

**Transfer of General Fund Free Cash
To Create Town Technology Infrastructure Fund**

To see if the Randolph Town Council will vote to transfer \$100,000.00 from certified General Fund Free Cash to establish a Town Technology Infrastructure Fund for the purpose of supporting the acquisition, replacement, upgrade, and implementation of Town information technology systems and infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- Computer servers and storage systems;
- Network infrastructure, including switches and wireless access points;
- Cybersecurity hardware and systems;
- Software systems and enterprise technology platforms;
- Emergency replacement of failed or end-of-life equipment;
- Professional and technical services associated with the design, procurement, installation, configuration, migration, and deployment of information technology systems.

Said funds shall be expended under the direction of the Town Manager in accordance with all applicable requirements of law.

Explanation:

On March 11, 2026, the Town experienced a hardware failure involving the primary computer server located at the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center (RICC). This server had been scheduled for replacement as part of the Town's capital planning process due to its age; however, it failed prior to the planned replacement.

In response to this failure, the Town Council previously approved a transfer in the amount of \$43,891.88 from General Fund Free Cash to the FY2026 Information Technology Expense Budget for the replacement of the primary server, the purchase of a secondary backup server to provide redundancy, and the replacement of wireless access points required for compatibility with the Town's network firewall.

Since that time, the price of the server equipment has risen rapidly, so fast that the Town could not lock in the purchase at the price approved by the Town Council. Industry-wide, the cost of server equipment has experienced significant and rapid increases. Pricing for the required servers has changed multiple times within a short period due to ongoing volatility in the global technology market, particularly affecting semiconductor components and computer memory (RAM). Vendor quotes for this equipment are currently valid only for short durations, and pricing may continue to fluctuate prior to procurement and delivery.

As a result, the previously approved funding amount is no longer sufficient to complete the project, and there remains a continued risk that pricing will change further before the equipment can be procured through the Town's standard purchasing processes.

This situation highlights a broader challenge facing municipalities: traditional project-based appropriations are not well-suited to technology infrastructure purchases where pricing is subject to rapid and unpredictable market fluctuations. Establishing a Town Technology Infrastructure Fund will provide the Town with a more flexible and responsive funding mechanism to address both the immediate needs associated with the RICC server failure and future information technology infrastructure requirements. This approach will allow the Town to respond more effectively to changing market conditions, avoid delays associated with repeated funding requests, and ensure the timely replacement and upgrade of critical systems.

The Town relies on information technology infrastructure to support essential municipal operations, including financial systems, public safety services, communications, cybersecurity, and community services. Ensuring the reliability and continuity of these systems is critical to maintaining municipal operations and service delivery.

The establishment of this fund will improve financial planning, reduce operational risk, and support the long-term stability and resilience of the Town's information technology infrastructure.