



TOWN OF WESTFORD

FY 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Town Meeting

March 2, 2026

PRESENTED BY THE WESTFORD SELECTBOARD

Casey Mathieu (Chair), Pat Haller, Deb Jorschick,
Julia Andrews & Nick Nichols

2026 WESTFORD TOWN MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Westford Elementary School Gymnasium

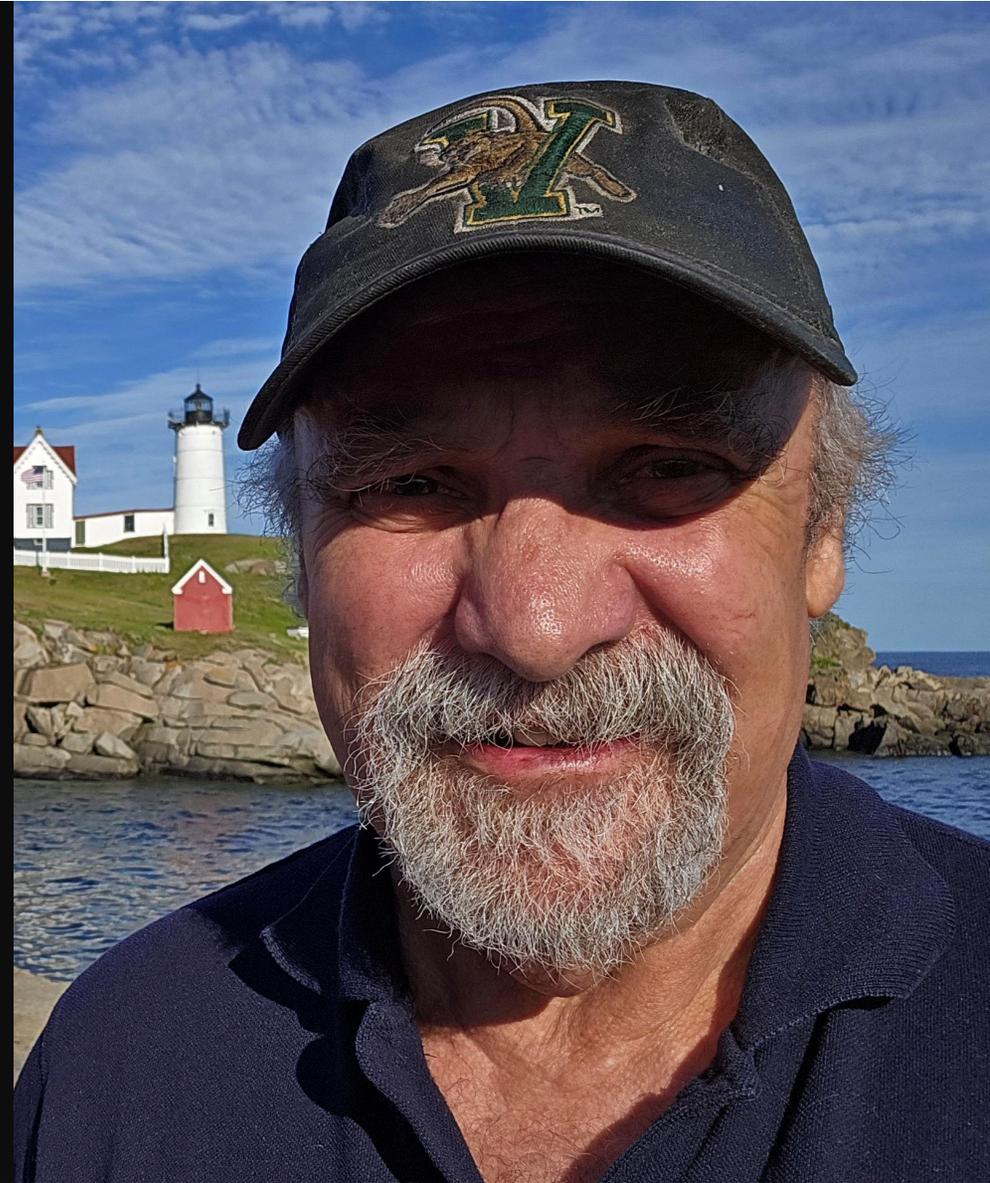
AGENDA:

- FY 2027 Budget Presentation
- Required Public Hearing for Australian ballot articles
- Discussion of non-binding business

**NOTE: Ballots have been mailed to every registered voter
Polls for Australian balloting will open Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. at the Westford School and will
remain open until 7:00 p.m.**

Recognition of Andre' Roy

- The Town of Westford extends its immense gratitude to Andre' Roy and his 34 years of service representing Westford on the school board.
 - Andre' was integral in the school's addition and switching to an alternative heating method.
 - THANK YOU ANDRE'!
-



Westford Statement of Inclusion

Declaration of Inclusion

Town of Westford, Vermont

The Town of Westford condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

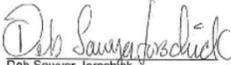
As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of Westford has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

By the Westford Selectboard on May 8, 2025


Casey Mathieu, Chair


Pat Haller


Deb Sawyer Jorschick


Julia Andrews


William "Nick" Nichols

The Town of Westford condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of Westford has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

FY 2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

Expenses

TOTAL: \$2,483,487

Town: \$1,295,977

Highway: \$1,187,510

Represents a \$176,354 increase from FY26, or 7.64%

The largest non-salary increases:

- Office Equipment
- Special Projects Planning
- Fire/Emergency Systems Garage

Non-Tax Revenue

TOTAL: \$493,915

Town: \$193,915

Highway: \$300,000

Represents a \$180,697 increase from FY26, or 57.84%

The largest increases:

- Grants for Paving/Road Projects

Amount to be Raised by Taxes

Amount to be raised by taxes

\$2,483,487 - \$493,115 = TOTAL:

\$1,990,371

Projected tax rate: 0.4272

Decrease from FY26: 0.31 or 42.27%

Town Tax Rate (projected)

\$1,295,976 - \$193,115 = TOTAL:

\$1,102,861

Projected tax rate: 0.24

Decrease: 0.13 or -36%

Highway Tax Rate (projected)

\$1,187,510 - \$300,000 = TOTAL:

\$887,510

Projected tax rate: 0.19

Decrease: 0.17 or -47%

NOTE: all tax rates are projections and do not include school rates. The town-wide reappraisal will affect final tax rates.

TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

	FY 2026	FY 2027	CHANGE
TOWN TOTAL	\$1,189,227	\$1,295,977	+\$106,750
Largest Changes			
Fire Department	\$137,668	\$137,668	\$0
Administration	\$332,893	\$332,750	-\$143
Trash & Recycling	\$255,192	\$262,955	+\$7,763
Donations/Commitments	\$22,520	\$33,820	+\$11,300
Library	\$98,441	\$98,441	\$0
Town Office Building & Property	\$27,540	\$62,600	+\$35,060
BCA & Elections	\$2,900	\$5,600	+\$2,700
Matching Grant Line Item	\$0	\$25,000	+\$25,000

*Increase is due to covered bridge work and a new line item to support grant matching funds

HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

	FY 2026	FY 2027	CHANGE
HIGHWAY TOTAL	\$1,117,906	\$1,187,510	+\$69,604
Largest Changes			
Salaries*	\$329,562	\$365,071	+\$35,509
Repair & Maintenance – Small Equipment	\$1,000	\$2,000	+\$1,000
Reserve Fund	\$50,600	\$55,230	+\$4,630
Sand	\$115,000	\$119,000	+\$4,000
Salt	\$25,000	\$28,000	+\$3,000
Stone	\$6,000	\$7,500	+\$1,500
Chloride	\$45,000	\$50,000	+\$5,000
Gravel	\$90,000	\$100,000	+\$10,000

*4th Road crew member hired in Jan 2026

Personnel

Personnel Changes Effecting the Budget

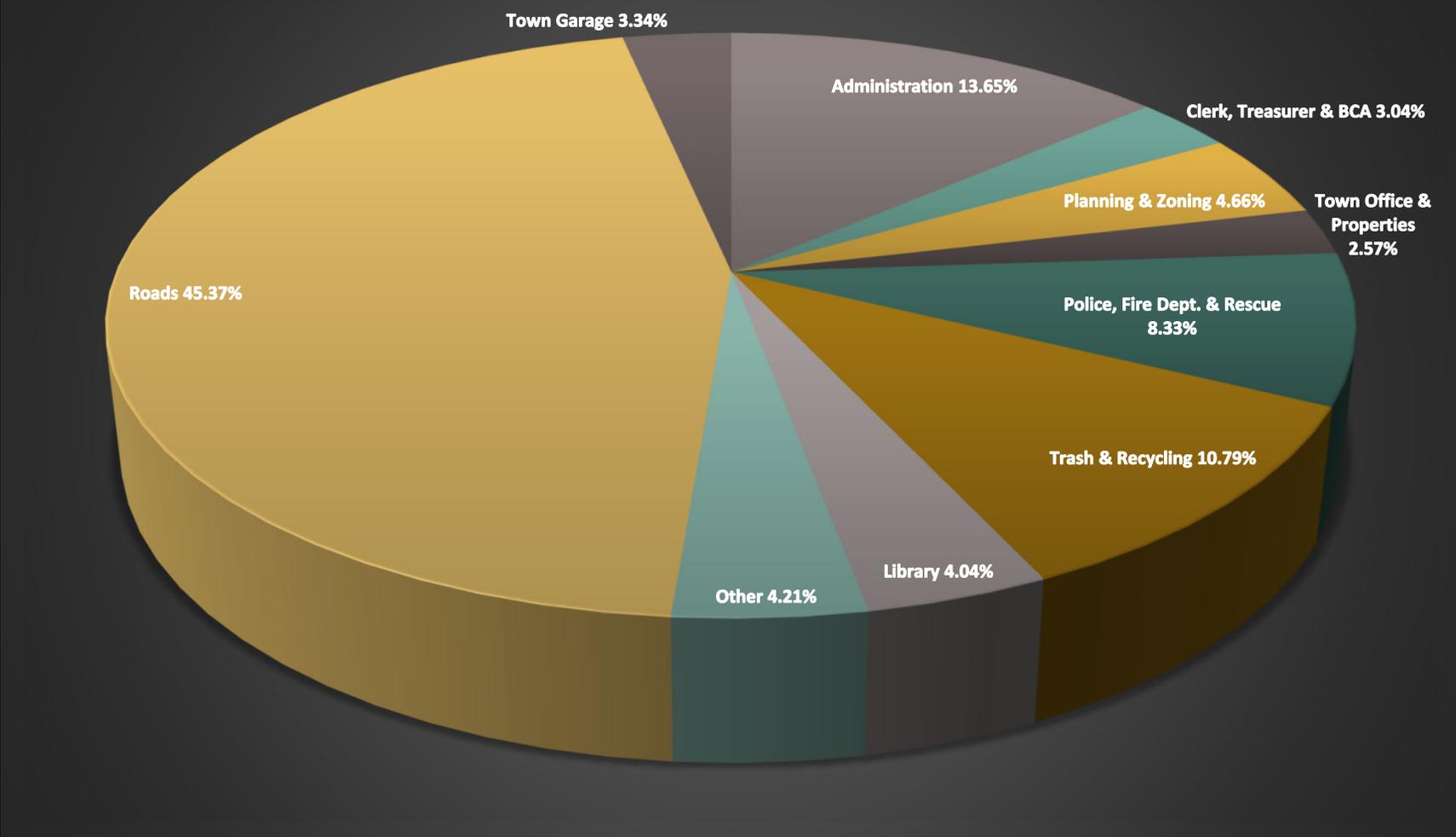
- The part-time Town Planner position is added in the FY27 budget.
- The highway crew is now fully staffed with 4 FTE. The salary line was adjusted to match average contribution to employees across the state.

Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	Change
Highway Crew	\$329,562	\$365,071	+\$35,509
Town Planner	\$0.00	\$30,836	+\$30,836
Administration	\$304,283	\$317,800	+\$13,517

Notable personnel changes:

- Long-time Delinquent Tax Collector, Marge McIntosh, retired in January. Per the Town Charter a nominating committee is being formed.
- The Town welcomed some new faces: Tommy O'Connor (Town Admin), Maggie Kabbeko (Library Director), and Phil Roberge (Road Crew).

FY 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET



NON-TAX REVENUE

HIGHWAY	FY 2026	FY 2027	CHANGE
REVENUE TOTAL	\$118,000	\$300,000	\$182,000
Paving Grant	\$18,000	\$200,000	\$182,000
State Aid for Highways	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0.00

NON-HIGHWAY	FY 2026	FY 2027	CHANGE
REVENUE TOTAL*	\$194,418	\$193,115	-\$1,303
Miscellaneous	\$13,133	\$14,500	\$1,367
Delinquent Property Taxes	\$49,000	\$49,500	+\$500
Zoning	\$15,450	\$10,900	-\$4,550

*Several funding sources that were temporary means will conclude in FY 27

FY 2027 BUDGET – THE BOTTOM LINE

	FY 2026	FY 2027
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$1,994,716	\$1,990,371
GRAND LIST	\$2,600,443 (actual)	\$2,626,447 (projected)
MUNICIPAL TAX RATE (per \$100 property value)*	\$0.7401 (actual)	\$0.4272 (projected)

***Projected tax bill decrease of \$312.89 for a property valued at \$100,000**

THE PROJECTED TAX RATE IS ONLY AN ESTIMATE

Final tax rate is subject to change based on the actual value of the 2025 Grand List as adjusted after the Town-wide reappraisal

This is the municipal tax rate only and does NOT include the school tax rate.

RECAP

Expenses

TOTAL: \$2,483,486

Town: \$1,295,976

Highway: \$1,187,510

Non-Tax Revenue

TOTAL: \$493,115

Town: \$193,115

Highway: \$300,000

Amount to be Raised by Taxes

$\$2,483,486 - \$493,115 = \text{TOTAL: } \$1,990,371$

Projected tax rate: 0.4272

-0.31 Change

Last year tax rate 0.7401

Using data prior to reappraisal the change would have been -0.01 or -\$8.00 per 100K Property Value

Please Vote!

March 3, 2026, 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.
at the Westford Elementary School

If you haven't already mailed back
or dropped your ballot off, bring
your ballot to the polls on March 4th

THANK YOU TO OUR ENTIRE MUNICIPAL FAMILY!

Staff – Day to Day Operations of Our Town

Tommy O'Connor – Town Administrator
Greg Barrows – Treasurer
Callie Hamdy – Town Clerk
Maria Barden – Assistant Town Clerk & Admin Assistant
Mary Jane Featherstone – Bookkeeper
Marge McIntosh (Retired in Jan) – Delinquent Tax Collector
Harmony Cism – Administrative Officer & Planning Coord.
Terri Sabens – Lister

Maggie Kabbeko – Library Director
Niquette Bergeron – Library Technical Assistant
Tina Scanlon & Charles Cavanaugh – Library Subs
Tommy O'Connor – Recreation Coordinator
Sean Cushing – Road Foreman
Reggie Smith – Road Crew
Matt Coon – Road Crew
Phil Roberge – Road Crew

Volunteers & Elected/Appointed Officials

Dog Warden
Fire Warden
Health Officer
Emergency Management Director
Fire Department
School Board

Planning Commission
Development Review Board
Board of Civil Authority
Recreation Committee
Library Trustees
Selectboard

CCRPC Representative
CSWD Representative
Conservation Commission
Cemetery Commission
Town Common Commission
Justices of the Peace

Honorable Mentions

Dick Stygles – Seasonal Road Crew member
Ron Rodjenski – Municipal Consultant

If you are interested in serving your community, please consider applying for a position when it becomes available.
Positions may be elected, volunteer, or receive a stipend.