

- legals -

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 5 Adoption or change of zoning ordinances or by-laws, the West Brookfield Planning Board will open a public hearing on **Monday, May 11th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 2 East Main Street.

The following amendment will be considered:

Amend the West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws by deleting language pertaining to minor site plan classifications in Section 5. Special Requirements.

Copies of the proposed amendment are available at the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town webpage under "Planning Board": <https://www.wbrookfield.com/>.

The Board invites all interested parties to attend and offer comments on the proposed zoning amendment.

Timothy Morrell, Chairperson
04/24, 05/01/2026

Town of Brookfield Notice of Public Hearing Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Locations

The Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on the petition of NATIONAL GRID on **Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 at 7: 05 PM** in the Police Station Meet-

ing Room, 7 Prouty Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 on the following matter:

NATIONAL GRID requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Quaboag St. National Grid to install JO mid span Pole on Quaboag St. near the intersection of South Maple St. Install P150 and 15' anchor approximately 56' southeast of existing P1.

No.# 31198603

All interested parties are requested to provide written or verbal comments on the petition to the Select Board at selectmen@brookfieldma.us prior to, or at the **Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.** 04/24/2026

Town of Brookfield Notice of Public Hearing Petition for Pole and Wire Locations

The Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on the petition of NATIONAL GRID on **Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 at 7:15 PM** in the Police Station Meeting Room, 7 Prouty Street Brookfield, MA 01506 on the following matter:

NATIONAL GRID requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting

fixtures, along and across the following public way:

National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Quaboag St. National Grid to install SO Pole P65 approximately 70' northwest of existing P19 Shore Road.

No. # 31198603

All interested parties are requested to provide written or verbal comments on the petition to the Select Board at selectmen@brookfieldma.us prior to, or at the **Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7:15 p.m.** 04/24/2026

LEGAL NOTICE:

Town Of West Brookfield Conservation Commission
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 – Public Hearing:
RDA – 184 West Main Street – Copper Lantern - Brush Clearing along river

NOI – 142 Wickaboag Valley Road – Johnson – Accessory Use Construction

NOI – 380 West Main Street – Raymakers Construction – Staging area
04/24/2026

- community -

W BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

additional cuts are "imminent."

Police Department

Police Chief Nathan Hagglund gave a presentation on what the Police Department's services would look like with a reduced budget. He said the department is requesting a budget about 2.5% higher than last year.

He said the town currently provides 24/7 police coverage, and two officers on the evening shift. Hagglund explained that the department also provides coverage for town events like the Memorial Day parade, Halloween and White Christmas celebrations.

He said that with a reduced budget, there would not be around the clock coverage, as there would be certain eight-hour periods throughout the month where there are no officers covering the town, and they would have to rely on mutual aid from other towns, or the Massachusetts State Police Barracks in Brookfield, which only staff one trooper per two districts they cover. He explained that one trooper may be in Holden at the time of the call, and have a long drive to West Brookfield to respond.

Hagglund explained that with a reduced budget, there is less funding for overtime, which usually costs nearly \$60,000 a year, which is how officers are paid for covering town events. He said because of this, there would not be any coverage for town events, except for the Memorial Day parade this year.

He said that administrative duties, such as freedom of information act requests, and licenses to carry are done by an executive assistant who works 30-hour weeks. He said with a reduced budget, she would only be able to work eight-hour weeks, resulting in delays, and that officers will have to take time out of their day to do those duties.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Thomas Bessette said the department currently has a part-time chief (Bessette) who works 19-hour weeks, along with 14 on-call members. He said other than emergency services, the department

also conducts inspections and permitting, and covers town events such as the asparagus festival and bonfire.

Bessette said the operating budget this year is about 6% higher than last year, and the request for fiscal year 2027 is about 7% less than their budget this year. He said the cuts are coming from salaries, and various other line items where the department could find room for deferrals.

Bessette said some of the impacts of a reduced budget could be holding off maintenance, testing and purchases.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Jim Daley said the tree warden budget has been cut 44%, and there is a backlog of trees that need to be taken down. He said he is being asked to cut the Highway budget by 10%, which would affect vehicle maintenance, and cut the hours of the administrative assistant from 40 to 24 a week.

He said the administrative assistant helps with grants and reimbursements. Daley said the drop off center would have to be closed on Wednesdays.

He said the department was down three plow drivers this past winter, and a contractor who was hired to do private roads would be eliminated with a reduced budget. Daley said the town road maintenance budget could be cut from \$75,000 to \$50,000, and a budget for private roads would be cut to zero from \$10,000.

Town Clerk

Cofske said the Town Clerk's office would be open for three days instead of four with a reduced budget, and the position who completes dog licenses would be eliminated. She also said the recreation's budget is only \$1,500, and there would be no lifeguards at the town beach, and the budget will only cover trash and portable toilets.

Library

Library Director, Amy Agro, explained some of the reduced budget impacts for the Merriam Gilbert Public Library. She said there are various state certifications that decide what the budget has to look like, such as the Municipal Appropriation Requirement and the min-

imum standards of service.

She said the appropriation requirement has to be at least an average of the previous three year's budgets, and that under the reduced budget the library would not meet this requirement.

She said there is a MAR waiver that can only last five consecutive years, and must show proof of attempted improvement, so the library can avoid losing certification. She said that staying certified is important because materials from certified libraries are not loaned to citizens who come from towns with non-certified libraries.

She said the library has to spend about 20% of its budget on materials, and the MAR for this year is \$217,600, but the proposed MAR value on a reduced budget is about \$203,000.

She said the departmental budget (expenses, not including salaries) for FY 26 was about \$74,200, and the requested budget this year is about \$58,700, a decrease of nearly 21%. She said the biggest cuts were from books and materials, a 33% decrease, and computer and office supplies, with a decrease of about 20%. Professional development would be cut 75%, but the budget for FY 26 was only \$200, and the request for FY 27 is \$50.

She said there is a possibility of decreased programming at the library this year, and prioritization of popular titles, and less prioritization on audio-books.

Senior Center

Senior Center Director Kelly Hitt said if the override failed, the Senior Center would be closed on Fridays, and if there are deeper cuts, it would be closed on Tuesdays as well, which would affect much of the programming the center offers.

The Friday closures would shift Zumba, pitch, bridge, and the walking groups to other days. Coffee hour, blood pressure clinic, and the hearing clinic would also be affected, Hitt said.

She said if the center is also closed on Tuesdays, tai chi, dunkin divas, and the busy bees would be shifted to other days, and explained they would likely lose instructors.

Asparagus chowder at First Congregational Church

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, May 16 during the town of West Brookfield's Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common, (10 a.m.-3 p.m.), the First Congregational

Church, UCC, 36 North Main St., will offer their famous asparagus chowder from their Chowder Tent located on the church lawn.

Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder by the quart to

take home, yummy brownies and cold drinks will be available from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available. Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.

Job Connection

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TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENINGS

► Part-Time Administrative Assistant

Part-time Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to performing a variety of administrative and financial support functions for the Collector's Office, including processing payments, issuing receipts, preparing and reconciling daily deposits, and maintaining records. Provides customer service by responding to inquiries and resolving account issues. Part-time, non-benefited, non-union, \$22.80-\$23.49 per hour, 18 hours per week.

► Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to a variety of accounting and administrative functions to assist the Treasurer/Collector in all financial operations of the office. The Assistant provides skilled accounting and computer banking support, including billing and collection activities, account reconciliation, cash management, reporting, and research, as well as other municipal procedures and functions as required. Full-time, benefited, union position, \$25.53-\$26.29 per hour, 35 hours per week

► Equipment Operator/Truck Driver

Equipment Operator/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to Operating various types of motorized vehicles, trucks, dump trucks, sweepers, excavators, snow and ice removal equipment and other miscellaneous equipment, such as loaders, mowers, and chippers; Participating in emergency operations including but not limited to snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters; Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snow plows; Repairing roadways, sidewalks, pavements, and other surface areas and drainage structures, including excavating trenches, and chain saw operation. Full-time, 40 hours per week average, union position, \$23.32-\$25.26. Applicants are required to have a Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement endorsements.

For full job descriptions visit- <https://www.townofware.com/> Interested applicants please send resume to: Human Resources Department, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 or e-mail resumes@townofware.com. AA/EOE

BACKYARD FROM PAGE 4

Extend the harvest

Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year's time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your

own garden bounty past the growing season.

This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic – all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the off-season.

Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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