

**Amendment of Chapter 176 of the
General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph
Concerning Vehicles, Junk and Unregistered**

To see if the Randolph Town Council will vote to amend Chapter 176 of the general ordinances of the Town of Randolph concerning vehicles junk and unregistered as follows:

1. Delete §176-1 Junk vehicles/parts in its entirety and replace with (additions are identified as **bold/italics**, deletions are identified as ~~strike throughs~~):

§ 176-1 ~~Junk vehicles/parts.~~

~~A. No Person, as owner or as one in control of a premises or property within the Town, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, registered owner, or titled bill of sale owner, shall keep or allow to be kept any partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked, junked or discarded, vehicle, trailer or parts thereof to remain in the open on such property longer than seventy-two (72) hours, except that this section shall not apply to any property that is duly licensed for such.~~

~~B. The vehicle, trailer or parts thereof shall be removed within seventy-two (72) hours after notification or it shall be fined and impounded with any and all charges incurred to be borne entirely by the lawful owner of the property from which it was removed.~~

~~C. No person shall cause any item in this section to be stored or confined in a non-permanent (without a foundation) enclosure that has not been duly permitted by the State Building Code and the Town's Building Commissioner.~~

§ 176-1 ***Definitions.***

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE

Any motor vehicle which cannot be moved under its own power from place to place by reason of mechanical defects or inadequate equipment, including, but not restricted to the lack of one or more tires, and which shall remain in such condition for a period of 72 hours or more.

INOPERABLE TRAILER

Any trailer, commonly towed by a motor vehicle, that cannot be moved from place to place by reason of inadequate equipment including, but not restricted to the lack of one or more tires, and which shall remain in such condition for a period of 72 hours or more.

2. Amend §176-2 Unregistered vehicles/trailers as follows (additions are identified as ***bold/italics***, deletions are identified as ~~strike-throughs~~):

§ 176-2 ***Inoperable and/or*** ~~Un~~registered vehicles/trailers/***parts***.

A. No person, as owner or as one in control of a premises or property within the Town, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, registered owner, or titled bill of sale owner, shall keep or allow to be kept more than one (1) ***any inoperable and/or*** unregistered vehicle/trailer ***or parts thereof*** ~~to remain~~ in the open on such property longer than seventy-two (72) hours, except that this section shall not apply to ***a vehicle kept inside a garage or other lawfully erected enclosed building or*** any property that is duly licensed for such.

B. The vehicle/trailer/***parts*** shall be removed within seventy-two (72) hours after notification or it shall be impounded with any and all charges incurred to be borne entirely by the lawful owner of the property from which it was removed, or in the case of public property from the rightful owner of the removed item.

C. No person shall cause any item in this section to be stored or confined in a non-permanent (without a foundation) enclosure that has not been duly permitted by the State Building Code and the Town's Building Commissioner.

3. Amend §176-4 Public way. as follows (additions are identified as ***bold/italics***, deletions are identified as ~~strike-throughs~~):

§ 176-4 Public way.

No person shall allow an ***inoperable***, unregistered and/or uninsured vehicle/trailer upon a public way for any length of time.

4. Amend §176-6 Enforcement. as follows (additions are identified as ***bold/italics***, deletions are identified as ~~strike-throughs~~):

§ 176-6 Enforcement.

The above sections shall be enforced by the ~~Randolph Police Department under the direction of the Chief of Police,~~ ***or his designee, pursuant to MGL ch. 90, Section 9 or any other applicable law or a Town Enforcement Officer pursuant to MGL ch. 40, Section 21D.*** The Police Chief shall be the authority to formulate rules and regulations for the disposal of any vehicle/trailer or parts thereof that have ***been impounded and*** ~~not been~~ claimed and whose penalties have not been paid. Note: The Building Commissioner is the enforcement agent for all building violations.

Notice of violation can be provided by any or all of the following: on the vehicle in question; via mail to the owner of the property upon which the vehicle/trailer is located; or via mail to identified vehicle/trailer owner.

5. Amend §176-7 Fine. as follows (additions are identified as ***bold/italics***, deletions are identified as ~~strike-throughs~~):

§ 176-7 Fine.

Noticed and unresponsive ~~V~~violators shall have their vehicle/trailer tagged with a violation notice and ***be*** fined fifty dollars (\$50), in accordance with the Fine Schedule.[1] Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense, and shall be punishable as such hereunder.

[1] Editor's Note: See Ch. 301, Fines.

6. Amend §1-8 Municipal Hearing Office. as follows (additions are identified as ***bold/italics***, deletions are identified as ~~strike-throughs~~):

§ 1-8 Municipal Hearing Officer.

The Town shall appoint one (1) or more persons to act as the Municipal Hearings Officer. The Hearings Officer shall act as the appeal process between the ~~Code Enforcement Officer~~ ***enforcing person*** and the Violator.



STAFF REPORT

Order: 2025-072

Introduced by: Town Manager Brian Howard

Date Introduced: September 29, 2025

PROPOSAL:

To amend Chapter 176 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Vehicles, Junk and Unregistered.

BACKGROUND

At present, Chapter 176 of the Town of Randolph General Ordinances only provides for enforcement regarding inoperable vehicles that are stored on a property through a determination that the vehicle is unregistered. As a result, only the Police Department can enforce this section of the code and only unregistered vehicles are prohibited. The proposed amendment will expand the violation to include inoperable vehicles, which will allow for enforcement to also be performed by the Town's Code Enforcement Officer and will allow enforcement against a registered but inoperable vehicle that is a nuisance or eyesore. The amendment defines inoperable vehicles and inoperable trailers, and allows for one such vehicle to remain on a property. This is consistent with what is currently allowed. It allows for additional vehicles to remain on a property so long as they are stored within a garage or other lawfully erected structure on the property.

As proposed, notice of violation can be provided by any or all of the following: on the vehicle in question; via mail to the owner of the property upon which the vehicle/trailer is located; or via mail to identified vehicle/trailer owner. Owners will be provided with a 72-hour period during which they can correct the violation, as is the case today. No change in the existing fine of \$50 per day is proposed. The proposed amendment makes it clear that the ordinance can be enforced through the civil penalty or criminal penalty process.

STAFF DISCUSSION

The proposed amendment will allow the Town to ensure that property owners do not have multiple inoperable and/or unregistered vehicles or trailers stored in open air on their property. It expands the definition of vehicles than cannot be stored on property, and allows both the Code Enforcement Officer and the Police Department to pursue violations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the ordinance be adopted.