



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Randolph Town Hall-Chapin Hall 2nd Floor

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

Call to Order: Council Vice President Richard Brewer called the meeting to order.

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

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

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2026-041: Authorization and Approval for New Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Town of Randolph, Massachusetts and The SEIU Local 888 Randolph Town Hall and Library Workers (“Union”)
 - a. Councilor Burgess and Councilor Huff-Larmond asked the Town Manager to give a brief overview of changes within the contract.
 - b. Town Manager Howard spoke of the changes in the contract which had to do sick time, wage increases (2.5% each year for three years), and a pilot of half day Fridays in the summer with a late night during the week. The Police Clerk position is no longer a union position.

Councilor Clerger joined at 6:10 PM via Zoom

Motion: Councilor Burgess moved to approve the New Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Town of Randolph, Massachusetts and The SEIU Local 888 Randolph Town Hall and Library Workers (“Union”). This motion was seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, Egan, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O’Connell; Abstention: Thompson)

Motion passes.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM Council Order 2026-037: FY2027 Operating Budget

- a. The Public Hearing was opened at 6:15 pm. The Council Clerk read the advertisement into the record. Town Manager Howard shared the budget presentation from the May 18th meeting. This presentation included state and local revenue, major appropriations, cost drivers such as health insurance and other benefits, cherry sheets were reviewed as well. Town Manager Howard gave an overview and comparison on the schools budget including this year and surrounding towns. Town Manager Howard ended with saying the possibility for an override in the future.

Councilor Clerger arrived in person at 6:27 pm.

- b. President Egan opened Public Comments up to the audience for comments. There were no digital attendees for the Public Hearing.

Councilor Clerger arrived in person at 6:34 pm.

- c. Sarah, Avalon Drive; spoke in opposition of the recommended budget due to the impact on the school by only giving the school a 3.5% increase. She wants to keep the school funded and to do that they need 7.7% not 3.5%.
- d. Amanda, Glen Drive; would like the Council to consider fully funding the school. Budget cuts could hurt the town in the future. Amanda would like the Council to think about the future of the town.
- e. Chrstina Mora, Staff Member from Randolph Schools; The school needs more funding. The lack of funding is creating unsafe conditions for students and staff. Christina stated that staff assaults are common. The demands on the staff have become too much. She is requesting that the Council fully support the school budget.
- f. Kathy Walter, Randolph School Parent; I have heard many bad things about the Randolph school system and would like to see more done to improve our schools. She believes more funding could tempt more parents to keep their children in Randolph Public Schools.
- g. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street; Is in agreement with the budget presented to the Council today.

Seeing no more Public Comments for this Public Hearing the Council President closed the Public Hearing. This was opened up to the Council for comments.

- h. President Egen went down the list of accounts and asked the council to mark which ones they had questions one.
 - i. Town Council- Councilor Huff-Larmond questioned the professional development funds. Town Manager Howard said this is for the Councilors such as the MMA conferences and the Council Clerk.
 - ii. Town Manager- Councilor Burgess asked if the salaries could be broken down by person instead of lumped into one number.
 - iii. Accounting- Councilor Burgess asked about why the organization chart shows three employees, yet we only currently have one.
 - iv. Law- Councilor Burgess asked if Injured on Duty came out of the Law Budget.
 - v. Operations- Councilor Thompson asked about the increase which was answered with Property Insurance costs.
 - vi. Town Clerk- Councilor Thompson mentioned there are elections coming up, does this budget take that into consideration? Elections were factored into the budget. Councilor

- Burgess asked if we have an Assistant Town Clerk; Town Manager Howard stated we do not officially have an Assistant Town Clerk. President Egan asked about the Registrars.
- vii. ZBA/Zoning- Councilor Burgess believes that this and all boards and committees should be trained.
 - viii. Animal Control- Councilor Thompson asked about the increase? Town Manager Howard stated that a few we pay to the Randolph Animal Hospital to hold animals in the kennels. There was a discussion about joining forces with Holbrook but this never happened. Town Attorney Griffin also shared that we amended the contract to allow for some emergency care for the animal if in the custody of the kennel.
 - ix. DPW- Councilor Thompson asked why there is a 0% change. Town Manager Howard stated that this is level funded. President Egan asked about the organization chart which showed all the workers listed as laborers; he is questioning if there are different categories for these workers. President Egan would like to see the hierarchy.
 - x. Snow & Ice- Councilor Huff-Larmond asked about how this account looks this year given the storms. Town Manager Howard stated that the estimated deficit is currently a little over 1 million dollars. Councilor Burgess asked about solar credits.
 - xi. Refuse- Councilor Gordon asked if the Town Council has any control over the trash fees. These rates are set by the Board of Health. Town Manager Howard stated the goal is to break even by covering the costs to perform the trash services.
 - xii. Health Department- Councilor Burgess asked about code enforcement, specifically to clarify who this role reports too. Councilor Thompson asked about dues membership fees in the budget; Town Manager Howard mentioned that these fees keep the Board of Health Director current with all his certifications.
 - xiii. Community Programs- Councilor Burgess asks about charging fees. Councilor Thompson asked about the rink. Town Manager Howard stated that a discussion of charging fees was had. Councilor Burgess and Councilor Alexopoulos believe the rink should be updated to be more competitive to surrounding ice rinks.
 - xiv. Elder Affairs- Councilor Huff-Larmond asked about the salary budget. There is no longer a split position which is reflected in the FY27 budget.
 - xv. Turner Free Library- Councilor Thompson asked about any known/ issues or repairs needed.
 - xvi. Vehicles- Councilor Burgess asked if this amount reflects the increase in fuel costs. The Town Manager stated the budget increased about \$42,000 to support the increased costs. Councilor Alexopoulos asked if this includes gasoline and diesel, which it does.
 - xvii. Police- Councilor Thompson asked if the computer maintenance is handled by a third party vendor and does this include body cameras? Councilor Burgess asked if this was the same company that handled the cameras around town, but it is not.
 - xviii. Civilian Dispatch- This was merged with Braintree. The Council asked if any complaints have been received; Town Manager Howard stated that there are no known issues since the merge. He also concluded that Randolph Fire and Police are the ones responding and they are familiar with the town's layout.

Motion: Vice President Brewer motioned to approve Council Order 2026-037 as recommended by the Town Manager. This motion was seconded by councilor Alexopoulos.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor Alexopoulos.
Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0
Meeting adjourned.

The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Notification of Upcoming Council Meetings:

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24

September 14 and 28

October 5 and 19

November 2 and 23

December 7