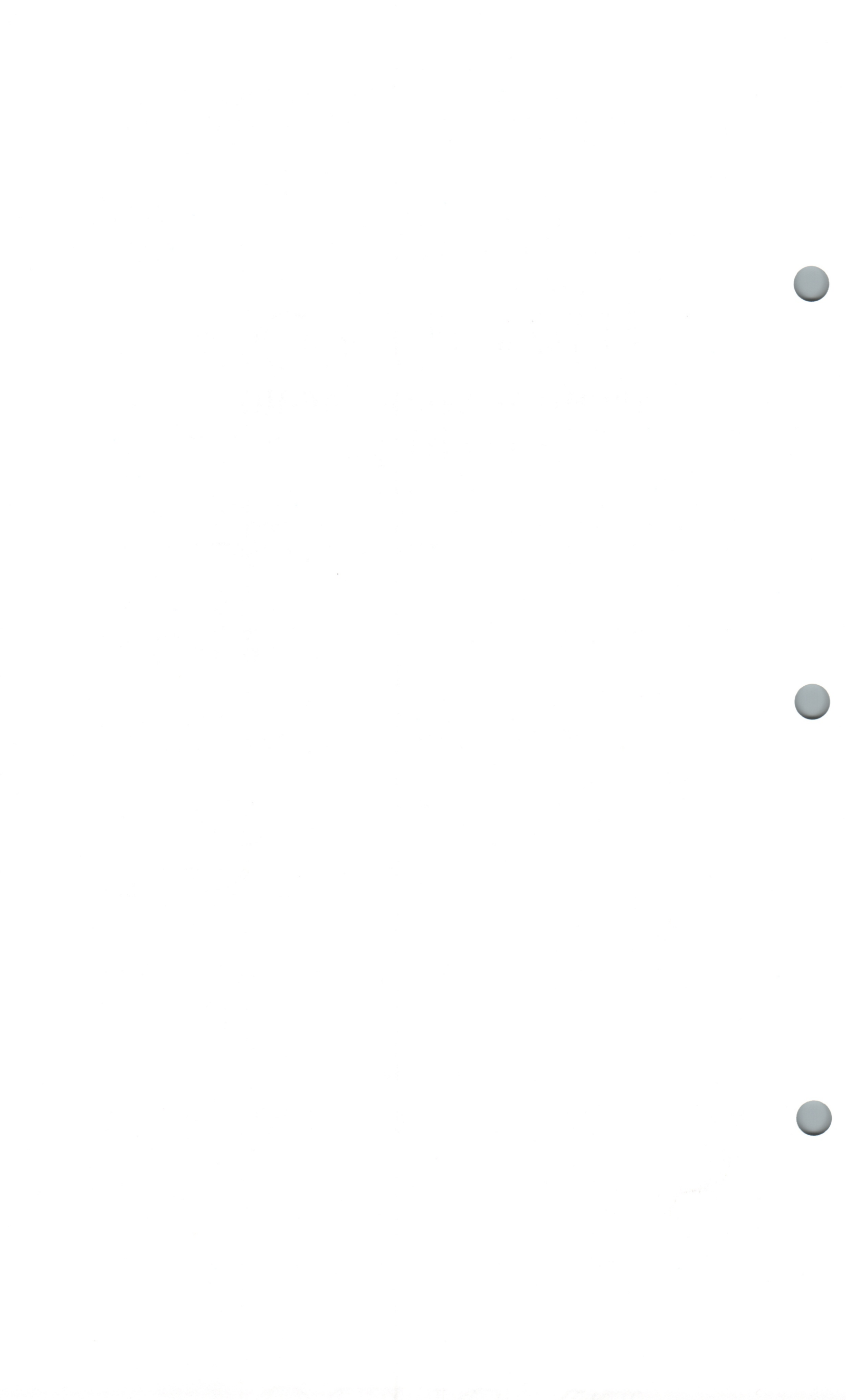
**ARTICLE 10:** A motion was made and second to **RAISE AND APPORRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC SAFETY** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Police Department</b>                       |                     |
| Police Salaries.....                           | \$85,287.98         |
| Police Officer Training .....                  | \$8,000.00          |
| Police Operations.....                         | \$15,000.00         |
| Subtotal Police Department.....                | \$108,287.98        |
| <br>   |                     |
| <b>Fire Department</b>                         |                     |
| Fire Department Stipends & Wages.....          | \$88,763.33         |
| Fire Department Operations .....               | \$76,500.00         |
| Subtotal Fire Department .....                 | \$165,263.33        |
| <br>   |                     |
| <b>Emergency Management</b>                    |                     |
| Emergency Management Stipends .....            | \$3,864.00          |
| Generator Maintenance.....                     | \$3,500.00          |
| Subtotal Emergency Management.....             | \$7,364.00          |
| <br>   |                     |
| <b>Animal Control and Inspection</b>           |                     |
| Animal Control Officer Stipends.....           | \$1,449.00          |
| Animal Control Relief Officer Stipend .....    | \$508.00            |
| Animal Control Operations.....                 | \$1,050.00          |
| Animal Inspector Stipend .....                 | \$532.00            |
| Regional Dog Kennel .....                      | \$462.00            |
| Subtotal Animal Control.....                   | \$4,001.00          |
| <br>   |                     |
| <b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION .....</b> | <b>\$284,916.31</b> |

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 11:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC HEALTH** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Public Health</b>                           |                     |
| Health Department Stipends and Wages.....      | \$92,779.87         |
| Board of Health Operations .....               | \$86,305.00         |
| <br>   |                     |
| <b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH FROM TAXATION .....</b> | <b>\$179,084.87</b> |



*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 12:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

**Education**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Rowe School PreK-6 Operating Budget.....       | \$1,264,105.89        |
| Rowe School Secondary 7-12 .....               | \$632,721.69          |
| <b>TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION.....</b> | <b>\$1,896,827.58</b> |

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 13:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **ROWE TOWN LIBRARY** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

**Rowe Town Library**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Library Wages.....                                | \$54,714.68        |
| Library Operations.....                           | \$28,424.00        |
| <b>TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION.....</b> | <b>\$83,138.68</b> |

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 14:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **PELHAM LAKE PARK** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

**Pelham Lake Park**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Park Wages.....                                   | \$137,287.18        |
| Park Operations.....                              | \$22,795.00         |
| <b>TOTAL PELHAM LAKE PARK FROM TAXATION .....</b> | <b>\$160,082.18</b> |

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 15:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **CULTURE AND RECREATION** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

**Culture and Recreation**

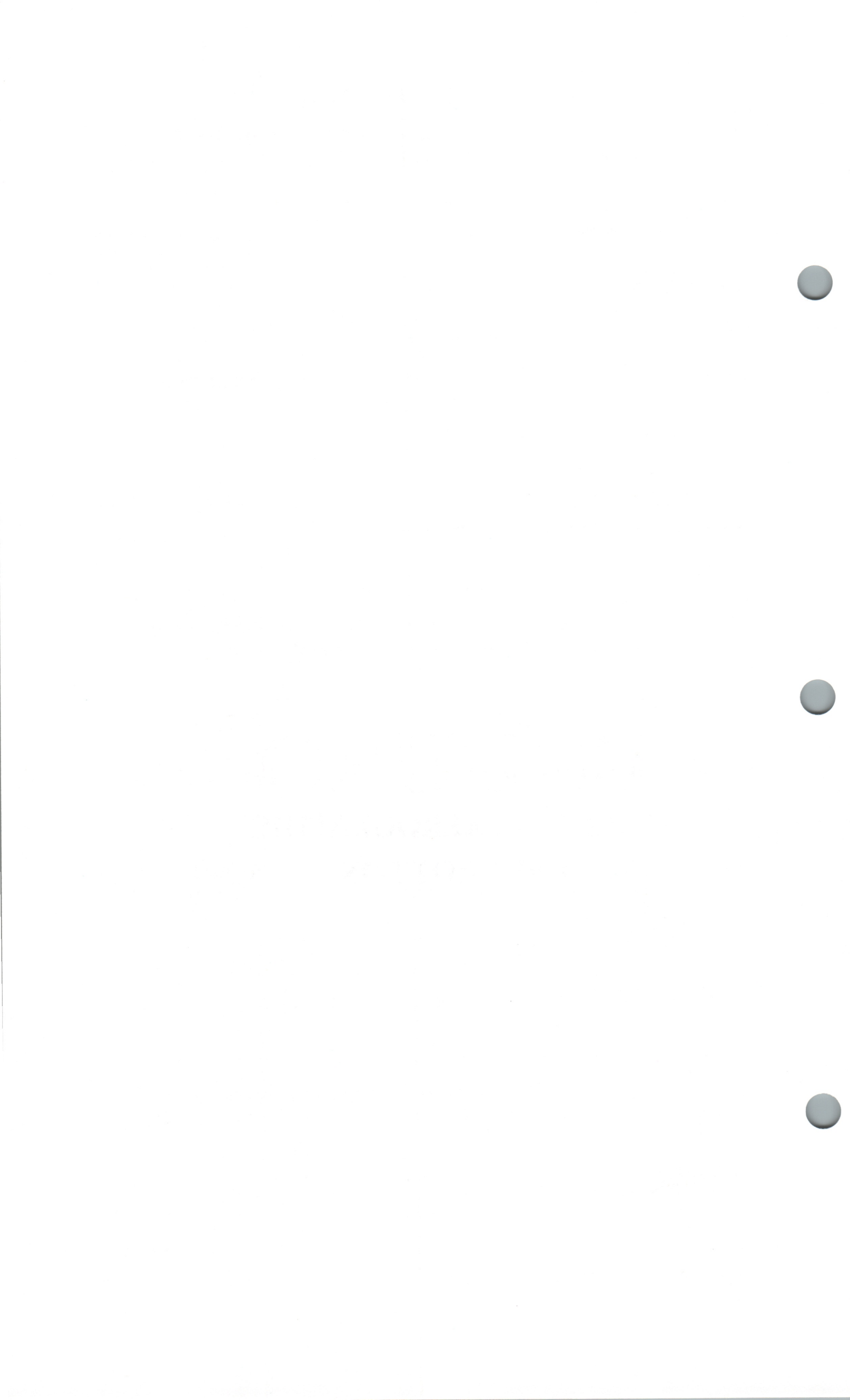
|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Beautification .....                                   | \$1,500.00        |
| <b>TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION FROM TAXATION.....</b> | <b>\$1,500.00</b> |

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 16:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PENSIONS AND INSURANCE** for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any action in relation thereto:

**Pensions and Insurance**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Franklin County Retirement Assessment .....            | \$239,986.00          |
| Unemployment Insurance.....                            | \$20,000.00           |
| Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance.....                | \$1,220,000.00        |
| Medicare Tax – Town Share .....                        | \$34,000.00           |
| <b>TOTAL PENSIONS AND INSURANCE FROM TAXATION.....</b> | <b>\$1,513,986.00</b> |



*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 17:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE** the sum of \$256,653.49 for the repair, improvement, and construction of Town highways ,or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90 of the General Laws, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90 of the General Laws, or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 18:** A motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of outfitting the 2023 Ford F-550 Fire Department Vehicle with **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) EQUIPMENT** or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 19:** A motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the following sums for **SPECIAL PROJECTS** or take any action in relation thereto:

|  |                                   |                     |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ADMIN</b>                                       | Town Hall Boiler Replacement..... | \$50,000.00         |
| <b>ADMIN</b>                                       | Bridge Rehab.....                 | \$21,000.00         |
| <b>FIRE</b>  | Generator Replacement.....        | \$50,000.00         |
| <b>PARK</b>  | Vehicle Rust Repair.....          | \$4,500.00          |
| <b>SCHOOL</b>                                      | Exterior Improvements.....        | \$30,000.00         |
| <b>TREAS/COLLECT</b>                               | Vadar Software.....               | \$48,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS FROM FREE CASH .....</b> |                                   | <b>\$203,500.00</b> |

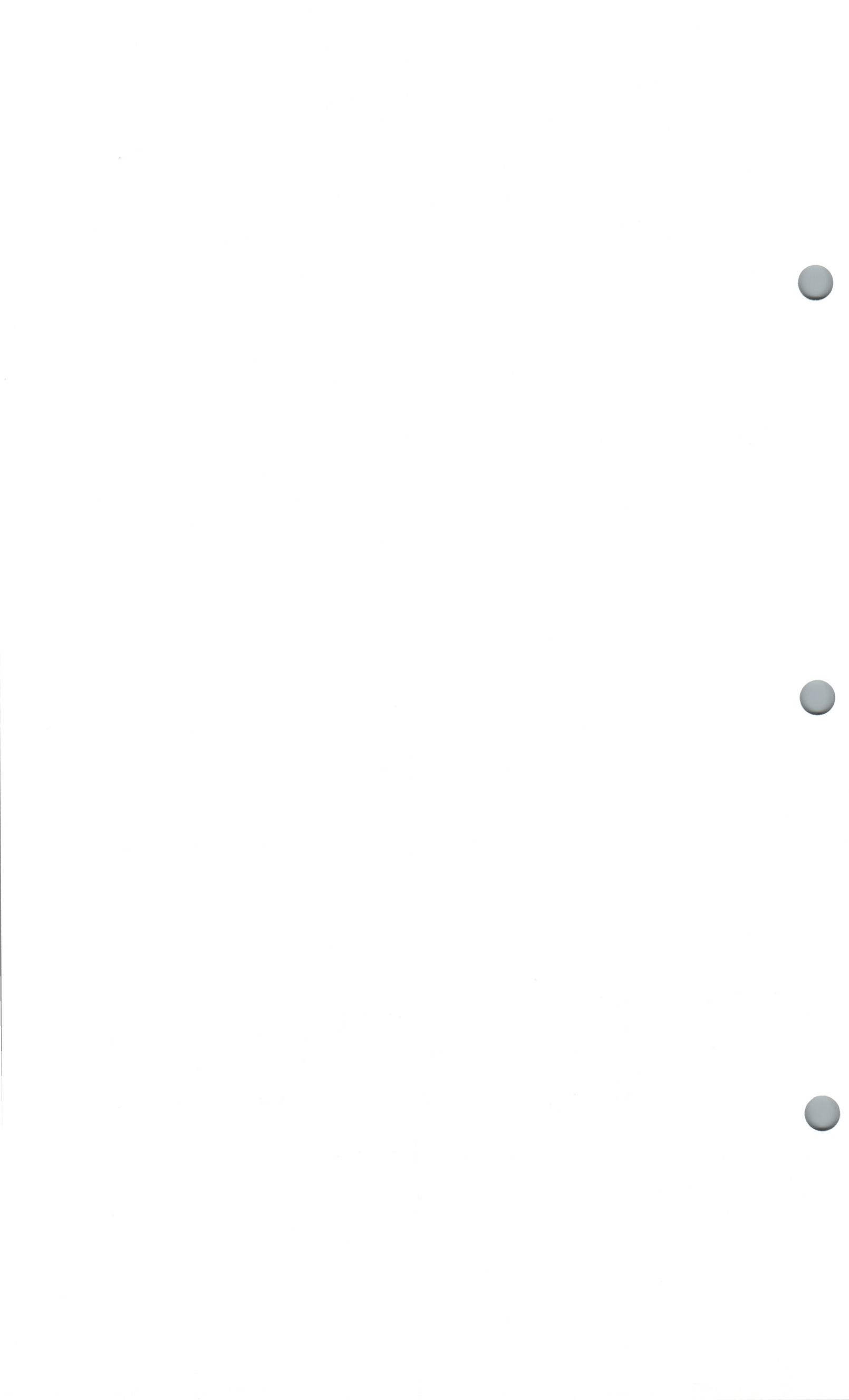
*Passed unanimously*

**ARTICLE 20:** A motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** from **CAPITAL STABILIZATION** the sum of \$1,000,000 and **BORROW** the sum of \$960,000 for the purpose of funding the expansion and renovation of the public library, including demolition, site work, construction, furnishings, equipment, design, professional services, moving, or any other action necessary to complete the project and further authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow funds pursuant to Mass General Law Chapter 44, subsection seven, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the town and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any grants to offset this appropriation.

Kathleen Atwood, of 48 Pond Road, spoke on behalf of the Library Trustees and the Library Feasibility Committee. She said Rowe residents would vote to decide whether to approve funding and move forward with a fully designed bid base plan for the library's renovation and an addition to the existing library. She told the room that the library is a community asset, and the project ensures that the library building will remain accessible, functionable, and sustainable for today's residents and for future generations. Ms. Atwood requested that the Library Director, Molly Lane, be allowed to address the room.

Moderator Clancy took a sense of the audience and Molly Lane was allowed to speak.

Molly Lane addressed the room and explained that she has worked as the Library Director for thirteen years and that the project for renovating the library had started with her predecessor. Her predecessor found that the bathrooms needed to be renovated in order to be ADA compliant and that the renovation would require an addition to the building. Library Director Lane went on to explain that the renovation would provide a new community meeting space with a sink, counter



space, and AV hookups. The Community Room would be accessible outside of library hours for the community to use. She asked the voters to vote in favor of the project.

Moderator Clancy noted that a two thirds vote was required. FINCOM Chair Dan Pallotta asked that a count be done to ensure the two thirds was reached. There was one nay and one abstention of the 67 (sixty-seven) voters in the room. The two-thirds majority was reached.

*Passed, but not unanimously, with greater than two-thirds in favor*

**ARTICLE 21:** A motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of \$154,424.00 and **TRANSFER** from **STABILIZATION** the sum of \$5,576.00 for the purpose of paying the \$160,000.00 overage due to the FY2026 mid-year HEALTH INSURANCE INCREASE or take any action in relation thereto.

*Passed, but not unanimously*

**ARTICLE 22:** Moderator Clancy made note of the Town Clerk leaving his role at the end of his term and also noted that Christine Bailey is running as a write-in for the Board of Health. Moderator Clancy asked if any other write in candidates were coming forward and none came forward.

**A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting at 6:57 pm.**

**The motion passed unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Balawick

Rowe Town Clerk

May 20, 2026

A true copy, Attest:

*Kevin Balawick*



