



## **Randolph Town Council**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6:05 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 President Ryan Egan called the meeting to order.

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

*Councilor Thompson arrived at 6:06 pm*

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Clerger.

**Moment of Silent Prayer:** Moment of Silent Prayer held.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2026
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2026

**Motion:** Councilor Burgess moved to collectively approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2026 and May 26, 2026. This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Huff-Larmond)

**Motion passes.**

**Announcements from the President: None**

#### **Presentations:**

1. FY2027 Water and Sewer Rates Presentation
  - a. This Presentation was introduced by Town Manager Howard and given by Matthew Abraham from the Abrahams Group.
  - b. Mr. Abrahams started the presentation by speaking on the water/sewer retained earnings and water stabilization fund. The water stabilization fund is as high as it is currently at 13.5 million dollars. Next the \$7,002,814 million dollar water budget was broken down, explaining the amounts of debt, emergency repairs, indirect costs, water production, expenses and salaries. Then the \$9,859,239 million dollar sewer budget was explained, which contains indirect costs, debt,

salaries, MWRA Assessments and expenses. The presentation explained financial highlights for both Water and Sewer. Lastly, rate options were shared with the council for a 13% increase, 1.0% increase, 2.0% increase and 3.0% increases.

- c. Town Manager Howard spoke on the frequently asked questions. One of which +/- 80% of residents fall into the low end and average user with 32% being in the low end. 2,800 residents are receiving a senior discount. Town Manager Howard then spoke on the Water and Sewer Budgets.
- d. President Egan asked for further information from Town Manager Howard and Mr. Abrahams. He asked for a debt schedule, history of both rates, and a clear full scope of how the rates/debt affect the overall operations.
- e. Councilor Burgess asked about the Debt, do these amounts include Tri-Town water debt. DPW Neil McCole explained the origin of some new debt is from a street sweeper and a water main. Councilor Burgess asked if the construction fees have hit the DPW account yet, Town Manager Howard stated that they have been paying for construction of the new water treatment plant already. Mr. Abrahams stated that the water treatment plant debt is not included in that current debt displayed; and will not be until FY28.
- f. Councilor Gordon asked to review the baseline scenario slide. This would include using retained earnings to fund the increase in the expenses. Councilor Gordon asked if the water stabilization fund account earns interest, which it does. Councilor Gordon stated that we could vote a baseline of 0% increase and then next year reevaluate. Councilor Gordon asked to see a 0% increase in Sewer and 1% increase in water and then a 1% increase in Sewer and 0% increase in water. Councilor Gordon also asked about Braintree and Holbrook's rates.
- g. Councilor O'Connell asked about paying for capital improvements with free cash so that we could maintain funds in the interest bearing accounts.
- h. Councilor Thompson asked to see the prior year projections as well as how they aligned with the actual outcomes.
- i. Councilor Burgess asked about Council Order 2026-048 which states 2 million from water stabilization yet the presentation is using 1.2 million. Town Attorney Griffin stated that this would be amended depending on the rate that is voted.
- j. President Egan asked about 4.3% projection. Mr. Abrahams stated that the 13% for FY27 and then 4.3% following years would help keep retained earnings level. President Egan would like to see the backup for how these projections were estimated.
- k. Councilor Gordon reminded the council that the Board of Health votes on the trash rates; and those will be increasing 7%.
- l. Councilor Thompson asked how the water usage for town building is accounted for. Town Manager Howard stated that those are charged as indirects.

### **Public Hearings: None**

### **Public Comments**

Council President Egan opened the public comments portion of the meeting.

1. Dr. Sandy Range, North Main Street, would like to collaborate with the town to hold a Good Neighbor Day. She is requesting to be put into contact with the relevant town employee.
2. Sandi Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane, asked about the Town's relationship with Citizens Bank. Asked about the Town's efforts to monitor cars parking on the lawn and unkempt lawns.

3. Chisom Nwazojie, Igbo Organization, would like to set up a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss Igbo Day.
4. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street, mentioned that the town has an ordinance for parking cars on the lawn.

**Proclamations: None**

**Appointments:**

1. Veterans' Agent

**Motion:** Councilor Burgess motioned to appoint Declan Ware as the Veterans' Agent. This motion was seconded by Vice President Brewer

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Huff-Larmond)

**Motion passes.**

**Motions, Orders, and Resolutions:**

1. 2026-008: Resolution in Support of Massachusetts Medicare for All Legislation
  - a. Councilor Gordon as the sponsor of Resolution 2026-008 gave a brief introduction and then it was referred to the Resolutions and Proclamations Subcommittee. This resolution is based on a ballot measure that is at the state level which would provide medicare for all.
2. 2026-009: Resolution in Support of Exploring Grandmothers' Village Use of Former Lyons School Property
  - a. Councilor Gordon as the sponsor of Resolution 2026-009 gave a brief introduction and then it was referred to the Resolutions and Proclamations Subcommittee. This resolution would be to write a letter in support of the Grandmothers Village Project seeing if the Lyons School would be a good fit for their vision.

**Old/Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business:**

1. Council Order 2026-045: FY2027 Water and Sewer Rates
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order. A Public Hearing is scheduled for the next meeting on June 22nd. President Egan stated that items 1,2 and 3 under new business are related to the Water/Sewer budget and rates; these will not be voted on this evening.
2. Council Order 2026-048: Transfer from Water Stabilization to Support Water and Sewer Rates
  - a. President Egan wanted to wait to vote on this order and vote it when the Council voted on the Water and Sewer rates and Enterprise budget, which is scheduled to be voted on 6/22 following the Public Hearing. President Egan stated that items 1,2 and 3 under new business are related to the Water/Sewer budget and rates; these will not be voted on this evening.
3. Council Order 2026-046: FY2027 Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order. A Public Hearing is scheduled for the next meeting on June 22nd. President Egan stated that items 1,2 and 3 under new business are related to the Water/Sewer budget and rates; these will not be voted on this evening.

4. Council Order 2026-047: FY2027 Randolph Community Preservation Budget and Reserves
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced the Council Order. A Public Hearing is scheduled for the next meeting on June 22nd at which point the council would vote on this order.
5. Council Order 2026-049: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for Various Purposes
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2026-049 which included free cash transfer for the football scoreboard, snow and ice removal, and funding to other town financial accounts.
  - b. Town Manager Howard stated that the DPW Superintendent presented an invoice that was received after this Council Order was drafted in the amount of \$6480 by Nelson Landscaping for snow and ice removal.
  - c. Councilor Thompson asked about the scoreboard warranty?
  - d. Councilor Burgess asked about the lighting of the scoreboard at night? He would like to make sure this does not happen.
  - e. Councilor Alexopoulos asked about the brand of the scoreboard? Town Manager Howard stated that they have to go through the procurement process for the scoreboard.
  - f. Councilor O'Connell asked if the old scoreboard is staying or this will be a replacement.
  - g. President Egan asked if the town will be getting any winter relief. Town Manager Howard stated will be receiving an estimated \$200,000.
  - h. A conversation was held by the council on security and accessibility at the new field.
  - i. Councilor O'Connell asked if there were any fencing updates.

**Motion:** Councilor Burgess moved to approve Council Order 2026-049 with the amendment to increase the amount of the transfer from General Fund Free Cash to Expenses for Snow and Ice Removal and Remediation Operations During FY2026 by \$6480.00 to pay for an invoice by Nelson Landscaping. In addition, as part of the same motion Councilor Burgess moved to refer the following matter to the Appointments, Operations, and Oversight Subcommittee: to review the status of the fencing and security plan for the High School Football Field and new scoreboard. The combined motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Huff-Larmond)

**Motion passes.**

6. Council Order 2026-050: Transfer of Water/Sewer Retained Earnings for Tri Water Board Operations
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced this Council Order as a transfer from Water/Sewer Retained earnings to the Tri Board Operations for the purpose of covering the costs of chemicals necessary for plant operations, as well as other operational expenses related to the facility.

**Motion:** Councilor Alexopoulos moved to approve Council Order 2026-050. This motion was seconded by Vice President Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Huff-Larmond)

**Motion passes.**

7. Council Order 2026-043: Transfer of Water/Sewer Retained Earnings for Lead Service Line Identification
  - a. Town Manager Howard stated that these funds would be used to immediately start the operations with the Lead Service Line operations. Council Order 2026-043 is related to this one, which is the loan to further continue these operations.
  - b. Councilor Burgess offered to have some members of the Town Council go door knocking to help with the identification of the lead lines.

- c. President Egan asked who the third party vender is? Town Manager Howard stated that this would have to go out to bid, so we do not know yet. President Egan would like to see a more in depth explanation of the program and potential loan.

**Motion:** Councilor Burgess moved to approve Council Order 2026-043. This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Huff-Larmond)

**Motion passes.**

8. Council Order 2026-044: Approval to Apply for MassDEP's Clean Water Trust State Revolving Loan Program
  - a. Town Manager Howard spoke on this council order with Council Order 2026-043. This is a loan to further continue the operations of the Lead Service Line Operations. This loan could qualify for up to 40% loan forgiveness.
  - b. President Egan would like to know how this loan would be repaid/what account?
9. Council Order 2026-051: Amendment of Section 18-3 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Department Revolving Funds - Community Programs Revolving Fund
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced this revolving fund. The intent is to use these funds for further programing at the RICC. This will be voted on at the next town council meeting.
  - b. President Egan asked about the estimated revenue and spending limits out of this account.
10. Council Order 2026-052: Amendment of Section 18-3 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Department Revolving Funds - DPW Utility Revolving Fund
  - a. Town Manager Howard introduced this Council Order which would create a revolving fund for road repairs due after utility companies. Companies such as Eversource would be invoiced for the repairs after road cuts, trench repairs etc, those funds would go into this account. These funds would allow us to fully pave a road versus just patching the repair.
  - b. Councilor Brewer asked who identifies the total owed for the repair following a trench/road cut.
  - c. Councilor Gordon thinks this is a great idea for us to be able to repair our roads.
11. Council Order 2026-053: Amendment of Section 18-3 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph Concerning Department Revolving Funds - DPW Scrap Metal Revolving Fund.
  - a. This order was withdrawn by the Town Manager.
12. Council Order 2026-054: Amendment to the General Ordinances of the Town of Randolph to Prohibit the Use of Algorithmic Rent Setting Devices
  - a. Councilor Thompson introduced this order which would prohibit landlords from using algorithmic devices to set rent prices.
  - b. This was referred to the Zoning and Ordinance subcommittee.
13. Approval of Town Manager Contract Amendments
  - a. President Egan shared that the Town Manager is announcing his retirement. A Contract amendment will include his compensation, terms and date of retirement. The retirement date is January 31, 2027. The Town Attorney will work on drafting a separation agreement.

**Motion:** Councilor Alexopoulos motioned to approve the Town Manager Contract Amendments. This motion was seconded by Vice President Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Huff-Larmond)

**Motion passes.**

**Town Manager's Report:**

**Correspondence:**

1. Firefighter Sunday
  - a. Will be held at the Firefighter headquarters at 10 Memorial Parkway on Sunday June 14, 2026.
2. Mobile Mammography Van
  - a. Dana Farber Cancer Institute will be at the Randolph High School on July 30, 2026 from 7 a.m to 3:15 p.m. for digital screening. Preregistration is required. To register- the flyer can be found at Town Hall to scan the QR code or you can call 617-632-1974.

*Councilor Burgess left the meeting at 8:29 PM*

**Subcommittee Reports: None**

**Council Comments:**

1. Councilor Clerger: Congratulations Ricardo Calixte on his Firefighter graduation. Queens Ball will be held on 6/14. A donation is suggested and would go towards ESL classes. Gave thanks to RCTV for covering the Ball.
2. Councilor Gordon: Congratulations to the Randolph graduates. Councilor Gordon shared many upcoming dates and events with the council. Good Luck to the FIFA teams in the World Cup.
3. Councilor O'Connell: Requests that residents who have complaints with cars parking on the lawn reach out to our Public Health Commissioner who is effective at handling issues. Thanked the Police Department and all other members of the community who helped with the softball tournament. Thank you to RCTV for covering the event.
4. Councilor Brewer: Congratulations to the Randolph Graduates.
5. Councilor Alexopoulos: Congratulations to the Randolph Graduates. Asked about the amount of innings played during the softball game today.
6. Councilor Thompson: Commuter rail is free on Fridays throughout the summer.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Clerger and seconded by Councilor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 ( Absent: Burgess and Huff-Larmond)

**Meeting adjourned.**

*The Town Council Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.*

**Notification of Upcoming Council Meetings:**

June 22

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24

September 14 and 28

October 5 and 19

November 2 and 23  
December 7