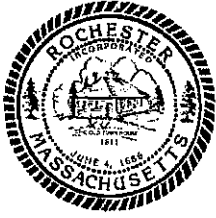


**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 18, 2026**



Plymouth, ss.

**To the Constable(s) of the Town of Rochester in the County of Plymouth,
Greetings,**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet at the Rochester Memorial School, 16 Pine Street in said Town on Monday, the 18th of May 2026 at seven p.m. (7:00 p.m.) in the evening to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

To see if the Town will accept the annual report of all town officers and committees or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Required under MGL c.40 §49; accepts the annual report of Town boards and officers, with financial reporting governed by MGL c.41 §61 and c.44.

ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of the elected officials of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2027 as follows or take any other action relative thereto.

Position	FY2026 (Previous)	FY2027 (Requested)	FY2027 (Recommended)
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$100	\$100	\$100
Moderator – Special Town Meeting	\$50	\$50	\$50
Select Board (each of 3)	\$5,597	\$5,737	\$5,737
Board of Assessors (each of 3)	\$5,597	\$5,737	\$5,737
Tax Collector	\$32,332	\$33,141	\$33,141
Town Clerk	\$45,478	\$46,615	\$46,615
Tree Warden	\$2,000	\$2,100	\$2,100
Constables (2)	\$15/hr	\$15/hr	\$15/hr
Highway Surveyor	\$100,785	\$103,809	\$103,809
Board of Health Chairman	\$2,624	\$2,690	\$2,690
Board of Health (each of 2)	\$2,192	\$2,247	\$2,247
Herring Inspector	\$558	\$572	\$572

EXPLANATION: Sets FY27 salaries for elected officials, including a 2.5% cost of living adjustment.

ARTICLE 3: PERSONNEL BY-LAW AMENDMENT – CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part IV, Classification and Compensation Plan, as set forth below, or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Updates the Town's classification and compensation plan with a 2.5% cost of living adjustment. (SEE NEXT PAGE)

ARTICLE 4: TOWN OF ROCHESTER FY2027 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to defray Town charges and expenses for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027, or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Appropriates the FY27 operating budget presented by department.

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:					
113	Town Meeting				
4-1	Salaries/Wages	480	492	350	350
4-2	Expenses	300	300	150	150
	Total Town Meeting	780	792	500	500
114	Town Moderator				
4-3	Elected Official Salaries	300	200	200	200
4-4	Expenses		150	150	150
	Total Moderator	300	350	350	350
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Moderator \$100 ATM, \$50 STM				
122	Select Board				
4-5	Elected Official Salaries	16,380	16,791	17,211	17,211
	Total Select Board	16,380	16,791	17,211	17,211
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Select Board Member ea.	5,460	5,597	5,737	
131	Finance Committee				
4-6	Expenses	300	300	0	0
132	4-7 Reserve Fund	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
	Total Finance Committee	70,300	70,300	70,000	70,000
134	Capital Planning Committee				
4-8	Expenses	300	300	0	0
	Total Capital Planning Committee	300	300	0	0
135	Finance Director/Town Accountant				
4-9	Salaries/Wages	167,284	178,264	183,643	183,643
4-10	Expenses	4,350	4,350	5,050	5,050
4-11	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Finance Director/Town Accountant	171,634	182,614	188,693	188,693
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Finance Director/Town Accountant	84,460	92,250	94,557	
	Assistant Town Accountant	73,208	75,850	77,747	
	Longevity	8,616	9,164	10,339	
	Town Accountant Certification	1,000	1,000	1,000	
140	Information Systems				
4-12	Expenses	177,160	215,941	215,941	215,941
4-13	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Information Systems	177,160	215,941	215,941	215,941
141	Board of Assessors				
4-14	Elected Official Salaries	22,269	16,791	17,211	17,211
4-15	Salaries/Wages	195,309	205,142	164,858	164,858
4-16	Expenses	28,958	29,521	29,946	29,946
4-17	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Board of Assessors	246,536	251,454	212,015	212,015
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown				
	Board of Assessors (3 members each)	7,423	5,597	5,737	
	Principal Assessor Certification	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Principal Assessor	90,257	94,827	99,628	
	Salary Full-Time (2)	102,946	108,153	61,016	
	Longevity	1,106	1,162	3,214	

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
145	Treasurer				
4-18	Salaries/Wages	134,753	145,091	149,784	149,784
4-19	Expenses	12,595	13,880	13,880	13,880
4-20	Capital	0	0	0	0
4-21	Tax Title Expense	0	0	0	0
	Total Treasurer	147,348	158,971	163,664	163,664
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Treasurer	80,000	84,050	88,305	
	Assistant Treasurer Stipend	3,900	4,500	0	
	Administrative Assistant/Payroll	48,000	53,594	59,293	
	Treasurer Certification	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Longevity	1,853	1,947	1,186	
146	Tax Collector				
4-22	Elected Official Salaries	31,543	32,332	33,141	33,141
4-23	Salaries/Wages	1,510	1,510	1,510	1,510
4-24	Expenses	16,450	20,450	21,050	21,050
	Total Tax Collector	49,503	54,292	55,701	55,701
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Tax Collector	31,543	32,332	33,141	
	Additional Clerical	510	510	510	
	Collectors Fees	1,000	1,000	1,000	
151	Town Counsel				
4-26	Expenses	106,650	106,000	106,000	106,000
	Total Town Counsel	106,650	106,000	106,000	106,000
152	Personnel Board				
4-27	Expenses	200	200	0	0
	Total Personnel Board	200	200	0	0
161	Town Clerk				
4-28	Elected Official Salaries	44,368	45,478	46,615	46,615
4-29	Expenses	5,078	7,500	5,025	5,025
4-30	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Town Clerk	49,446	52,978	51,640	51,640
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Town Clerk	44,368	45,478	46,615	
	Certification	0	0	0	
	Part-Time Salaries	0	0	0	
162	Elections				
4-31	Salaries/Wages	10,445	10,445	10,495	10,495
4-32	Expenses	9,426	12,145	10,695	10,695
	Total Elections	19,871	22,590	21,190	21,190
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Election Workers	7,845	7,845	7,845	
	Detail Officers / Extended Polling	2,600	2,600	2,650	

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
163	Board of Registrars				
4-33	Salaries/Wages	10,449	10,975	7,689	7,689
4-34	Expenses	6,635	8,287	7,987	7,987
4-35	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Board of Registrars	17,084	19,262	15,676	15,676
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Part-Time Salaries	10,449	10,975	7,689	
	Fees	0	0	0	
171	Conservation Commission				
4-36	Salaries/Wages	97,953	101,099	75,549	75,549
4-37	Expenses	3,950	4,700	4,700	4,700
	Total Conservation Commission	101,903	105,799	80,249	80,249
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent	70,683	72,451	44,558	
	Board Administrator	27,270	28,648	30,099	
	Longevity	0	0	892	
175	Planning Board				
4-38	Salaries/Wages	112,042	93,148	93,137	93,137
4-39	Expenses	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150
	Total Planning Board	118,192	99,298	99,287	99,287
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Town Planner	82,000	61,500	63,038	
	Board Administrator	27,270	28,648	30,099	
	Recording Secretary - Part-time	2,772	3,000	0	
176	Zoning Board of Appeals				
4-40	Salaries/Wages	0	0	0	0
4-41	Expenses	1,000	1,000	500	500
	Total Zoning Board of Appeals	1,000	1,000	500	500
179	Soil Board				
4-42	Expenses	100	100	0	0
	Total Soil Board	100	100	0	0
192	Town Hall				
4-43	Salaries/Wages	401,877	362,014	429,182	429,182
4-44	Expenses	168,100	154,500	151,700	151,700
4-45	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Town Hall	569,977	516,514	580,882	580,882
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Town Administrator	140,000	138,375	141,835	
	Administrative Assistant to Selectboard/TA	67,965	67,819	71,264	
	Administrative Assistant - General	46,511	48,860	56,435	
	Stipend - Assistant Town Clerk	0	4,500	0	
	Administrative Assistant - ZBA	46,511	0	0	
	Facilities Manager	86,157	88,975	93,386	
	Facilities - Part-time	10,000	10,000	62,600	
	Longevity	4,733	3,485	3,662	
195	Town Hall Annex				
4-46	Expenses	48,900	48,900	44,800	44,800
	Total Town Hall Annex	48,900	48,900	44,800	44,800
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,913,564	1,924,446	1,924,299	1,924,299

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
PUBLIC SAFETY:					
210	Police				
4-47	Salaries/Wages	1,453,075	1,508,466	1,629,420	1,629,420
4-48	Expenses	243,003	250,503	231,555	231,555
4-49	Capital	9,000	0	0	0
	Total Police	1,705,078	1,758,969	1,860,975	1,860,975
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Police Chief	135,000	161,500	180,500	
	Sergeant	234,714	254,422	278,185	
	Lieutenant/Captain	100,750	124,500	127,357	
	Full-Time Officers / Stipends	653,971	622,989	674,384	
	Reserve Officers	5,038	26,000	32,000	
	Police Chief Admin. Assist.	32,962	0	0	
	Full-Time Office Coverage	47,822	56,147	58,966	
	Shift Differential	15,500	15,500	15,500	
	Benefit Coverage / Overtime	204,804	244,100	259,100	
	Longevity	22,514	3,308	3,428	
220	Fire				
4-50	Salaries/Wages	261,200	295,741	282,034	282,034
4-51	Expenses	197,766	202,500	202,500	202,500
4-52	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Fire	458,966	498,241	484,534	484,534
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown				
	Fire Chief / EMT Stipend/Emerg. Mgmt Stipend	110,373	117,417	123,109	
	Deputy Chief, On-Call	12,228	12,534	12,848	
	Captain, On-Call	8,063	8,265	8,472	
	Lieutenant, On-Call	11,232	11,513	11,801	
	On-Call Firefighters Wages	109,527	135,953	115,517	
	Inspection Fees	5,562	5,562	5,562	
	Longevity	4215	4497	4725	
232	EMT				
4-53	Salaries/Wages	499,812	512,099	524,902	524,902
4-54	Expenses	94,200	99,842	106,038	106,038
4-55	Capital	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
	Total EMT	600,512	618,441	637,440	637,440
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	On-Call Paramedics /EMT's Wages	499,608	512,099	524,902	
	On-Call EMT's Court Time	204	0	0	
241	Building Inspector				
4-56	Inspection Services	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
4-57	Salaries/Wages	140,870	124,524	122,381	122,381
4-58	Expenses	4,775	5,420	5,660	5,660
4-59	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Building Inspector	153,645	137,944	136,041	136,041
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Building Commissioner	92,250	94,557	96,921	
	Administrative Assistant	47,666	29,967	25,460	
	Longevity	954	0	0	
	Inspection Fees	8,000	8,000	8,000	
242/243	Gas/Plumbing Inspector				
4-60	Inspection Services	17,500	15,000	15,000	15,000
4-61	Expenses	800	500	500	500
	Total Gas/Plumbing Inspector	18,300	15,500	15,500	15,500
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Inspection Fees	17,500	15,000	15,000	

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
244	Weights and Measures				
4-62	Expenses	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Total Weights and Measures	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
245	Wiring Inspector				
4-63	Inspection Services	16,800	13,500	13,500	13,500
4-64	Expenses	915	915	915	915
	Total Wiring Inspector	17,715	14,415	14,415	14,415
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Inspection Fees	16,800	13,500	13,500	
290	Gasoline Account				
4-65	Expenses	100,400	100,400	100,400	100,400
	Total Gasoline	100,400	100,400	100,400	100,400
291	Emergency Management				
4-66	Salaries/Wages	500	500	0	0
4-67	Expenses	1,465	1,465	1,000	1,000
4-68	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Emergency Management	1,965	1,965	1,000	1,000
292	Animal Control				
4-69	Service Fees	9,200	9,200	7,000	7,000
4-70	Expenses	3,700	3,700	1,200	1,200
	Total Animal Control	12,900	12,900	8,200	8,200
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Animal Control Officer	9,200	9,200	9,200	
294	Tree Warden				
4-71	Elected Official Salaries	1,897	2,000	2,100	2,100
4-72	Salaries/Wages	5,000	6,500	6,500	6,500
4-73	Expenses	23,600	23,100	23,100	23,100
4-74	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Tree Warden	30,497	31,600	31,700	31,700
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Tree Warden	1,897	2,000	2,100	
	Detail Overtime Wages	5,000	6,500	6,500	
297	Constables				
4-75	Elected Official Salaries	300	300	300	300
4-76	Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Constables	400	400	400	400
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Constables	300	300	300	
299	Regional Dispatch Center				
4-77	ROCCC Assessment	200,000	200,000	205,000	205,000
	Total Regional Dispatch Center	200,000	200,000	205,000	205,000
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	3,300,378	3,391,775	3,496,605	3,496,605

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
EDUCATION:					
300					
4-78	Rochester Memorial School	7,173,464	7,421,882	7,638,169	7,638,169
	FY 2027 Breakdown:				
	RMS Operating	7,173,464	7,351,882	7,638,169	
	Math Curriculum Program 3 yrs.	0	70,000	0	
4-79	Bristol County Agricultural Assessment	244,895	284,911	357,193	357,193
4-80	Old Rochester Regional Assessment	5,526,283	5,723,546	6,505,176	6,505,176
	FY 2027 Breakdown:				
	ORR Operating	5,265,633	5,671,076	6,452,891	
	ORR Capital Debt	227,090	19,075	18,223	
	ORR Capital Stabilization Fund	33,560	33,395	34,062	
4-81	Old Colony Vocational Technical Assessment	1,694,271	1,884,044	1,604,347	1,604,347
	TOTAL EDUCATION	14,638,913	15,314,383	16,104,885	16,104,885
PUBLIC WORKS:					
421	Highway Surveyor				
4-82	Elected Official Salaries	97,375	100,785	103,809	103,809
	Total Highway Surveyor	97,375	100,785	103,809	103,809
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Highway Surveyor	97,375	100,785	103,809	
422	Highway Department				
4-83	Salaries/Wages	397,282	410,746	413,831	413,831
4-84	Expenses	290,700	295,400	253,900	253,900
4-85	Capital	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	Total Highway Department	702,982	721,146	682,731	682,731
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Laborers, Foreman	305,999	321,492	329,550	
	Part-Time	45,679	54,198	48,860	
	Overtime wages	20,500	15,500	15,500	
	Detail	12,000	5,000	5,000	
	Longevity	13,104	14,556	14,921	
423	Snow/Ice Removal				
4-86	Salaries/Wages	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
4-87	Expenses	95,500	95,500	95,500	95,500
4-88	Capital	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Total Snow/Ice Removal	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000
433/434	Solid Waste and Recycling Pickup				
4-89	Contracted Services	450,000	550,000	600,000	600,000
4-90	Expenses	8,000	8,000	16,700	16,700
	Total Solid Waste and Recycling Pickup	458,000	558,000	616,700	616,700
435	Recycling				
4-91	Expenses - Mattress Recycling	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
	Total Mattress Recycling	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
450	Water Department				
4-92	Expenses	1,000	1,000	500	500
	Total Water Department	1,000	1,000	500	500
491	Cemeteries				
4-93	Expenses	11,200	11,200	13,000	13,000
	Total Cemeteries	11,200	11,200	13,000	13,000
	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,430,557	1,552,131	1,571,740	1,571,740

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
HUMAN SERVICES:					
511	Board of Health				
4-94	Elected Official Salaries	6,836	7,008	7,184	7,184
4-95	Salaries/Wages	80,121	84,897	92,984	92,984
4-96	Expenses	9,690	9,690	6,050	6,050
4-97	Capital	0	0	0	0
4-98	Regional Health District	20,550	19,860	21,805	21,805
	Total Board of Health	117,197	121,455	128,023	128,023
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Board of Health, Chairman	2,560	2,624	2,690	
	Board of Health, Member ea. (2)	2,138	2,192	2,247	
	Public Health Nurse	33,516	34,352	35,217	
	Administrative Assistant - Part-time	16,537	16,945	17,767	
	Health Agent	30,068	33,600	40,000	
519	Inspector of Animals				
4-99	Inspection Services	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
4-100	Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Inspector of Animals	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Inspector of Animals	1,700	1,700	1,700	
541	Council On Aging				
4-101	Salaries/Wages	272,887	267,482	248,614	248,614
4-102	Expenses	103,050	102,550	92,672	92,672
4-103	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Council On Aging	375,937	370,032	341,286	341,286
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Council on Aging Director	92,250	94,750	97,250	
	Outreach Worker	45,336	24,151	25,371	
	Council on Aging Van Drivers	71,240	74,857	54,377	
	COA Administrative Assistant & Part-Time	48,849	58,565	56,189	
	Longevity	1,814	0	2,698	
	Custodian	13,398	15,159	12,729	
543	Veterans Services				
4-104	Veterans Benefits	63,900	53,900	43,900	43,900
4-105	Assessment	20,800	24,060	24,678	24,678
	Total Veterans Services	84,700	77,960	68,578	68,578
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	579,634	571,247	539,687	539,687
CULTURE & RECREATION:					
610	Plumb Library				
4-106	Salaries/Wages	185,003	205,276	202,809	202,809
4-107	Expenses	76,425	84,725	89,210	89,210
4-108	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Plumb Library	261,428	290,001	292,019	292,019
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Library Director	73,000	75,000	80,000	
	Library Asst. - Circ & Tech Services	57,571	60,781	63,835	
	Library Asst. - Youth Services	49,016	51,776	55,143	
	Library Page	0	12,000	0	
	Longevity	5,416	5,719	3,831	

		FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2027
		APPROPRIATED	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
630	Park Department				
4-109	Salaries/Wages	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
4-110	Expenses	25,700	25,700	25,700	25,700
4-111	Capital	0	0	0	0
	Total Park Department	32,700	32,700	32,700	32,700
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Laborer - Part-time	7,000	7,000	7,000	
631	Herring Inspector				
4-112	Elected Official Salaries	544	558	572	572
4-113	Expenses	625	625	625	625
	Total Herring Inspector	1,169	1,183	1,197	1,197
	FY 2027 Position Breakdown:				
	Herring Inspector	544	558	572	
691	Historical Commission				
4-114	Expenses	500	500	500	500
	Total Historical Commission	500	500	500	500
692	Town Events/Celebrations				
4-115	Salaries/Wages	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
4-116	Expenses	700	700	700	700
	Total Town Events/Celebrations	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
694	Rochester Historic District				
4-117	Expenses	200	200	200	200
	Total Rochester Historic District	200	200	200	200
	TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	298,197	326,784	328,816	328,816
FIXED COSTS & OTHER REQUIREMENTS:					
710	Debt Service				
4-118	Principal	690,000	705,000	700,000	700,000
4-119	Long-Term Interest	173,150	148,250	118,500	118,500
4-120	Short-Term Notes	73,800	0	0	0
4-121	Short-Term Interest	25,711	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Total Debt Service	962,661	863,250	828,500	828,500
830/840	Intergovernmental Assessments				
4-122	SRPEDD/ Buzzards Bay Action Comm.	2,712	2,712	2,716	2,716
	Total Intergovernmental Assessments	2,712	2,712	2,716	2,716
900	Other Fixed Costs				
4-123	County Retirement Assessment	1,250,303	1,443,224	1,551,063	1,551,063
4-124	Unemployment	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000
4-125	Medicare	138,816	140,000	146,237	146,237
4-126	Employee Group Insurances	1,179,878	1,155,505	1,334,988	1,334,988
4-127	Town Insurances	292,000	302,000	275,000	275,000
4-128	Accumulated Sick Leave Benefit	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
	Total Other Fixed Costs	2,895,997	3,075,729	3,332,288	3,332,288
	TOTAL FIXED COSTS & OTHER REQUIREMENTS	3,861,370	3,941,691	4,163,504	4,163,504
	Total General Government	1,913,564	1,924,446	1,924,299	1,924,299
	Total Public Safety	3,300,378	3,391,775	3,496,605	3,496,605
	Total Education	14,638,913	15,314,383	16,104,885	16,104,885
	Total Public Works	1,430,557	1,552,131	1,571,740	1,571,740
	Total Human Services	579,634	571,247	539,687	539,687
	Total Culture & Recreation	298,197	326,784	328,816	328,816
	Total Fixed Costs & Other Requirements	3,861,370	3,941,691	4,163,504	4,163,504
	TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET (Article 4)	26,022,613	27,022,457	28,129,536	28,129,536

ARTICLE 5: SPENDING LIMITS ON REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2027 beginning on July 1, 2026, for the revolving funds established in the town by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers as set forth below in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, or take any other action relative thereto.

Authorized Revolving Funds	FY 2027 Spending Limit
Library Materials	\$10,000
Waste and Recycling Program	\$50,000
Hazardous Waste Recovery	\$10,000
Local Cultural Council	\$6,000
COA Programs and Activities	\$10,000
Flu and Medical Clinics	\$25,000
Tax Title	\$2,500
Arbor Funds	\$50,000
Total FY 2027 Spending Limit	\$163,500

EXPLANATION: Establishes FY27 spending limits for revolving funds (self-funded programs).

ARTICLE 6: NATURAL RESOURCE EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sufficient sum of money to fund the following recurring Environmental and Natural Resources expenses or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>FUND FY 2027 NATURAL RESOURCE EXPENSES</u>		
<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>ITEM/PROJECT</u>	
Select Board	Planting of Shellfish (Marion)	\$300
TOTAL ASSESSMENT		\$300

EXPLANATION: Funds the shellfish program in partnership with the Town of Marion.

ARTICLE 7: OPEB FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to fund the Town's future obligations for the cost of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) identified by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 75 Report or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Contributes to the OPEB fund to address long-term retiree health insurance liabilities.

ARTICLE 8: GASB 75

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of eight thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$8,750) for biennial actuarial study to comply with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements, which establish accounting and financial reporting standards for state and local governments; or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Funds the required biennial actuarial study under GASB 75 to measure and report the Town's long-term OPEB liabilities for financial planning and compliance.

ARTICLE 9: CAPITAL ITEMS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from free cash the sum of one hundred fifty-eight thousand one hundred nineteen dollars (\$158,119) for the following capital expenditures, or take any other action relative thereto:

- a) Rochester Memorial School – forty-three thousand dollars (\$43,000) for infrastructure improvements (phones and access points)
- b) Council on Aging – five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a storage shed
- c) Police Department – twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) for second floor furnishings
- d) Police Department – sixty-four thousand one hundred nineteen dollars (\$64,119) for body worn cameras
- e) Facilities Department – five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a fence around the Police Department generator
- f) Facilities Department – four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for library parking lot lights
- g) Facilities Department – ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for sewer pump for police department

EXPLANATION: Funds capital purchases and facility improvements, including school technology, public safety equipment, and building upgrades, using the Capital Improvement Fund (current balance approximately \$168,000) to avoid operating budget impact.

ARTICLE 10: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of one hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) to be added to the Capital Improvements Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: This stabilization fund sets aside free cash for future capital expenditures.

ARTICLE 11: ROADWAY LINE PAINTING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of painting roadway lines on public ways, including any and all incidental and related costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Funds roadway line painting to maintain safe roads in accordance with MUTCD and MassDOT standards.

ARTICLE 12: POLICE CRUISER LEASE TO PURCHASE

To see if the Town will authorize the Town Administrator, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 21C, to enter into a lease agreement with Municipal Capital Finance d/b/a Univest Bank for the lease purchase of two cruisers for the Police Department for a period of three years but in any event such term not to exceed the useful life of the property to be purchased, and to appropriate fifty-four thousand six hundred seventy five dollars (\$54,675) from free cash for the first year of the Agreement, said vehicles to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Town Administrator deems in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Town Administrator to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement.

EXPLANATION: Authorizes lease-purchase of two police cruisers under MGL c.44 §21C.

ARTICLE 13: PICKUP TRUCK FOR FIRE COMMAND STAFF

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Article 9 of the Annual Town Meeting held in May 2025 the sum of twenty-one thousand six hundred thirty-six dollars (\$21,636) for the purpose of purchasing a pickup truck for use by Fire Command or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Reallocates prior funds from an insurance payout to purchase a used Fire Department pickup truck.

ARTICLE 14: LIBRARY – HVAC AND BUILDING REPAIRS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the unexpended balance of twenty-three thousand nine hundred fifty-one dollars (\$23,951) from Article 17 of the Annual Town Meeting held in May 2022, originally appropriated as a match for the Green Communities grant, for the purpose of HVAC upgrades, repair of the handicap ramp, remediation of water damage in the basement room, and other general building improvements as funds allow, or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: This article repurposes unexpended funds originally appropriated at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting as a matching grant for the Green Communities program. The funds will be used by the Library for HVAC upgrades, accessibility repairs, and other building improvements.

ARTICLE 15: FACILITY MAINTANANCE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to the Facilities Maintenance Fund for additional maintenance of Town-owned properties, parks, and equipment, to be expended by the Facilities Department with the approval of the Town Administrator or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Provides one-time funding for facilities repairs, maintenance, and capital needs across Town properties.

ARTICLE 16: COUNCIL ON AGING TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to supplement the Council on Aging transportation program, to be used for van driver salaries or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Provides contingent funding for Council on Aging transportation and van driver wages if service demand increases or external funding declines.

ARTICLE 17: COA REVOLVING FUND: KITCHEN PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund for the support of the Council on Aging breakfast program, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, into which shall be deposited certain program receipts and voluntary contributions, including funds provided by the Friends of the Council on Aging, and from which funds may be expended for costs associated with the program, and to set the annual spending limit at twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Establishes a revolving fund for the COA kitchen and breakfast program, supported by program receipts and donations, to offset operating costs.

ARTICLE 18: COA KITCHEN MAINTANANCE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of maintenance, repair, and replacement of existing kitchen equipment, appliances, and related contents, expressly excluding food, supplies, and other soft costs, with expenditures subject to the approval of the Council on Aging Board or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Funds maintenance and replacement of COA kitchen equipment and appliances.

ARTICLE 19: BOARD OF ASSESSORS – MASS DOR MANDATES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to fund Department of Revenue mandated activities of the Board of Assessors, including cyclical inspections and required field work, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Assessors or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Funds cyclical property inspections required by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to ensure accurate and compliant property assessments.

ARTICLE 20: SPECIAL EDUCATION OUT OF DISTRICT COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) to be appropriated to the School Department, specifically for special education out-of-district tuition and related costs or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: This article uses free cash to help cover a significant increase in out-of-district special education costs, which are legally required. The State provides partial reimbursement through the “Circuit Breaker” program, but funds are received one to two years after the costs are incurred. This article bridges that timing gap so the School Department can meet its obligations without disrupting services. This is a one-time use of funds, not a permanent increase in the budget.

ARTICLE 21: INCREASE SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to the Special Education Stabilization Fund established pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, §5B, or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: This article transfers funds to the Special Education Stabilization Fund to help plan for future special education costs, particularly out-of-district placements, which can vary significantly year to year.

ARTICLE 22: UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to fund unemployment compensation expenses or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: This article transfers funds to cover unemployment compensation expenses. The Town is self-funded for unemployment, which saves money over time but requires funds to be available when staffing changes occur.

ARTICLE 23: ORR – GATEWAY LIABILITY PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum not to exceed \$716,000 to the Old Rochester Regional School District for the purpose of funding a deficit of the Gateway Health Trust, including any and all incidental and related costs, provided that such appropriation is contingent upon execution of an agreement between the Select Board and Old Rochester Regional School Committee related to provision of payment, or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Funds Rochester's share of the Old Rochester Regional School District Gateway Health Trust deficit. ORR participates in a joint insurance pool with Lakeville and Carver; claims exceeded projections, creating a deficit. Rochester is responsible for approximately 33.5% of ORR's share. Free cash is used to meet this obligation while pursuing recovery and cost controls.

ARTICLE 24: PAYOFF OF NON-EXEMPT DEBT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$179,250) for the purpose of paying off nonexempt debt or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Pays off remaining non-exempt debt to reduce future debt payment obligations and ease pressure on the operating budget.

ARTICLE 25: CEMETERY BILL OF PRIOR YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600) to pay a prior fiscal year obligation (Souza Cranberries) of the Cemetery Commission for grave excavation services or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Pays a prior-year cemetery expense; a new appropriation is required because the original funding has lapsed.

ARTICLE 26: TO FUND CONSULTANTS To see if the Town will transfer from free cash the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to hire consultants to assist departments with various projects.

EXPLANATION: Funds consultants for Town projects, including a Fire Department operational and management study.

ARTICLE 27: ADOPTION OF GENERAL BYLAWS (Chapters 50 through 265)

To see if the Town will vote to renumber and recaption the General Bylaws of the Town as Chapters 50 through 265 of the codified Bylaws of the Town of Rochester, including the changes detailed in Schedule A and stylization of the text, including:

- (1) Standard capitalization, including capitalization of “Town” when referring to the Town of Rochester.
- (2) Standard citation of numbers; and
- (3) Correction of spelling errors.

all as set forth in Schedule A and the document on file in the office of the Town Clerk entitled “Final Draft of the Town of Rochester, Massachusetts,” dated March 2026, prepared by General Code, LLC, and authorize any other formatting, typographical and stylistic edits required to finalize the bylaw or take any other action in relation thereto.

EXPLANATION: Codifies and standardizes the existing general bylaws in a web-based format, correcting language, updating statutes, and improving organization and searchability.

ARTICLE 28: ADOPTION OF ZONING BYLAW (Chapters 18 through 23)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the codified Zoning Bylaw of the Town (Chapters 18 through 23), including the changes detailed in Schedule B and the document on file in the office of the Town Clerk entitled “Final Draft of the Town of Rochester, Massachusetts,” dated March 2026, prepared by General Code, LLC, and authorize any other formatting, typographical and stylistic edits required to finalize the bylaw, or take any other action in relation thereto.

EXPLANATION: Codifies the existing zoning bylaws in a web-based format, correcting language, updating statutes, and improving organization and searchability.

ARTICLE 29: REZONING OF PARCELS ON COUNTY RD

To see if the Town will rezone the following parcels from Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) District to Limited Commercial District:

- 711 Mary’s Pond Road, also known as Map 16 Lot 19G_0
- 73 County Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 5_0
- 35 County Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 3G_0

EXPLANATION: This article proposes to rezone several parcels on County Road and Mary’s Pond Road from Residential/Agricultural to Limited Commercial. The intent is to allow for appropriate commercial development along key roadways subject to Planning Board review.

ARTICLE 30: REZONING OF DECAS PROCESSING PLANT

To see if the Town will rezone the following parcels from Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) District to Limited Commercial District:

- 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 12 Lot 7_0
- 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 12 Lot 7C_0
- 475 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 12 Lot 4_0

EXPLANATION: This article proposes to rezone parcels associated with the existing Decas processing facility from Residential/Agricultural to Limited Commercial. The purpose is to align zoning with the longstanding commercial use of the site and allow for consistent uses moving forward.

ARTICLE 31: REZONING OF BOGS

To see if the Town will rezone the following parcels from Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) District to Limited Commercial District:

- 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 2_0
- 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 1_0

EXPLANATION: This article proposes to rezone two parcels on Mary's Pond Road from Residential/Agricultural to Limited Commercial. Project in the Limited Commercial District are subject to site plan review and stormwater management requirements that would not apply under the current zoning.

ARTICLE 32: AUTHORIZATION FOR SOLAR PILOTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILOT) agreements in accordance with Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 45, with the owner or operator of duly permitted ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations within the Town, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board and Board of Assessors deem to be in the best interests of the Town, specifically:

- Dexter Lane Solar LLC, or its successors or assigns, in connection with property located at 53 Dexter Lane, Assessors Map 6, Lot 49;
- Snipatuit Road Solar, LLC, or its successors or assigns, in connection with properties located at 529 Snipatuit Road, Assessors Map 47, Lot 9; 523 Snipatuit Road, Assessors Map 47, Lot 9A; 0 Featherbed Lane, Assessors Map 46, Lot 26; 0 Snipatuit Road, Assessors Map 47, Lot 4; 0 Snipatuit Road, Assessors Map 46, Lot 27; and 0 Snipatuit Road, Assessors Map 47, Lot 1;
- Featherbed Lane South Solar, LLC, or its successors or assigns, in connection with property located at 0 Featherbed Lane, Assessors Map 46, Lot 24;

- Braley Hill North Solar, LLC, or its successors or assigns, in connection with properties located at 0 Braley Hill Road, Assessors Map 48, Lots 32 and 36; and
- Cushman Road Solar, LLC, or its successors or assigns, in connection with property located at 0 Braley Hill Road, Assessors Map 33, Lot 11,

or take any other action relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: Authorizes solar PILOT agreements for proposed projects, to provide predictable long-term payments to the Town to avoid valuation disputes.

ARTICLE 33: CITIZEN PETITION – TO CHANGE SOLAR FARM BYLAW

“Add to the solar farm bylaws prohibiting the clear cutting of over an acre of land for solar farms and put restrictions in place for battery storage units.”

EXPLANATION: This is a Citizen’s petition filed by a resident.

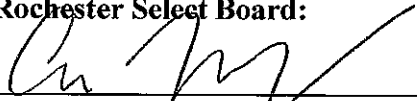
ARTICLE 34: TOWN ELECTION

To choose by ballot all necessary officers for the ensuing year, viz; one member of the Select Board for three years; one Tax Collector for three years; one Town Clerk for three years; one member of the Board of Health for three years; one member of the Board of Assessors for three years; two members of the Plumb Library Board of Trustees for three years; one member of the Park Commissioner for three years; two members of the Rochester Memorial School Committee for three years; one member of the Old Rochester Regional School District Committee for three years; one member of the Water Commission for three years; one member of Herring Inspector for three years; one member of Cemetery Commission for three years; two members of the Planning Board for 5 years.

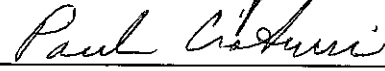
EXPLANATION: Serves as the election warrant, calling the annual Town election and authorizing voting for open offices.

Given under our hands this 30th day of April 2026.

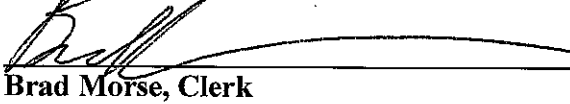
Rochester Select Board:



Adam Murphy, Chairman



Paul Ciaburri, Vice Chairman




Brad Morse, Clerk

By virtue of this Warrant, I have this day notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Rochester qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at Rochester Memorial School, 16 Pine Street, in said Town on Monday the 18th of May 2026 at the time and place for the purpose herein named by posting up attested copies thereon in the following places:

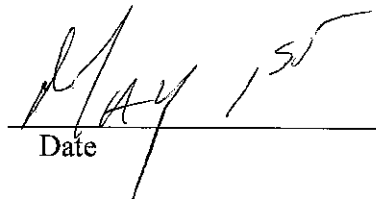
- Rochester Post Office
- Outside the Rochester Town Hall
- Plumb Library
- Council on Aging
- Rochester Web Site

A true copy:

Attest



Constable


_____, 2026
Date