

Justin Paré, President
Keith Lapointe, Vice President
John Costello
Daniel Donovan
Mark Gould, Jr.



Kevin McCarthy
John Simmons
Andrea Slobogan
Laura Wagner

Town of North Attleborough
TOWN COUNCIL
43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760
Phone: (508) 699-0100 ext. 2555

1/26/2026 - Minutes

I. Pledge Of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Pare' called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. and lead the Town Council and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

REMOTE SCRIPT & ROLL CALL

President Pare' did a roll call vote of the Town Council:

Town Council:

Members Present:

Justin Pare'	Present
Present	
Keith Lapointe	Present
John Simmons	Present
Dan Donovan	Present
Kevin McCarthy	Present
Laura Wagner	Present
John Costello	Present
Andrea Slobogan	Present

Members Absent:

Mark Gould	Not
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Residents:

None at this time

Invited Guests Present:

None at this time.

President Pare' read the remote script for a remote meeting into the record.

Documents Reviewed:

- Joint Town Council & School Committee Minutes of January 26, 2026
- Town Manager's Report January 26, 2026
- Remote Script
- **Measure 2026-040**- Authorization to Transfer FY26 Free Cash in the amount of \$5,317,073.00 into the Capital Stabilization Account
- **Measure 2026-045**- Authorization to Transfer Funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the K.P. Law Legal Services Account 011519-530003 from Town's Reserve Fund 011329-578000
- **Update on Measure 2026-042**- Approval to Accept the proposed amendments to §108-4 modernize the Town's approach to backyard chicken keeping by recognizing the rights of residents to responsibly maintain chickens on their own property, while also establishing clear public-health protections to address concerns from neighbors— particularly those related to rodents. If accepted, this will also require an update of Ch.290 § 290-18.1 Use Schedule B 2 Agriculture (stock) to remove the prohibition and special permit requirements.
- **Measure 2026-046**- To amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new section establishing Multi-Use Overlay Districts (MXO)
- **Measure 2026-047**- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones.
- **Measure 2026-041**-Authorization of Environmental Remediation Tax Relief Agreements
- **Measure 2026-049**- Vote to designate the positions of Town General Laborers and Town/School Groundskeepers as Special Municipal Employees (SME) under MGL Chapter 268A, Section 20
- **Measure 2026-050**- Authorization for payment of a FY25 Invoice in the amount of \$24.99 for a W.B. Mason Invoice

II. REMOTE SCRIPT & ROLL CALL

President Pare' read the remote script for a remote meeting into the record.

III. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Approval of Joint Town Council & School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2025

Approval of Town Council Minutes of January 12, 2026

VP Lapointe made a motion to approve the Town Council Minutes of January 12, 2026.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Justin Pare' Yes

Keith Lapointe Yes

John Simmons Yes

Dan Donovan Yes

Kevin McCarthy Yes

Laura Wagner Yes

John Costello Yes

Andrea Slobogan Yes

IV. Town Councilor Community Updates

1. Councilor Wagner thanked the DPW and all of the workers who put in the unbelievable hours throughout the storm. Thank you!!!. Roads look amazing.
2. President Pare' thanked the DPW as well and commented on how the roads were unbelievably clean and clear.

V. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Michael Borg gave an overview of the Town Manager Report. Items he reviewed included:

- Emergency Management - Updates
- Communications - Updates
- Operations - Updates
- Budget - Updates
- Personnel - Updates

Preliminary budget will be presented on 2/9/2026.

Councilor McCarthy asked when the official "Move in Date of 451 Elm Street" will be.

TM Borg explained that at this time once the renovation is completed, it is in the hands of the Building Commissioner and the Fire Chief to make sure that all permits are in place, the renovations are completed in compliance , and the building is safe.

VI. Resident And Community Comment

None at this time.

VII. Confirmations

None at this time.

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Finance

- i. Measure 2026-040- Authorization to Transfer FY26 Free Cash in the amount of \$5,317,073.00 into the Capital Stabilization Account

Measure 2026-040- Authorization to Transfer FY26 Free Cash in the amount of \$5,317,073.00 into the Capital Stabilization Account

Purpose and Justification:

I hereby submit the following measure to the Town Council for it's consideration and action.

That the Town of North Attleborough authorize the sum of \$5,317,073.00 or (5.3mm) of FY26 Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Account.

The DOR certified the Fiscal 2026 Free Cash in the amount of Six Million One Hundred Sixty -Seven -Thousand -Seventy-Three Dollars (\$6,167,073.00) on November 7, 2025. Of that 6.1 mm it is being requested that 5.3 mm be transferred to the Capital Stabilization Account. The Town's Free Cash position demonstrates a benefit of the long-standing fiscal policies and management.

Councilor Simmons gave an update of this measure that was reviewed at the December 3, 2026 Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. It was explained by TM Borg that by putting this money in the Capital Stabilization Account, it allows the funds to earn interest (4.5% now) and provides flexibility to address any scenario that may arise. Simple majority needed for Council votes to spend the funds and each ask will come back to Town Council and the Finance Sub-Committee in the form of a measure. This measure was voted in favor 6-0.

VP Lapointe made a motion to approve Measure 2026-040- Authorization to Transfer FY26 Free Cash in the amount of \$5,317,073.00 or (5.3mm) into the Capital Stabilization Account.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Simmons.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

- ii. Measure 2026-045- Authorization to Transfer Funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the K.P. Law Legal Services Account 011519-530003 from Town's Reserve Fund 011329-578000

Measure 2026-045- Authorization to Transfer Funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the K.P. Law Legal Services Account 011519-530003 from Town's Reserve Fund 011329-578000

The purpose of this Measure is to authorize the transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Town's Reserve Fund Line Item to support increased Legal Service Expenses that the Town has incurred over the past few months.

Town vs. Brady	\$45,570.00
NAPD Litigation	\$4,082.00
Building Inspector -Chestnut St.	\$2,340.00

Achin Acres vs. Conservation	\$1,354.00
Food Security RFP	\$1,118.00
Marijuana	\$345.00
Contracts- Vendor Amendments	\$208.00

Therefore, the Town Manager is requesting Authorization to Transfer Funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the K.P. Law Legal Services Account 011519-530003 from Town's Reserve Fund 011329-578000

Councilor Simmons gave an update from the 1/14/2026 Finance Sub-Committee Meeting and stated that it was voted in favor 4-0.

VP Lapointe made a motion to approve Measure 2026-040- Authorization to Transfer FY26 Free Cash in the amount of \$5,317,073.00 or (5.3mm) into the Capital Stabilization Account.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Simmons.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

b. Economic Growth & Sustainability

Nothing to report at this time.

c. By-Law

- i. Update on Measure 2026-042- Approval to Accept the proposed amendments to §108-4 modernize the Town's approach to backyard chicken keeping by recognizing the rights of residents to responsibly maintain chickens on their own property, while also establishing clear public-health protections to address concerns from neighbors—particularly those related to rodents. If accepted, this will also require an update of Ch.290 § 290-18.1 Use Schedule B 2 Agriculture (stock) to remove the prohibition and special permit requirements.

Councilor Donovan gave an update on the Measure from the 1/21/26 Bylaw Sub-Committee Meeting. Volunteers were asked to draft a revised version of the Bylaw and Councilor Wagner and Mr. Donohue volunteered. This draft will be ready for the 2/4/26 Bylaw meeting.

- ii. Update on Measure 2026-046- To amend the Zoning Bylaws to add a new section establishing Multi-Use Overlay Districts (MXO)

Councilor Donovan gave an update on the Measure from the 1/21/26 Bylaw Sub-Committee Meeting. This measure was continued to the 2/4/26 Bylaw Meeting where the Town Planner and Chair of the Planning Board will both be in attendance to give a presentation.

- iii. Update on Measure 2026-047- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones.

Update on Measure 2026-047- Proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Use Schedule B, to Prohibit New and Used Auto Dealerships in all Residential and Commercial Zones.

Councilor Donovan gave an update on the Measure from the 1/21/26 Bylaw Sub-Committee Meeting where it was continued to the 2/4/26 Bylaw Meeting. Discussion/Concerns centered around small mechanic shops that also sell automobiles on the side of their business. More discussions to be had.

iv. FIRST READING & DISCUSSION

1. Measure 2026-041-Authorization of Environmental Remediation Tax Relief Agreements

The purpose of this measure, as authorized the Town Council of North Attleborough acceptance under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 59A, is to establish a local bylaw and process for negotiating Brownfields Tax Abatement Agreements for qualifying contaminated commercial and industrial properties.

North Attleborough contains properties where the presence or potential presence of oil or hazardous material contamination has discouraged private investment and delayed redevelopment. These sites often remain underutilized or vacant, contribute limited economic value, and can present environmental and public

health concerns. The cost of environmental assessment and remediation can be a significant barrier for “innocent owners” or prospective purchasers who were not responsible for the contamination.

Adoption of the Brownfields Tax Abatement Agreements Bylaw will:

- Encourage the cleanup and productive reuse of contaminated properties
- Reduce environmental and public health risks associated with legacy industrial sites
- Return underperforming parcels to the tax rolls and support long term growth in the commercial and industrial tax base
- Support job creation, private investment, and potential housing or mixed use redevelopment
- Provide a structured, transparent, and Council-approved process rather than ad hoc negotiations

This bylaw balances environmental responsibility with fiscal stewardship. It does not forgive taxes broadly or without conditions. It creates a controlled mechanism for the Town to leverage tax restructuring as an incentive tied directly to environmental remediation, compliance with state law.

VP Lapointe made a motion to waive the First Reading of this measure.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

The Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Vote will be held at the February 9, 2026 Town Council Meeting.

Nothing to Report at this time.

e. School Committee Representative

President Pare' reported that the MCAS results were in and the Committee talked about the successes at grade levels/scores/results/and the actions they were taking on the results.

Councilor Wagner reported that students cannot "opt out" of the MCAS, so if they don't take it they get a "zero" and then it gets averaged in with the scores. This really messes up the results.

President Pare' reported that the School Committee gave positive feedback about the Joint Town/School Committee Meeting where both the Town Manager and the School Superintendent spoke regarding the Town and School Budgets. They were very appreciative of the format.

President Pare' reported that the FY27 School Budget was presented at the School Committee Meeting. They are asking for a 7.73% increase and are looking for 20 new hires. This increase is more that we are going to receive as a Town. There will need to be honest discussions to come and there will be conversations that we will all need to participate in.

f. School Building Committee (MSBA)

VP Lapointe gave an update of the progress of the project. There has been progress on the design and at this time, they have hit all of their milestones. Bathroom designs are progressing as they will be mimicking an Airport Style of bathrooms with some design tweaks. They are working on the Exterior Design, Athletic Fields, and Parking Lots. VP Lapointe reported that School Committee Chair Hamilton invited the DPW Team to the next meeting to discuss the drainage of the project. They would like to discuss their approach to the existing complicated water site and their plans to not make the water situation any worse.

g. Communication, Public Participation & Engagement

Nothing to Report at this time.

h. Local Emergency Planning

Nothing to Report at this time.

i. Audit Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

IX. Old Business

a. None at this time

X. New Business

a. Measure 2026-049- Vote to designate the positions of Town General Laborers and Town/School Groundskeepers as Special Municipal Employees (SME) under MGL Chapter 268A, Section 20

Measure 2026-049- Vote to designate the positions of Town General Laborers and Town/School Groundskeepers as Special Municipal Employees (SME) under MGL Chapter 268A, Section 20

VP Lapointe made a motion to approve Measure 2026-049- Vote to designate the positions of Town General Laborers and Town/School Groundskeepers as Special Municipal Employees (SME) under MGL Chapter 268A, Section 20

Roll Call Vote was taken:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

b. Measure 2026-050- Authorization for payment of a FY25 Invoice in the amount of \$24.99 for a W.B. Mason Invoice

Measure 2026-050- Authorization for payment of a FY25 Invoice in the amount of \$24.99 for a W.B. Mason Invoice

Purpose and Justification:

Authorization for payment of an FY25 Invoice in the amount of \$24.99 for W.B. Mason for the HR Department. Invoice was received after the close of the FY25 Year. Monies were not encumbered as this was an unexpected purchase.

I respectfully request the Town Council approve the payment of \$24.99.

A motion was made by Vice-President Lapointe to approve Measure 2026-050- Authorization for payment of an FY25 Invoice in the amount of \$24.99 for W.B. Mason for the HR Department.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes
Councilor Costello	Yes
Councilor McCarthy	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

XI. Adjournment

VP Lapointe made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Simmons seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

President Pare'	Yes
VP Lapointe	Yes
Councilor Simmons	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor Wagner	Yes

Councilor Costello Yes

Councilor McCarthy Yes

Councilor Donovan Yes

Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM