

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Annual Town Meeting Consolidated Meeting Materials

Tuesday, June 9th, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Lanesborough Elementary School

188 Summer Street

Lanesborough, MA 01237

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Lanesborough

NEWTON MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
83 North Main St, Lanesborough, MA 01237
www.lanesborough-ma.gov

Deborah A. Maynard – Select Board Chair
Michael P. Murphy – Select Board Member
Jason A. Breault – Select Board Member
Gina M. Dario – Town Administrator

To the voters of Lanesborough:

This year, the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. It is an apropos moment to reflect on the tradition and institution of local government and the unique place that Town Meeting has in Massachusetts. Town Meeting can be traced back to the earliest attempts by New England communities in the mid 1600's to govern themselves. As populations grew, it became difficult for large bodies to manage daily affairs. Members of the community were then "selected" to provide more frequent oversight between Town Meetings and the institution of the Selectboard was established. Eventually, as local government and public infrastructure became more complex, communities hired professional staff led by a Town Manager to provide oversight of daily operations. Despite these evolutions, the institution of Town Meeting has remained the source of legislative authority for many New England communities. Thank you for your participation in this critical function of local government.

In your preparation for Town Meeting, we hope you find the following material helpful:

- Official Town Meeting Warrant
- Glossary of Town Meeting Terms
- Town Meeting Amendment Form

A BRIEF PRIMER ON THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING PROCEEDINGS

On Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, the Lanesborough Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Town Meeting will be held in the Lanesborough Elementary School Gymnasium. The business of Town Meeting is conducted by the Town Moderator. Town Meeting will begin with the call to order by our Town Moderator, David Rolle, upon notification that a quorum is present. The call to order will occur at 6 p.m., or shortly thereafter.

The Town Moderator has the authority to determine the procedure and process used at Town Meeting. At Town Meeting, the Moderator's goal is to conduct proceedings expeditiously yet impartially, allowing a fair hearing for all points of view while keeping the process moving. During the proceedings, the Moderator recognizes people from the floor and, while they are speaking, allows no interruptions except under certain procedural circumstances. Speakers are asked to address the Moderator and identify themselves for the record by name and address before speaking (for example: "Mr. Moderator, Jane Doe, 789 Main Street, Lanesborough"). Elected or appointed officials, when speaking in their capacity as a Town official may further identify themselves as such.

Procedure at Town Meeting generally follows those rules commonly understood and known as "Robert's Rules" - though not precisely and always in deference to the Moderator's judgment. The current Town Moderator makes use of *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* as a guiding text for conducting the meeting. However, as a matter of first principle, the Moderator is charged with keeping order at Town Meetings, and, as such, procedural rulings are final.

Non-voters wishing to address Town Meeting may do so upon the consent of at least 10 eligible voters in attendance. For voters wishing to amend motions on the floor at Town Meeting, amendment Forms are also available at Town Meeting. The Moderator has indicated that all floor amendments (if any) must be submitted in writing.

Please note that the Articles contained on the Warrant provide authority for the Town's elected officials and professional staff to fulfill their duties. The Warrant is reviewed by Town Counsel in advance of Town Meeting and is thoughtfully developed over several weeks prior to Town Meeting. Any floor amendments should be carefully considered and for what purpose they are being submitted as any changes may have negative financial or detrimental operational impacts to the community. Those seeking more information on Town Meeting procedures may consult the referenced texts above or contact the Town Clerk or Town Administrator's office.

THE TOWN MEETING WARRANT

The Warrant is approved and issued by the Lanesborough Select Board and contains the Articles to be acted upon. It is made available on the Town's website and posted at public locations by the Town's Police Department prior to each Town Meeting. Every action taken at Town Meeting must be pursuant to an Article.

Each Article contains a heading which explains what is being asked, such as "Appropriation." Municipal finance and public administration use unique terminology that you may only encounter once a year. For your reference, we have compiled a glossary of terms found at the end of your Town Meeting consolidated handout to help people become more familiar with how our local government works. Following the formal text of each Article, you will find which board or committee sponsored the Article, whether the Article is approved by the Select Board and if it is a

financial matter, whether it is approved by the Finance Committee. Lastly, there is a brief Explanation of what the Article accomplishes.

BUDGET MESSAGE

Lanesborough faces the same budgetary pressures that affect other communities in the Berkshires and across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The cost of providing quality public services and maintaining our infrastructure increases each year no differently than the private sector or household costs. However, Lanesborough’s bold economy and strong fiscal position allow us to manage these challenges and continue to make valuable investments in our staff, infrastructure and buildings. At the same time, Town officials recognize the tension caused by the desire to keep tax impacts sustainable against the rising costs of providing adequate resources to meet the demands of capital projects, maintaining core service levels, and living within the confines of Proposition 2 ½.

In developing this year's budget, line items were reviewed and adjusted up or down where needed across all departments to better reflect three-to-five-year spending trends. This year's General Fund Operating Budget reflects a 10.28% increase, compared to a 5.40% increase in FY2026. The majority of the department increases are out of the Town’s control. If the school and life/health insurance departments remained level, the Operating Budget would be a 1.12% increase.

Other Key Financial Data

Articles in FY 2026 Warrant which propose to use General Fund Free Cash:

Article 7 – Prior Year Bills:	\$ 941.27
Article 8 – Transfer to OPEB Stabilization Fund:	\$ 50,000.00
Article 9 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund:	\$ 50,000.00
Article 10 – Transfer to Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$ 20,000.00
Article 11 – McCann Roof / Window Replacement Project:	\$ 16,298.48
Article 12 – Transfer to Fire Truck Stabilization	\$ 225,000.00
Article 14 – Replace Highway Storage Shed Roof:	\$ 42,000.00
Article 15 – 2025 International Dump Truck annual payment:	\$ 49,524.00
Article 16 – Replacement of 2014 International Dump Truck:	\$ 53,274.85
Article 17 – Replacement of Police Vehicle:	\$ 80,000.00
Article 18 – Fleetio software to track vehicle maintenance:	\$ 1,200.00
Article 19 – Amount to reduce tax levy / lower FY2027 Tax rate:	\$ 200,000.00
Total:	<u>\$ 788,239.03</u>

Free Cash:

Balance certified at 7/1/2025:	\$ 1,367,239.00
Total of Proposed Free Cash articles above:	<u>\$ 788,239.03</u>
Remaining Balance if all approved:	<u>\$ 578,999.97</u>

In the years ahead, successfully navigating this pressurized environment will require adherence to best practices, prioritization, capital planning, patience and the willingness to make and support difficult decisions. By doing so, Lanesborough will continue to be on solid fiscal footing and have

the resources to meet the demand of our Town's infrastructure, the expectations of our residents to provide quality municipal services and to retain talented staff that make it all happen.

I hope you find this information helpful in your preparation for Town Meeting. I am honored to serve as the Lanesborough Town Administrator and to lead the outstanding work that our dedicated professional staff and volunteer boards and committees accomplish every day for the citizens of Lanesborough. Thank you to our committed Select Board, thoughtful Finance Committee, our residents and businesses for their support during this challenging fiscal year. A special thank you to our Department Heads, Town Clerk Ruth Knysh, Town Accountant Katie Lemanski, and Administrative Assistant Corrine Bradley for their work preparing for Town Meeting and publishing our Annual Town Report. Our residents should be incredibly proud of the people who work on their behalf and our community.

Thank you for your time and participation in our Town Meeting, and I look forward to seeing you out and about in Lanesborough this Summer!



Gina Dario
Town Administrator, Lanesborough

**WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING TOWN OF
LANESBOROUGH
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS FISCAL YEAR
2027**

BERKSHIRE, ss.

June 9th, 2026

To any of the Police Officers of the Town of
Lanesborough:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Lanesborough, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Lanesborough Elementary School property, 188 Summer Street in said Lanesborough on June 9th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following Articles of business, Articles 2 through 20 and action on Article 1, will take place on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026, at the Town Hall at 83 North Main Street, Lanesborough and the polls will be open at noon and close at 8:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the necessary Town Officers on one ballot;
Select Board, one, three-year term,
Select Board, one, two-year term,
Select Board, one, one-year term,
Finance Committee, one, three-year term,
Library Trustee, one, three-year term,
Planning Board, one, two-year term,
Planning Board, one, five-year term.

***Article 1 Explanation:** This article appears on the warrant as a notice of the Town election on Tuesday, June 16th - reiterating the first page of the warrant. There is no motion required under this article. It merely appears as a formal notice of the election. Polls will open at noon and close at 8:00 p.m. at the Lanesborough Town Hall in the downstairs Community Room.*

ARTICLE 2: To fix the compensation of all elected Town Officers as provided by G.L. c.41, Section 108, as amended, and to hear the budget, act thereon and **raise and appropriate**, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money to defray charges and expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year 2027, excluding Line 330 Mount Greylock Regional School District, for the total sum of **\$6,270,898**, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	FISCAL YEAR 2026 JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026	FISCAL YEAR 2027 JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027
114 Moderator	50	50
122 Lanesborough Select Board	5,700	5,700
123 Town Administration	178,130	186,275
131 Finance Committee	200	200
132 Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000
135 Town Accountant	71,800	73,800
141 Assessors	117,213	120,302
145 Treasurer/Collector	128,564	132,981
151 Law Account	50,000	50,000
153 Technology Services	76,000	82,000
156 Municipal Audit	15,000	15,000
158 Tax Title	20,000	17,500
161 Town Clerk	64,104	65,772
163 Elections and Registrations	11,000	12,000
168 Tree and Forest Committee	1,000	1,000
171 Conservation Commission	16,895	21,685
175 Planning Board	7,286	7,460
176 Board of Appeals	200	200
182 Community Development Committee	5,000	5,000
191 Town Hall	101,000	111,000
196 Consultancy	14,321	0
210 Police Department	629,524	907,241
211 Police Baker Hill Road District	322,825	0
220 Fire Department	117,400	117,550
230 Ambulance Department	284,000	475,000
235 Public Safety Services	23,550	23,500
240 Inspectors	36,272	36,007
291 Emergency Management	3,000	3,000
292 Animal Control Officer	7,000	7,000
335 Vocational Regional Assessments	317,109	491,680
420 Public Works	794,444	849,160
421 Winter Roads Expense	187,125	223,000
422 DPW Baker Hill Road District	143,985	0
424 Utilities	181,200	185,200
439 Landfill Monitoring	16,000	22,260
490 Stormwater Management	16,650	16,650
491 Cemetery Construction & Repairs	10,000	8,000
492 Mt View Cemetery	2,700	3,300
494 Cemetery Department	2,800	2,840
510 Health Department	50,070	48,600

519 Animal Inspector	2,700	2,700
541 Council on Aging	49,439	45,519
543 Veterans Services	32,475	32,475
610 Lanesborough Library	60,720	62,870
630 Recreation Programs	33,056	33,056
650 Park Maintenance	15,600	20,220
680 Pontoosuc Clean Lakes Program	24,000	26,000
691 Historical Commission	800	500
692 Memorial Day	500	500
699 Senior Transportation	36,783	24,450
710 Retirement of Debt & Interest	0	0
819 Other Assessments	23,887	24,801
911 Berkshire County Retirement Assessment	355,250	367,920
914 Life and Health Insurance	870,000	1,100,000
916 Medicare – Employer Share	30,000	36,674
945 Town Insurance Coverage	111,600	115,300
TOTALS	\$5,725,927	\$6,270,898

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 2 Explanation: This article is sponsored by the Finance Committee with the approval of the Select Board. This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass. This article, totaling approximately \$6.27 million, includes the General Fund Operating Budget requests for each department in Fiscal Year 2027 excluding the Mount Greylock Regional School District assessment department which has been broken out in Article 3. Articles 2 and 3 together compose the General Fund Operating Budget totaling \$13,857,182 which is an overall Operating Budget increase of \$1,291,528 or 10.28% from the prior Fiscal Year 2026.

Some of the notable changes include: Baker Hill Road District Departments for Public Works and Police have been consolidated with the regular DPW and Police Departments to increase visibility of year-to-year expenditures. Health Insurance costs have increased 24% in FY2027 and reflect increases in health plans, future retirements and an anticipated mid-year Medex increase. The budget includes a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for all non-union staff; a slight increase in hours for the Conservation Consultant, and decrease in Health and Council on Aging Department hours.

This budget also reflects an increase in Ambulance department staffing to provide 24-hour coverage to the Town.

ARTICLE 3: To hear the budget, act thereon and raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money to defray charges and expenses of the public schools for the ensuing fiscal year 2027 for the sum of \$7,586,284, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	FISCAL YEAR 2026 JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026	FISCAL YEAR 2027 JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027
330 Mount Greylock Regional School District	\$6,839,727	\$7,586,284

(Select Board 2-1)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 3 Explanation: *The budget for Mount Greylock Regional School District (MGRSD) has been separated into its own article (3), and the appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass. This article, totaling approximately \$7.59 million for Fiscal Year 2027 is in addition to the Operating Budget seen in Article 2. The MGRSD budget is increasing by \$746,557 or 10.92% from the prior fiscal year. Articles 2 and 3 together compose the General Fund Operating Budget totaling \$13,857,182 which is an overall Operating Budget increase of \$1,291,528 or 10.28% from the prior Fiscal Year.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate** for the operation of the Sewer Enterprise **\$67,860.00** for expenses and budgeted surplus, to be raised as follows: Departmental Receipts - **\$67,860.00**; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 4 Explanation: *This annual article requests funds for the operating budget of the Town sewer system for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2027. The Select Board and the Finance Committee unanimously approved this appropriation request. This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass. There is no increase over Fiscal Year 2026 and the operation of the Sewer Enterprise Fund has no impact on the Operating Budget.*

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate** for the operation of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund **\$234,100.00** for salaries and expenses, to be raised as follows: User Fees - **\$234,100.00**; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 5 Explanation: *This annual article is sponsored by the Select Board with the unanimous approval of the Finance Committee and requires a simple majority to pass. This article would appropriate \$234,100.00 (\$25,902.00 or 12.44% increase from Fiscal Year 2026) from the Ambulance Enterprise as raised through user fees to be used towards operating expenses and salaries. The Ambulance Enterprise Fund was created in 1990 for the purpose of purchasing a new ambulance vehicle. In 1996, the Town voted that the enterprise could be used to fund billing and administration. The Town's Ambulance service is funded by both the Ambulance Enterprise Fund user fees and the Ambulance Department within the Town's Operating Budget. The Ambulance Department is requesting \$475,000.00 (\$191,000.00 or 67.25% increase from Fiscal Year 2026) from the General Fund Operating Budget.*

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate** for the operation of the Local Access Television Enterprise Fund **\$25,500.00** for operating expenses, to be raised as follows:
Departmental Receipts - **\$25,500.00**; or take any other action relative thereto.
(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

***Article 6 Explanation:** This annual article relates to the allocations from the Local Access Television Enterprise fund to manage operating expenses for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2027. There is no impact to the Operating Budget from this article, and it only requires a simple majority to pass. This article is sponsored by the Select Board with the unanimous approval of the Finance Committee.*

This amount is raised through user fees and is used to record meetings that are available to watch on the Town website at a later date. This amount reflects an increase of 13.33% or \$3,000 to now provide recordings for the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash such sums of money as may be necessary to pay prior fiscal year bills; or take any other action relative thereto.

Randall Trophies, LLC	\$ 941.27
Total:	<u>\$ 941.27</u>

4/5^{ths} Vote Required
(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

***Article 7 Explanation:** This article relates to either bills received from the vendor or Department Head after the last vendor warrant in Fiscal Year 2025. There is no impact to the Operating Budget from this article, and requires a 4/5th vote to pass. The total of the invoice for Randall Trophies, LLC is \$941.27. This invoice in particular was for name plaques for the Fire Department.*

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$50,000.00** to pay the Town's contribution to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

***Article 8 Explanation:** This annual article has been unanimously endorsed by both the Select Board and Finance Committee. This article requests funds from available free cash to put towards the Town's Other-Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Fund for future employee benefits. This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass and does not have an effect on the Town's General Fund Operating Budget in Articles 2 and 3. This article reflects the Town's recently implemented Reserve and Stabilization Fund financial policy for annual funding. Currently there is \$657,767.97 in the OPEB Trust Account.*

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$50,000.00** into the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 9 Explanation: This annual article has been unanimously endorsed by both the Select Board and Finance Committee. This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass and does not have an effect on the Town's General Fund Operating Budget in Articles 2 and 3. This article reflects the Town's recently implemented Reserve and Stabilization Fund financial policy for annual funding. Currently there is \$904,385.69 in the General Stabilization Account.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$20,000.00** into the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 10 Explanation: This annual article requests funds from available free cash to put towards the Town's future capital expenses, such as Town vehicles or building updates. This article is sponsored by the Select Board with the unanimous approval of the Finance Committee. This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass and does not have an effect on the Town's General Fund Operating Budget in Articles 2 and 3. This article reflects the Town's recently implemented Reserve and Stabilization Fund financial policy for annual funding. Currently there is \$67,825.02 in the Capital Stabilization Account.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$16,298.48** for the McCann Technical Vocational School roof and window replacement project capital expense fee for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 11 Explanation: This article requests funds from available free cash to put towards the first-time capital expense fee for the McCann Technical Vocational School roof and window replacement project that is underway. This article has unanimous approval of the Select Board and Finance Committee. The Lanesborough Select Board had previously approved the window replacement project.

This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass and does not have an effect on the Town's General Fund Operating Budget in Articles 2 and 3. If this article does not pass, it would have to be amended into the Operating Budget

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$225,000.00** into the Fire Truck Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 4-1)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$813,366.08** for the replacement of a 1996 Fire Truck engine for the Fire Department as follows:

Transfer from Fire Truck Stabilization, **\$605,000.00**;

And authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Lanesborough Select Board, to borrow up to **\$208,366.08** as needed for said appropriation under and pursuant to G.L. c.44 §7 or to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes therefor, with or without a trade, including all costs incidental or relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

2/3rds Vote Required

(Select Board 3-0)

(Finance Committee 4-1)

***Articles 12 and 13 Explanation:** Both articles 12 and 13 pertain to the proposed replacement of the 1996 Fire Truck Engine as advocated by Lanesborough's Fire Chief. The National Fire Protection Association recommends the apparatus be removed from services after 25 years. The current vehicle is 30-years old, and a replacement truck requires up to 900 days to build.*

The Fire Truck Engine is estimated to cost \$813,366.08, although may cost as low as \$713,366.08. The Town created a Fire Truck Stabilization Account to enable incremental deposits to lessen the impact on any single annual budget. The current balance of the Stabilization Account is \$381,396.51.

Article 12 proposes to add an additional \$225,000 to the current balance of the Stabilization Account. Article 13 proposes to appropriate the full estimate cost by allocating the Stabilization Balance towards the initial costs, and authorizing the borrowing of the remaining amount \$206,366.08 if needed.

However, given the balance of \$206,366.08 is not due until FY2029, the Town will propose transfers into the Stabilization from Free Cash the FY2028 and FY2028 Town Meeting warrants, likely negating any need for future borrowing and potentially reducing the overall cost.

Article 12 requires a simple majority vote to pass and Article 13 requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass. Neither article impacts the town's Operating Budget.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$42,000.00** for the replacement of the Highway Department's storage shed roof, including all costs incidental or relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)

(Finance Committee 5-0)

***Article 14 Explanation:** The article was placed on the warrant at the request of the Department of Public Works Director and has been unanimously endorsed by the Town Administrator, Select Board and Finance Committee.*

This article would allow for the replacement of the Highway Department's storage shed roof. This would be funded by \$42,000.00 of Free Cash and would not have an effect on the Town's Operating Budget or tax levy. This is an estimated amount for the roof replacement based on quotes received. The Highway Department's salt shed and garage roofs are also up for replacement soon and projected to be replaced in Fiscal Year 2030 per the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$49,524.43** for the Fiscal Year 2027 debt payment for the Highway Department's 2025 International Dump Truck, including all costs incidental or relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 15 Explanation: This article was placed on the warrant at the request of the Town Administrator and has been unanimously endorsed by the Select Board and Finance Committee.

This appropriation requires a simple majority vote to pass and does not have an effect on the Town's general fund operating budget in Article 2. This article was removed from the Operating Budget to reduce the overall tax levy increase given the Town's high free cash certification this year. The Town has a contract with KS Statebank for a 7-year equal payment plan schedule with the last payment being in Fiscal Year 2030. If this article does not pass, it would have to be amended into the General Fund Operating Budget.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** the sum of **\$330,000.00** for the replacement of a 2014 International Dump Truck for the Highway Department as follows:
Transfer from Free Cash **\$53,274.85**;
Transfer from those amounts approved at the FY26 Annual Town Meeting Article 13 Front End Loader **\$49,261.06**;
Transfer from those amounts received from the Sale of Town Real Estate **\$227,464.09**;
with or without a trade, including all costs incidental or relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)
(Finance Committee 4-1)

Article 16 Explanation: This article was placed on the warrant at the request of the Department of Public Works Director and has been endorsed by the Select Board and the majority of the Finance Committee.

This article would allow for the replacement of the Highway Department's 2014 International Dump Truck. This would be funded by \$53,274.85 of Free Cash, \$49,261.06 repurposed from the FY26 Annual Town Meeting Article 13 for the Highway Department Front End Loader replacement (which was underspent), and \$227,464.09 from revenue received from the Sale of Town Real Estate totaling \$330,000.00. There would not be an effect on the Town's Operating Budget if this article is approved. There is a Capital Improvement Plan to track all Town vehicles and this truck was shifted to an earlier replacement time given its current condition. The delivery of this truck is estimated around 2 to 3 years.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$80,000.00** for the replacement of a Police Vehicle, with or without a trade, including all costs incidental and relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 2-1)
(Finance Committee 0-5)

Article 17 Explanation: *The article was placed on the warrant at the request of the Police Chief and has been endorsed by the majority of the Select Board. The Finance Committee does not endorse this vehicle replacement purchase.*

This article would allow the Police Department to replace a cruiser vehicle and would be funded by \$80,000 of Free Cash, not having an effect on the Town's Operating Budget. A Police cruiser is historically replaced every other year and had previously been funded by the Baker Hill Road District.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$1,200.00** to be used by the Town to purchase software to support tracking and ongoing maintenance schedules of all Town-owned vehicles for Fiscal Year 2027, including all costs incidental or relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)

(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 18 Explanation: *The article was placed on the warrant at the request of the Select Board and has been endorsed by the Department of Public Works, Public Safety Departments, and the Finance Committee. There would no effect on the Town's Operating Budget if approved. This is a new expense and would be including in the FY28 Operating budget if this article is approved. The Town has taken advantage of a free trial at the end of Fiscal Year 2026 and would like to continue into the new Fiscal Year 2027.*

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of **\$200,000.00** to be used by the Assessor to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2027, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Select Board 3-0)

(Finance Committee 5-0)

Article 19 Explanation: *The article was placed on the warrant at the request of the Town Administrator and Town Accountant and has been unanimously endorsed by the Select Board and Finance Committee.*

While the Fiscal Year 2027 cannot be fully calculated until November 2026, this article would lower the tax levy and reduce the anticipated real-estate tax rate by approximately 1.8 percentage points. If other free cash articles are not approved earlier in this warrant, an amendment on the floor could increase this amount to further reduce the next fiscal year's tax rate.

The Finance Committee and Town Accountant would like general fund free cash reserves to remain above \$500,000 for the next fiscal year certification.

ARTICLE 20: 2026 ZONING AMENDMENT PROPOSALS: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Lanesborough Zoning by-laws referred to in **Exhibit 1** related to related to Short-Term Rentals (Article A), Accessory Dwelling Units (Article B), and Signage (Articles C).

2/3rds Vote Required for each of three (3) articles A-C in Exhibit 1.

A: SHORT-TERM RENTALS

This proposed bylaw amendment responds to recent concerns related to short-term rentals, which are not currently addressed in Lanesborough’s zoning bylaw. Under Massachusetts case law, if a use is not explicitly allowed in a zoning bylaw, it is considered prohibited.

This amendment would formally allow short-term rentals throughout the Town of Lanesborough and establish regulations to manage them. Key provisions include:

- Registration Requirement: All short-term rental operators must register with the Town.
- Compliance: Operators must comply with all applicable state building codes and tax requirements.
- Local Standards: Rentals must adhere to local regulations related to public order, including noise and parking.
- The amendment also establishes limits based on zoning districts:
 - In the Residential (R) District—which includes areas near Pontoosuc Lake, Meadow Lane and Billings Street, the hill from Route 7 up to Lanesborough Elementary School, and the Berkshire Village area—short-term rentals would be limited to 180 days per year.
 - In all other zoning districts, short-term rentals would be permitted year-round.

B: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUs)

This proposed amendment brings Lanesborough into compliance with Section 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024 (the Affordable Homes Act), which requires municipalities to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) by right in all residential zoning districts.

To meet these requirements, the amendment:

- Removes certain barriers, including parking requirements near BRTA routes.
- Eliminates the need for a Zoning Board special permit in specific cases

In addition, the Planning Board proposes allowing larger ADUs (up to 1,200 square feet) under certain conditions.

C: SIGNS

This proposed amendment reorganizes the Town’s sign regulations to improve clarity and ease of use. It also addresses concerns raised by local business owners by allowing additional signage. Specifically, the amendment would permit one feather flag per business, expanding signage options while maintaining reasonable regulation.

The business meeting at which Articles 2 through 20 will be acted upon will commence at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at Lanesborough Elementary School, 188 Summer Street in said Lanesborough. The election, or action on Article 1, will take place on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026, at 83 North Main Street, Lanesborough and the polls will be open at noon and close at 8:00 p.m.

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting True Attested copies thereof in three public places and convenient places in the Town, at least seven days before the time of holding said meeting.

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECT BOARD:

Deborah A. Maynard Deborah A. Maynard, Chair

Michael P. Murphy Michael P. Murphy

Jason A. Breault Jason A. Breault

I have posted true and attested copies of said Warrant at the Lanesborough Post Office, the Lanesborough Town Hall and Bob's Country Kitchen.

[Signature]
Police Officer

6/1/26
Date

Ruth Knysh
Ruth Knysh
Town Clerk

6/1/26
Date

EXHIBIT 1

Lanesborough Planning Board Planning Board voted to send to Select Board on April 13th, 2026

Article A. SHORT-TERM RENTALS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 165, to regulate Short Term Rentals as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Amend § 165-3, Terms Defined, by deleting the language in strike-through and adding the bold and underlined language to the existing definition of SHORT-TERM RENTAL:

SHORT-TERM RENTAL

An occupied ~~property~~ **dwelling unit** that is not a hotel, motel, boardinghouse or bed-and-breakfast establishment, where at least one room or unit is rented out by an operator through the use of advance reservations **for periods of 31 days or less**. ~~A short-term rental includes an apartment, house, cottage, and condominium.~~ **Any dwelling unit type may be operated as a short-term rental.** It does not include property that is rented out through tenancies at will or month-to-month leases. It also does not include time-share property or bed-and-breakfast homes (see definition of "bed-and-breakfast").

Amend § 165, Article VIII, Special Provisions, by adding a new § 165-42 entitled "Short-Term Rentals" as follows, and renumbering the succeeding sections as necessary:

§ 165-42 Short-Term Rentals

A. Purpose and intent. This section regulates Short-Term Rentals (STRs) of residential properties in a way that clarifies where these uses are allowed in Lanesborough and regulates them in a manner that retains the character and safety of neighborhoods and the community while preserving an important resource for the local tourism dependent business community.

B. Registration and Inspections. All operators of Short-Term Rentals shall apply for registration annually with the Town Clerk who shall maintain a registry of all approved Short-Term Rentals in the Town of Lanesborough and may set reasonable fees for the maintenance of the registry.

Applications for registration shall include the following:

- (1) Owner Name and Property Street Address.
- (2) Local property management contact information, if applicable.
- (3) A copy of a currently valid STR Certificate of Registration with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.
- (4) A copy of a currently valid Certificate of Inspection from the Building Commissioner, if applicable.

C. Operational Requirements. All Short-Term Rentals shall be maintained and operated in an orderly and neighborhood supportive manner and shall comply with the following:

- (1) Daily Stay Limit: A Short-Term Rental may be rented 180 days per year in the Residential (R) district and 365 days per year in all other zoning districts for no more than 31 days at a time by one individual,
- (2) Parking: One space for each sleeping room as required by 165-27 Parking requirements.
- (3) Accessory Dwellings: An accessory dwelling unit that complies with the provisions of § 165-41 may be operated as a Short-Term Rental.
- (4) Compliance with Other Bylaws: All Short-Term Rentals must comply with all other local bylaws and state and federal laws and regulations including but not limited to those concerning noise, disturbance of the peace, and general public order and safety.

D. Enforcement. If the owner of any dwelling unit being operated as a Short-Term Rental violates any provision of this section, the owner may be subject to a civil penalty in accordance with M. G. L. c. 40 § 21D and Zoning Bylaw § 165-48, Violations.

Amend § 165, Article IV, Use Regulations, by adding the following new category entitled “Short-Term Rental” under ACCESSORY USES in § 165-10 Table of Permitted Uses.

ACCESSORY USES	R	R-A	B	LB	MC	I
<i>Short-Term Rental</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

2/3rds Vote Required

Article B. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 165, to bring the provisions on Accessory Dwellings in line with state law as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Amend § 165-41, **Detached accessory dwelling units**, by deleting the language in strike-through and adding the bold and underlined language below:

§ 165-41 Detached accessory dwelling units.

A.

Purpose and intent:

- (1) Increase the number of small dwelling units available in Town;
- (2) Increase the range of choice of housing accommodations;
- (3) Encourage greater diversity of population, with particular attention to young adults and senior citizens, while being more affordable to a wider range of households;
- (4) Encourage a more economic and energy-efficient use of the Town's housing supply while maintaining the appearance and character of the Town's single-family neighborhoods; and
- (5) Give renewed purpose to previous underutilized accessory dwellings.

B.

Conditions and requirements; general.

- (1) A detached accessory dwelling unit shall be subordinate in size to the principal dwelling unit on a lot.
- (2) There shall be no more than one detached accessory dwelling unit per lot.

C.

Conditions and requirements; appearance. The detached accessory dwelling shall be designed to maintain the appearance and essential character of the single-family neighborhood.

(1) A detached accessory dwelling unit shall be permitted, either in a new or existing building. Other customary residential accessory uses (e.g., barns, garages, sheds, etc.) are permitted within a building housing an accessory dwelling unit. Such use shall not count towards the following floor area restrictions.

~~(2) A detached accessory dwelling unit shall be limited to 900 square feet gross floor area and may be increased to 1/3 of the gross floor area of the principal dwelling on the site if it is larger but in no instance exceed 1,200 square feet gross floor area.~~

(2) A detached accessory dwelling unit shall not be larger than 1200 square feet gross floor area or ½ of the size of the principal dwelling, whichever is smaller, unless increased via special permit as permitted by § 165-41(D).

(3) No unenclosed stairs shall be located on any street-facing side of the building.

(4) The detached accessory dwelling unit shall require one parking space **unless any portion of the Lot it sits on is within a one half-mile radius of a location serving as a point of embarkation for any bus operated by the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, in which case no spaces are required.**

D.

Conditions and requirements; review process.

~~(1) A detached accessory dwelling unit on a nonconforming lot shall require a special permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals.~~

~~(2) A detached accessory dwelling unit within an existing nonconforming structure requires a special permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals.~~

(1) A detached accessory dwelling may be increased in size beyond the limits of § 165-41(C)(2) with a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. In no case shall the accessory dwelling be increased to more than ½ of the size of the principal dwelling. The ZBA must find that no congestion or health or safety limitations would be created by the development of the accessory dwelling unit.

(2) If an existing primary dwelling is smaller than the square foot limits for ADUs within this section, new construction may be permitted as a primary dwelling and the original dwelling designated as an ADU.

Amend § 165-12, **Dimensional requirements**, by merging the row in the Intensity Table for Single Dwelling Unit with the table row for Double Dwelling Unit in all zoning districts, creating a single row titled “Single and Double dwelling units” required to comply with the existing dimensional requirements for Single Dwelling Units in each zoning district.

The proposed zoning amendment brings Lanesborough into full compliance with Section 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024. That legislation requires communities to allow ADUs or Accessory Dwelling Units by right across all residential zones in a community. By eliminating our bylaw language that requires a parking space and requires a Zoning Board permit in certain circumstances, Lanesborough will come into compliance with the law.

2/3^{rds} Vote Required

Article C: Signs

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 165, to regulate signs as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Amend § 165-29, Signs, by deleting the struck through language and adding the bold and underlined language as follows, including inserting a new Section G, Temporary Signs, with the succeeding sections to be renumbered as necessary.

§ 165-29 Signs.

Signs shall be allowed only in accordance with the following regulations:

A. Permits. No sign shall be erected on any property, or affixed to the outside of any structure without the property owner of the same first having obtained there for a permit from the Building Inspector. A record of all applications, plans and permits shall be kept on file by the Building Inspector.

B. The application for said permit shall be submitted by the property owner and include:

(1) A plan of the premises or building on which such sign is to be located, including the location of any existing buildings, structures or signs and the location of the proposed sign and shall include a drawing and description of such sign, the foregoing to enable the Building Inspector to determine that such sign will come within the provisions, spirit and intent of this section of this bylaw.

C. R and R-A Districts: signs pertaining to the use of a lot or building, not more than two in number, with a total area of two square feet in the R District, and 20 square feet in the R-A District.

D. LB, B and I Districts: one freestanding sign shall be permitted per lot. The maximum area of the sign shall be 50 square feet for the first business on the lot. The sign area may increase by 25 square feet per business for each additional business on the lot. Each business on the lot shall be permitted a maximum of two signs attached to the building and visible from the outside of the building. The total area of the two signs shall not exceed 150 square feet.

E. MC District: Property owner shall submit a signage plan and shall be allowed signage that is consistent with the character of the surrounding area on special permit from the Planning Board. [Amended 6-8-2021 ATM by Art. 27]

F. ~~Temporary signs and~~ Off-premises signs. No signs shall be located off the premises to which they apply; except that directional, informational, or signs for identification may be allowed by permit issued by the Building Inspector where such signs shall serve the public convenience and not be detrimental to the neighborhood with respect to size, location, or design. Such permits shall not be valid for more than 90 days. ~~Temporary signs used in the MC District shall be constructed of a solid, durable material. No~~ Banners or streamers are allowed **only as prescribed by § 165-29(G) in any district, exe.**

~~Two banner signs, not including feather flags, are allowed per business with a total area not to exceed 25% of the street facing facade. Open signs, closed signs, menu signs, and one sandwich board type sign are allowed per business. These sign types shall not count toward the total allowable signage area. [Amended 6-8-2021 ATM by Art. 27]~~

G. Temporary Signs. Temporary signs are allowed as follows and must be placed on the subject property in a manner that does not obstruct traffic to or from a public way or disrupt internal site circulation. The following temporary sign types shall not be counted toward the square foot limits imposed on permanent signage.

(1) Two banner signs, not including feather flags, are allowed per business with a total area not to exceed 25% of the street-facing facade of a building. Said banners shall be attached to the subject building.

(2) Open signs, closed signs, and menu signs, and one sandwich-board-type sign not to exceed 36” in height and 12 total square feet are allowed per business.

(3) One feather flag type sign is allowed per business with maximum dimensions of 12 foot by 3 foot. Feather flag type signs are not inclusive of movable inflatable signs.

H. Public safety requirements. In the interest of public safety, the following regulations shall be required:

(1) Signs shall not protrude or extend more than six inches over public property, or more than 18 inches from the exterior of a building in the MC District except by authorization of the Zoning Board of Appeals under § 165-45A. [Amended 6-8-2021 ATM by Art. 27]

(2) Blinking lights, blinking illuminated signs, signs with moving parts, and signs making noises shall not be permitted. ~~Two banner signs, not including feather flags, are allowed per business with a total area not to exceed 25% of the street-facing facade. Open signs, closed signs, menu signs, and one sandwich-board-type sign are allowed per business. These sign types shall not count toward the total allowable signage area.~~ [Amended 6-13-2023 ATM by Art. 28]

(3) Signs shall not be hung from or in any way affixed to any other sign.

(4) Signs shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from any lot line.

(5) Any spotlight illuminating a sign shall be controlled so as not to have the beams cast into the eyes of oncoming motorists or onto any adjacent residential premises.

I. Nonconforming signs. Any sign legally in existence at the time of adoption of this bylaw may be continued in use. If such sign or billboard is removed or altered by act of nature, vandalism or accident, it may be restored to its former condition. If such sign needs to be changed, painted, relettered or repaired, the same may be done; provided, however, where such restoration, repair or change would allow conformity with the provisions of Subsection F above, without undo expense, the conformity shall be required; under no other circumstances may any nonconforming sign or billboard be restored, replaced or re-erected.

2/3^{rds} Vote Required

A Glossary of Town Meeting Terms

Abatement: A reduction or elimination of a real or personal property tax, motor vehicle excise, fees, charges or other assessments.

Acceptance: Approval by a town of a general law to be in force.

Appropriation: Amount of money voted to be spent for a specified purpose.

Article: An item listed in the Town Meeting Warrant which is to be voted upon. Every action taken at town meeting must be pursuant to an Article.

Assessed Valuation: Value assigned to property by the Board of Assessors for the purpose of levying taxes based on fair market value.

Available Funds: Balances in the various fund types that represent non-recurring revenue sources and are set aside for future appropriation. Examples of Available Funds include Free Cash, Stabilization Funds, Overlay Surplus and Enterprise Fund retained earnings.

Bonds: Long-term borrowing with interest at a specific rate for specific purposes, with length and purpose set by statute.

Capital Budget/Expenditures: Annual spending plan for one-time expenses generated by the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Generally, capital items are vehicles, building renovations/construction, property acquisition, professional services and equipment.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): A five or ten-year flexible blueprint for planning the town's capital expenditures, which is updated each year and coordinated with each department.

Chapter 70 School Aid: Refers to the school funding formula created under the Education Reform Act of 1993, by which the state aid portion of public education funding is distributed to cities and towns.

Chapter 90 Highway Funds: State funds derived from periodic transportation bond authorizations and apportioned to communities for highway projects based on a formula.

Cherry Sheet: An annual form which lists all state charges required to be paid by the town, as well as all state reimbursements and Local Aid to be paid to the town. Named for the color of paper it was once printed on.

Classification (Taxes): Division of real estate taxes into residential/open space and commercial/industrial rates.

Debt Capacity: The difference between a community's debt limit set by State law and indebtedness.

Debt Exclusion: A mechanism to assess taxes in excess of its Levy Limit to borrow money and fund debt service for the life of the debt only. A Debt Exclusion is typically used to pay for capital equipment

purchases and building projects. A Debt Exclusion must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Select Board to place the Debt Exclusion on a ballot and then must be confirmed by a subsequent majority vote of registered voters at a ballot box election.

Debt Limit: Set by State law, a Town may carry no more than five percent of its equalized valuation in indebtedness.

Debt Service: Payment of interest and principal on short and long-term debt.

DOR/DLS: Massachusetts Department of Revenue & Division of Local Services.

Enterprise Funds: Self-supporting funds generated by user fees for specific municipal services. Each fund has an independent budget with revenues and expenditures. Lanesborough has three Enterprise Funds: sewer, cable and ambulance. The General Fund may be used to subsidize the Enterprise Fund. Lanesborough Ambulance acts as a hybrid-model with expenses in both the General Fund and ambulance Enterprise Fund.

Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings: Certified operating surplus retained by an Enterprise Fund and available by appropriation similar to "free cash." Retained earnings may be used to reduce fees, pay for capital improvements and debt for that service.

Equalized Valuation: Term used for the total real property valuation based on full and fair cash value between towns for state aid distribution, assessments and shared service funding agreements.

Estimated Receipts: Funds forecasted and expected to be received by the town in the coming fiscal year. Does not include real estate taxes. Examples are permit fees, license fees, excise taxes and local hospitality taxes that fluctuate each year.

Finance Committee: Elected for three-year terms and governed by a Town by-law that makes recommendations to the Select Board on financial matters relating to appropriation, borrowing and indebtedness of the Town.

Fiscal Year: July 1st through June 30th, designated by the year in which it ends.

Fixed Costs: Costs that are legally or contractually mandated, such as retirement, collective bargaining agreements, insurance, debt service, etc.

Free Cash: A form of Available Funds that may be designated for a specific use. It is generated when the town collects more revenue than budgeted and expenses are less than budgeted in any given fiscal year. Free Cash must be certified by the State after June 30th (the end of a fiscal year) before it can be allocated by Town Meeting. For example, the Free Cash funds being used in the FY27 budget come from Free Cash that was certified at the close of the FY26 budget. Free Cash should only be spent on non-recurring costs such as capital expenses. It is also not really cash and is not "free" as in "no cost" but rather means funds that are not attached or "undesignated" or "unencumbered."

General Fund: Primary town fund supported by taxes and receipts.

Grants: Funds received from state or federal government outside normal local aid.

Level Funded Budget: A budget which provides the same total dollar amount as last year's budget. Since costs usually rise each year, a Level Funded Budget typically results in reduced services to residents because the same budget amount must pay for the rising costs, which will require reductions in work hours, staffing or other department services in order to balance the budget.

Level Service Budget: A budget which provides increased funding sufficient only to provide for the same level of services as last year's level of services.

Levy Capacity: The difference between the amount of tax levy required to fund a town's annual budget and the levy limit. This represents unused taxing authority.

Levy Ceiling: The total amount a town may raise via taxation which is limited to no more than 2.5% of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property within the community.

Levy Limit: The maximum amount that any town may levy in a given fiscal year. The Levy Limit can grow by no more than 2.5% of the prior year's Levy Limit, plus New Growth and any voter-approved Overrides or Debt Exclusions.

Line Item: Individual item within a department's budget.

Local Aid: Funds distributed by the State to towns under statutory formulas, such as Chapter 70, Unrestricted General Aid (UGGA) and found on the Cherry Sheet.

Local Receipts/Revenues: Locally generated revenues which do not include real estate taxes or personal property taxes. Examples include motor vehicle excise taxes, investment income, permit fees, hotel/motel tax, food/beverage tax paid to the town.

Mandates: Programs required by law which may or may not be funded by State or Federal Government.

New Growth: New tax revenue expected to be collected in the coming fiscal year due to taxes being assessed to new residential or commercial construction projects and/or other increases in the property tax base such as renovations or additions that are not a result of revaluation.

Non-Recurring Revenue: Money that the town expects to collect this year, but not next year. Non-Recurring Revenue should not be relied upon to pay for expected recurring expenses.

Operating Budget: Annual plan for funding town departmental operations.

Overlay: Amount added to tax levy for abatements, uncollectibles, and exemptions.

Overlay Account: Tax levy reserve used for abatements; unspent amounts become overlay surplus.

Override: Referendum vote to levy taxes in excess of Proposition 2½ limits. A majority vote by the Select Board is required to place an Override question on a ballot, and a majority vote by registered voters at a subsequent ballot box election is required to approve an Override. Overrides are generally

used to avoid service reductions when levy capacity is exhausted.

Proposition 2½: State law passed in 1980 that limits the annual local property tax levy to no more than 2.5% of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property and sets the levy limit to no more than 2.5% over the previous year's tax levy, plus new growth.

Raise and Appropriate: A phrase used to mean that an item will be paid for with revenue sources to be collected by the town in the coming fiscal year.

Ratings: Designations used by credit rating services that give relative indications of fiscal stability and quality based on a variety of factors.

Recapitulation Sheet: A document submitted by the town to the Department of Revenue to set each year's property tax rate. The Recap Sheet shows all estimated revenues and actual appropriations which affect the property tax rate and must be submitted before December 1st of each year for the town to issue "actual tax bills" in the 3rd and 4th quarter of the fiscal year.

Recurring Revenue: Money that the town expects to collect each year for the foreseeable future, although the exact amounts may vary. Recurring Revenue is relied upon to pay for our annual recurring expenses, such as salaries, health insurance premiums and other operating expenses.

Reserve Fund: A fund appropriated each year to be used by the Select Board and Finance Committee for any extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures that do not require the calling of a Special Town Meeting. Transfers from the reserve fund are under exclusive control of the Finance Committee.

Revolving Fund: A fund established for certain town departments to allow those departments to collect fees for a specific service and use those fees/revenues to support the service without using tax dollars.

Stabilization Fund: A special account similar to a savings fund that allows a community to pay for future expenses, reducing reliance on taxes and borrowing. Such funds may be for general or specific needs. These funds allow large purchases to be bought using the "pay-as-you-go" method and should only be used for non-recurring expenses.

Town Meeting: In New England, a Town Meeting is the legislative body of a community. An Annual Town Meeting is required to conduct business for the upcoming Fiscal Year. A Special Town Meeting may be held to transact unexpected business, and a Fall Town Meeting may be held to handle business that was not ready for action at the Annual Town Meeting. Lanesborough has an open town meeting which means any registered voter may participate.

Town Meeting Warrant: The Warrant is issued by the Lanesborough Select Board. It must state the Meeting's date, time, location and list of Articles to be acted upon.

Transfer: Authorization to repurpose an appropriation.

Valuation: Full and fair cash value of real property.

