

Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:30 PM
6th Floor Hearing Room

Present: Select Board Member, Bernard Greene (remote), Select Board Member, John VanScoyoc, Select Board Member, Paul Warren, Select Board Member, David Pearlman, Select Board Member, Michael Rubenstein

1. Open Session

Question of entering into Executive Session for the purposes stated in items 2a and 2b, and to reconvene in open session.

Vice Chair David Pearlman declared that the Board shall enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy related to a claim by Anthony Buono, Alec Lebovitz, Joslin Murphy, Richard Murphy, and Donelle Sean O'Neal, Sr., seeking reimbursement for attorneys' fees following an investigation into potential violations of Town Policies and State Laws, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body' and to review/approve meeting minutes. The Board will reconvene in open session.

On motion, it was,

Voted to enter into Executive Session

Aye: John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

Absent for roll call: Bernard Greene

2. Executive Session

2a. Executive Session, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) ("Purpose 3"), for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy related to a claim by Anthony Buono, Alec Lebovitz, Joslin Murphy, Richard Murphy, and Donelle Sean O'Neal, Sr., seeking reimbursement for attorneys' fees following an investigation into potential violations of Town Policies and State Laws.

2b. Question of approving the following Executive Session meeting minutes ("Purpose 7"):

March 10, 2025

March 24, 2026

3. Announcements/Updates

Select Board to announce recent and/or upcoming Events of Community Interest.

Political signs reminder:

Political signs cannot be placed on public property (including tree lawns), except the night before an election and not within 150 feet of polling places. It was suggested circulating the signage rules to campaigns to avoid confusion and backlash when signs are removed.

- **Health update:**

Chair Greene shared he is recovering from a recent medical issue and is attending the meeting from home.

- **Public Health Recognition Week:**

Town Administrator Carey announced the Public Health Carnival at Brookline High School from 3:30–6:30 PM and encouraged residents to attend.

4. **Public Comment** - No speakers

5. **Miscellaneous**

Approval of miscellaneous items, licenses, and contracts.

5a. Question of approving the meeting minutes from March 31, 2026.

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

5b. Question of approving the 2027 CDBG Week Proclamation

PROCLAMATION

Brookline Select Board

National Community Development Week

WHEREAS, the week of April 6-10, 2026 has been designated as National Community Development Week by the National Community Development Association to celebrate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG Program provides annual funding and flexibility to local communities to provide decent, safe and affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities to low- and moderate-income people; and

WHEREAS, the HOME Program provides funding to local communities to create decent, safe, and affordable housing opportunities for low-income persons; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, our community has received over \$7.5 million in CDBG funds and \$2 million in HOME funds; and

WHEREAS, recent activities that have been funded include improvements to Brookline Housing Authority's High Street Veteran's property, Brookline Community Development Corporation properties' at Boylston and Beacon Street, and continued support for the Brookline Food Pantry, Steps to Success, the Council on Aging, among many others.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Brookline designates the week of April 6-10, 2026 as National Community Development Week in support of these two valuable programs that have made tremendous contributions to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services, and economic vitality of our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our community opposes any attempts to eliminate the programs.

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

5c. Question of accepting the FY26 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$34,943.05, which was recently awarded to the Brookline Fire Department. The funds will be used for radio equipment.

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

5d. Question of approving a grant from the US Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative grant program, via the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region and the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, FFY23 Intelligence & Information Sharing in the amount of \$12,500 related to Blue Voice software services.

*Note: the PCAC committee reviewed and approved the grant acceptance.

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

5e. Question of approving an Authorization to Hire request from the Town Administrator:

Building Commissioner

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

5f. Question of approving a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages Sale License to the Driscoll PTO for the Driscoll PTO Trivia Fundraiser to be held on April 10th, 2026, from 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM at the Driscoll School, 725 Washington St. Attendance is approximately 100 people.

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

6. **Calendar**

Review and potential vote on Calendar Items.

7. **Department Budget Reviews**

Review of the following FY27 Departmental Budgets:

7a. **Building Department – (Commissioner Bennett)**

The Building Department's FY27 overview highlighted its broad operational responsibilities, including permitting, inspections, code enforcement, and oversight of major capital projects. Recent accomplishments include streamlining processes through the Accela permitting system, completing the

Brookline High School tunnel project, advancing the Pierce School construction, progressing on Fire Stations 1 and 4, and executing multiple roof replacements town-wide. Sustainability work continues to expand, with the Senior Center fully electrified and approximately 31 new structures operating fossil-fuel-free under the town's pilot energy code.

Looking ahead, the department aims to evaluate the creation of an Inspectional Services Division, improve certificate-of-occupancy workflows, expand Accela's use, and further advance electrification across town facilities. Challenges include staffing shortages; one vacant inspector role creating backlogs, along with ongoing pressure on maintenance budgets due to inflation and the looming unfunded needs associated with opening the Pierce School in FY28. Inspection backlogs are most acute in electrical, plumbing, and gas due to single-staff divisions. Enforcement revenue remains modest, though a recent demolition-without-permit violation resulted in a \$10,000 fine. The department emphasized the need for long-term funding to support electrification, maintenance, and expanded code enforcement capacity.

7b. Planning and Community Development Department (Planning Director, Kara Brewton)

The Planning and Community Development Department reported significant accomplishments for the fiscal year, including progressing toward a full draft of the Comprehensive Plan—structured around community well-being, livable neighborhoods, mobility and accessibility, thriving commercial areas, expanded housing options, and climate resiliency. The team finalized recommendations for the Chestnut Hill Commercial Area Study, continued work with the Fisher Hill West Uses Advisory Committee, and supported Brookline Housing Authority projects such as 32 Marion and the High Street/Walnut Street redevelopment. They completed ARPA-funded initiatives including parklets, small-business grants, and public art, and advanced an updated Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw to align with new state requirements.

Looking ahead to FY27, the department emphasized alignment with Select Board goals, focusing on implementing long-range plans, supporting mixed-use and housing development, and cultivating new revenue opportunities. Their operating budget of \$1.38 million reflects a 13% cut, largely through vacant positions left unfilled to reduce impacts on public-facing services. Staff reductions will require increased efficiency in permitting and may lead to further adjustments in FY28, particularly as federal CDBG funding remains flat. While the department expects to meet the town's FY27 goals, they advised caution in adding new initiatives without corresponding staffing or technical support, and highlighted the need for continued collaboration, especially as the Comprehensive Plan moves into its implementation phase.

7c. Capital Improvement Programs (Deputy Town Administrator Mellissa Goff)

The FY27–FY31 Capital Improvement Program totals approximately \$259 million, or about \$43 million per year, funded through a combination of operating revenue, free cash, and overlay surplus. Because the town is deviating from its usual 7.5% CIP funding policy during the override period, FY27 uses a 6% operating revenue target, supplemented by \$1.5 million in overlay surplus and free cash to reach 8.1% of prior year net revenue. Major projects include the Strategic Solar Initiative (\$3.2M), Town Hall

electrification, the continued Washington Street Complete Streets reconstruction, and full funding for Lincoln School Grounds design and construction. Debt exclusions—primarily for the Pierce School and fire station renovations—bring total CIP investment to 19.8% of prior-year net revenue.

Routine and long-term capital needs continue to be a major focus, especially street rehabilitation, deferred maintenance, roofing and masonry cycles, and facility upgrades required for sustainability goals. The CIP presentation emphasized pressure points such as rising construction costs, inflation, and the need to manage large-scale municipal building projects while maintaining essential infrastructure. The town's free cash policy "waterfall" remains central to stabilizing reserves before funding capital—prioritizing stabilization funds, liabilities, and affordable housing trust contributions before additional CIP spending. While FY27 funding levels keep the town on track with current commitments, officials cautioned that tight budgets, upcoming operating constraints, and reliance on one-time funds highlight the importance of strategic planning and careful prioritization of future capital obligations.

The Board discussed the town's strategy for funding long-term infrastructure through free cash, debt exclusions, and the modified 6% CIP policy. Several members raised concerns about complete-streets expectations, roadway maintenance delays, and the tension between bike-lane advocacy and pavement management needs.

7d. Unclassified/Debt and Interest (Deputy Town Administrator Mellissa Goff)

The Debt and Interest budget covers the town's payments on principal and interest for previously issued bonds. For FY27, these costs rise primarily because the town is preparing for major borrowings tied to large capital projects—specifically the Pierce School and Fire Stations 1 and 4. The next bond sale will occur this spring, and the resulting debt service forms the bulk of the increase in this category. A smaller portion of the growth is related to building-related work such as roof and masonry projects that require ongoing financing.

Unclassified Budget

The Unclassified section includes several town-wide obligations that do not sit within any individual department. These include the annual audit, general professional services, property insurance, and the contingency fund. Property insurance shows a slight decrease due to recent quotes, though the town anticipates an eventual increase once the Pierce School reopens. The contingency fund drops sharply because money had been parked there in the previous year to potentially help resolve the school department's budget gap. That funding is now expected to be fully used to close FY26 due to overruns in snow and ice removal, fire overtime, and utilities. The remaining unclassified lines include policy-driven contributions to the Affordable Housing Trust, the Liability Fund, and the Stabilization Fund.

8. Warrant Articles - Public Hearing

Public hearing, discussion, and possible vote on the following Warrant Articles for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting:

8a. **Article 12.** To see if the Town will add Article X.X “XXX” of the Town's General By-law as follows

ARTICLE X.X

SECTION X.X.X Transparency of Public Record Request and Responses

The Town shall ensure that all Public Record requests made of the Town of Brookline as well as all responses — except those subject to a statutory exclusion — are made publicly available via the Town’s website as soon as practicable but no later than 14 days after either the Town receives a request or the Town issues a response. (Toffel, TMM; Lebovitz, TMM8)

Co-petitioners Mike Toffel, and Alec Lebovitz made a presentation.

The petitioners, Mike Toffel and Alec Lebovitz, presented Warrant Article 12, which seeks to increase transparency by requiring the town to publish public records requests and summaries of their responses on the town website. After meeting with the Town Clerk and Town Counsel, the petitioners revised the article to address concerns about cost, ADA accessibility requirements, and redaction burdens. Their updated proposal would publish: (1) the *request* (requester’s name, date, department, and text), and (2) a *summary* of the response, not the underlying documents to avoid costly ADA formatting and additional redaction. They explained this would allow residents to see what information has been requested and provided while preserving the ability to obtain the actual documents through a simple follow-up request.

The petitioners also changed the required posting interval from 14 to 30 days so the Clerk’s office could update information in monthly batches rather than daily. They emphasized that their cost estimates— drawn from a large Brookline News records request, suggest only about \$2,400 per year in staff time, a cost they argued is justified to improve public trust. Select Board members raised questions about staff capacity, the meaning of “response,” whether additional redactions would be required, and potential unintended consequences. Some noted concern about adding work during a period of budget strain, while others acknowledged the public value of greater transparency. The hearing closed with the petitioners reiterating that the article would modernize Brookline’s practices to match other Massachusetts municipalities using the same FOIA Direct system.

Discussion

Select Board members questioned the workload, cost, and practicality of publishing monthly summaries of public records requests, emphasizing concerns about staff capacity during a period of budget cuts. Some members also expressed worry about expanding services and noted uncertainty about how a local bylaw that exceeds state transparency rules would be enforced. The Board encouraged the petitioners to continue revising the article.

Public hearing:

- Regina Frawley said that many public-records tasks are simpler and cheaper than assumed, and that the transparency requirements in Article 12 are manageable under existing state rules.

- Marty Rosenthal questioned whether Article 12 would actually simplify anything, noting that requiring staff to summarize responses might create *more* work rather than less.

There was no vote on Article 12.

8b. **Article 24.** To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution which advocates public bodies' usage of a Town email address to archive electronic communication when generating public records. (Toffel, TMM8; Lebovitz, TMM8)

Warrant Article 24 is a non-binding resolution brought forward by petitioners Mike Toffel and Alec Lebovitz to strengthen the town's archiving of official communications. It builds on the Select Board's updated Boards and Commissions Handbook, which already *recommends* that all committee members conducting town business CC the email address boardarchives@brooklinema.gov so that official communications are automatically captured. Article 24 seeks to convert this practice into a formal expectation for all Select Board-appointed bodies and encourages other appointing authorities—such as the Moderator and School Committee—to adopt the same standard, ensuring consistent preservation of public records across town government.

The petitioners emphasized that this change promotes transparency and simplifies compliance with public-records law by eliminating the need for volunteers to search their personal inboxes if a records request arises. Board members raised questions about how “monitoring” would work, noting concerns about staff scanning email metadata to verify compliance, and some expressed discomfort with the perception this might create. Petitioners clarified that the goal was only to track general usage patterns, not individual email content, and they were open to revising the language to avoid misunderstandings. The discussion closed with acknowledgment that the article largely codifies an already-recommended practice but requires refinement before final consideration.

Discussion

Paul Warren focused on the monitoring language. It sounds invasive. Several board members expressed discomfort with the idea that staff would need to search the archive system to verify whether committees were forwarding their emails as required. They worried this could feel like surveillance, especially if it involved checking individual volunteer email addresses, even if the intention was only to confirm general compliance.

The petitioners clarified that they envisioned only light-touch checks of aggregate usage, not reading individual emails, and they were open to revising the language.

Board members also raised practical concerns about implementation. Some noted that public-records obligations already capture emails sent to Brooklinema.gov addresses and questioned whether additional monitoring was necessary. Others stressed that enforcement should not discourage volunteer participation or create unnecessary staff burdens. The Town Administrator explained how compliance checks might work at a high level but acknowledged that the term “monitoring” could be

misinterpreted. Overall, the board encouraged the petitioners to refine the article's language, particularly around compliance and oversight before it returns for a vote.

Public hearing: No speakers

8c. **Article 18.** Create a new Article 8.XX of the Town's General By-Laws to regulate the gathering of personal data using surveillance technology in public places (Fischer)

Withdrawn

8d. **Article 19.** Create a new Article 8.XX of the Town's General By-Laws to regulate the Town's use of surveillance technology (Fischer)

Petitioners Andrew Fischer and Clint Richmond presented Warrant Article 19, which would establish a formal public-review process before any town department adopts or contracts for surveillance technology. Modeled on the ACLU's framework and ordinances in communities like Cambridge and Somerville, the article requires departments to disclose what data would be collected, how it would be safeguarded, and how dissemination would be controlled. Fischer emphasized that the proposal was inspired by the Select Board's own handling of the Flock license-plate reader issue at Hancock Village, arguing that the town needs a consistent, transparent, legally defined process whenever technology capable of tracking people is used; whether by the police, other departments, or through arrangements with private vendors like Soofa sign kiosks.

The petitioners explained that the article would not ban any existing technologies and included amendments approved by the Moderator to align closely with the ACLU model language. They stressed concerns about private companies collecting personal movement and location data, especially Soofa's ability to track cell-phone interactions, and argued residents deserve clarity about what information is being gathered in Brookline's public spaces. Richmond added that the goal is not to eliminate tools like cameras or automated license plate readers, but to ensure an open public hearing and board approval before any new system is deployed or any significant upgrade is made. They presented the article as a safeguard for civil liberties, transparency, and community consent in an era of rapidly expanding surveillance capabilities.

Discussion

Select Board members focused heavily on the breadth of the Article's definitions, noting that "surveillance technology" and "surveillance data" were written so broadly that they could unintentionally cover routine police tools, such as body-worn cameras, dispatch systems, cruiser GPS, radios, and even non-police systems like smart meters, parking meters, business security cameras, and personal home devices.

Public hearing:

Chief Paster warned that the article could delay urgent investigations; for example, a serious incident requiring a quick camera deployment could instead be held up for weeks waiting for a public hearing, and stressed that everyday policing efforts might become unworkable under the proposed procedures.

Deputy Superintendent Paul Campbell added that the article could prevent police from even using privately owned Ring or business-camera footage without a public hearing, and could compromise officer safety and investigative integrity. Deputy Campbell also noted that the language could block cooperation with neighboring agencies using thermal or specialty equipment during emergencies.

Fire Chief John Sullivan stressed that withdrawing from or restricting surveillance-related tools could jeopardize Brookline's ability to use critical UASI-funded equipment and risk federal recall of emergency resources.

The petitioners acknowledged these concerns and expressed willingness to meet with public-safety departments to revise the language.

8e. **Continued from March 31 - Article 17.** Create a new Article 6.XX of the Town's General By-Laws to prohibit civil immigration enforcement activities on Town facilities (Wu, TMM7, et al.)

Petitioners Chi-Chi Wu, Alec Lebovitz, Jessica Chico, and Marissa Vogt presented Warrant Article 17, explaining that it updates Brookline's existing sanctuary-town protections by incorporating key elements from the Select Board's prior proclamation, particularly a strengthened commitment not to assist with civil immigration enforcement. They noted that, after discussions with the Moderator and Town Counsel, they introduced revised language to clarify definitions, ensure consistency in terminology, and explicitly state that the bylaw concerns civil (not criminal) immigration actions. They also removed language the Moderator deemed out of scope, such as authorizing the Town Administrator to seek injunctive relief.

The petitioners emphasized their intent to address concerns raised by the Police Department and Advisory Committee by specifying that any violation of the bylaw would be civil only, to avoid situations in which local police might feel obligated to confront or arrest federal officers. They added a reworked section derived from paragraph 3 of the Select Board's proclamation, now acceptable to the Moderator to reinforce Brookline's commitment to limiting involvement in federal civil immigration enforcement. They also acknowledged that additional edits may be forthcoming, as Advisory Committee members have proposed further language refinements. Overall, they framed Article 17 as an effort to codify and strengthen the town's values while ensuring legal clarity and practical implementation.

Discussion:

Board members questioned the legal risks of turning the town's immigration-enforcement limits into a bylaw, noting that if the Attorney General struck it down, it could actually weaken Brookline's existing

executive order. They also raised practical concerns, notably the Police Chief's warning that unclear language could imply officers must confront federal agents.

Public hearing:

Marty Rosenthal warned that the bylaw could be struck down by the Attorney General and inadvertently weaken existing protections, and highlighted concerns that the prohibition on ICE using public property was broader than the current executive order. Rosenthal also suggested adding other protective measures and improving related guidance, such as the town's "Know Your Rights" materials.

There was no vote.

8f. **Continued from March 31 - Article 25.** Resolution requesting the discontinuance of state and local collaboration with Federal Immigration Enforcement and participation in related information-sharing programs (Lebovitz, TMM8; Wu, TMM7, et al.)

Petitioners Chi-Chi Wu and Alec Lebovitz presented Warrant Article 25, a resolution urging Brookline to withdraw from the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) and to limit any town participation in federal civil-immigration enforcement. The petitioners argued that BRIC shares information too broadly with federal agencies, including ICE, and highlighted documented instances of the fusion center surveilling lawful community groups and sharing school-related incident data that harmed immigrant youth. They paired Article 25 with Article 17, explaining that both aim to strengthen Brookline's sanctuary commitments and prevent local data from being fed into federal systems used for civil immigration enforcement.

The petitioners cited examples from Boston showing that school incident reports and gang-database entries contributed to ICE detentions, arguing that Brookline should not allow local data to funnel into federal deportation systems. They also proposed ending the pursuit of UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) funds, asserting that these grants are tied to federal surveillance priorities and risk compelling cooperation with immigration enforcement. The presenters acknowledged that the town receives equipment and resources through UASI, but contended that Brookline should not trade community safety and trust for federal funding. They emphasized that BRIC participation and UASI dependence conflict with Brookline's stated values as a welcoming, sanctuary community.

Public hearing:

Hannah Clott – Spoke in strong support of withdrawing from BRIC, arguing that BRIC enables ICE surveillance of immigrants and people of color.

- **Shoshana Ehrlich** – Supported Article 25, citing the documented case of Boston Public Schools information being fed into BRIC and then used by ICE to detain a student.

- **Sarah Sherman-Stokes** – Immigration law professor and attorney who represented the student harmed by BRIC data-sharing; described the severe consequences and urged Brookline to withdraw.

- **Suzette Abbott** – Supported Article 25 and framed federal surveillance and ICE actions as a major civil-rights threat, urging the town not to cooperate with federal intelligence systems.
 - **High School Student (unnamed)** – Expressed fear for Black and Latino peers whose information could be misused through BRIC and supported withdrawal.
 - **David Clafter** – Supported the article, arguing that the current federal political climate makes cooperation with federal policing agencies dangerous and inconsistent with Brookline’s values.
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- **Chief Jen Paster** strongly opposed Article 25, explaining that withdrawing from the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) would cut Brookline off from essential *criminal-intelligence and threat-assessment* information—not immigration data—and significantly weaken the Police Department’s ability to protect schools, houses of worship, and large public events. She stressed that BRIC is governed by strict federal standards, does not share civil-immigration data with ICE, and is critical for regional awareness.
 - **Fire Chief John Sullivan** warned that withdrawing from UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) funding—as proposed in Article 25—would severely damage Brookline’s emergency-preparedness capacity. He explained that UASI pays for essential equipment, training, communications systems, and the town’s Emergency Operations Center, and that Brookline cannot replace these resources locally if the funding is cut. The Chief cautioned that withdrawing could trigger federal recall of equipment already purchased with UASI funds. The Chief also noted that the petitioners never consulted him, despite the Fire Department being the town’s jurisdictional point of contact for UASI. From his perspective, tying UASI to BRIC issues was misguided: UASI exists to prepare metro-Boston communities for terrorism and large-scale emergencies, not immigration enforcement. He concluded that Article 25 poses serious risks to public safety without achieving meaningful policy benefits.

Discussion:

The Select Board focused on major safety and operational risks, with police and fire leadership warning that withdrawing from BRIC would cut Brookline off from critical criminal-intelligence and threat-assessment information, not immigration data. Board members also expressed concern that stopping pursuit of UASI funds could eliminate essential emergency-response resources and even trigger federal recall of equipment. Overall, members said the article’s goals conflicted with practical public-safety needs and required far more review.

Town Administrator Carey added that these funds fund so much more than just regular policing activity, it funds emergency management, it funds the fire department and is a critical resource.

9. Warrant Articles - Continued

9a. Article 21. Resolution expressing support for the Massachusetts Medicare for All legislation (Labaree)

Administrator Carey reviewed that Article 21 is a non-binding resolution in which the Town of Brookline expresses support for Massachusetts legislation to create a universal, affordable, and accessible healthcare system, effectively endorsing a single-payer (“Medicare for All”) approach.

The Advisory Committee recommended favorable action with minor wording changes, and after brief discussion noting that the resolution simply conveys values rather than imposing operational requirements.

The article originally referenced specific Medicare-for-All bill numbers.

- The word “coverage” in the Resolved clause was replaced with the two words “health care” (and not the single word “healthcare”).
- In addition, the words “Or act on anything relative thereto” should not appear at the end of the document. (They were mistakenly inserted.)

The Advisory Committee amended it so that Brookline simply urges the Commonwealth to:

Therefore, be it Resolved:

That the Town of Brookline urges the Commonwealth to develop and establish a state health care system that provides universal, affordable, and accessible coverage healthcare for all residents and reduces costs for municipalities and will communicate its support of such to our State Representatives and State Senator.

On motion, it was,

Voted 3-0-2 Favorable Action on Article 21 as revised by the Advisory Committee

Aye: John VanScoyoc, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

Abstained: Bernard Greene, Paul Warren

10. Informative Session: FY 2027 (FFY 26) Community Development Block Grant

10a. Annual Action Plan Recommendations by the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Advisory Board.

Community Development Administrator, David Guzman, made a presentation:

The Annual Action Plan outlines how Brookline will use federal HUD (CDBG) funds in the upcoming fiscal year to address:

- Affordable housing preservation
- Economic development
- ADA accessibility improvements
- Essential public services

It also ensures compliance with the five-year consolidated plan.

Brookline anticipates receiving approximately \$1.3 million in available CDBG funding. Federal rules require:

- 15% cap for public services
- 20% cap for program administration
- 65% must support eligible housing, economic development, and facility projects

The plan prioritizes:

Housing Rehabilitation

Preserving affordable units through:

- Roof replacement
- Structural improvements
- Other rehabilitation projects

Projects discussed included:

- Brookline CDC (formerly Brookline Improvement Coalition)
- High Street Veterans property roof replacement through BHA
- Minor repairs at TwoLife Communities

Total housing allocation proposed: \$733,718.

Public Services (capped at 15%)

Programs recommended for funding:

- Brookline Housing Authority Resident Services
- Council on Aging TRIPPS program
- Steps to Success Work Connections
- Brookline Food Pantry (food cost assistance)

Program Administration (up to 20%)

Covers staffing for:

- HUD grant administration
- Housing monitoring and compliance
- Comprehensive planning work

Staff noted that one position previously funded by CDBG has been shifted to the Housing Trust, lowering administrative pressure on the grant.

- Staff emphasized transparency and are open to public questions throughout the comment period.
- The presentation highlighted the importance of ADA-accessible public facility improvements.
- The final plan will go to HUD after Select Board approval

11. Overlay Surplus Request

11a. Question of authorizing the Town Administrator to transmit a letter seeking certification of any available overlay surplus to the Board of Assessors.

Town Administrator Carey reviewed that this request is to certify an overage in the overlay account. If certified, those funds can be used in next year's capital improvement budget. It was noted that after review, there are funds in this surplus account; the estimated the surplus to be about \$1.8 million, and explained that the town's reserve fund is depleted, so this surplus would help cover critical capital needs (including the transfer station project).

On motion, it was,

Voted to authorize the Town Administrator to transmit a letter seeking certification of any available overlay surplus to the Board of Assessors

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

12. Annual Town Election

Question of approving the following actions related to the May 2026 Annual Town Election:

12a. Vote to issue the Warrant for the Annual Town Election called for May 5, 2026

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

12b. Vote to appoint a new Democratic Registrar of Voters, as presented in the Town Clerk's memo.

Approved

Aye: Bernard Greene, John VanScoyoc, Paul Warren, David Pearlman, Michael Rubenstein

There being no further business, the Vice Chair ended the meeting at 11:40 pm.

ATTEST