

TOWN OF OTIS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN ♦ BOARD OF HEALTH
Town Hall, One North Main Road, P.O. Box 237
Otis, Massachusetts 01253-0237
(413) 269-0100 ♦ Fax (413) 269-6095

Berkshire SS:

To the Constable of the Town of Otis in the County of Berkshire,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Otis Town Hall/Community Center, One North Main Road, in said Town on **Tuesday May 26, 2026**, for the election of the following Town Officers and terms thereof:

- 1 ASSESSOR FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 CONSTABLE FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 FINANCE BOARD MEMBER FOR 1 (ONE) YEAR
- 1 FINANCE BOARD MEMBER FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 MODERATOR FOR 1 (ONE) YEAR
- 1 PLANNING BOARD MEMBER FOR 5 (FIVE) YEARS
- 1 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 SELECTPERSON FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS
- 1 TREE WARDEN FOR 1 (ONE) YEAR

And the Selectmen give notice that the polls shall open for the Election of Officers at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of Tuesday, May 26, 2026 in the Otis Town Hall and may be closed at 7 o'clock in the evening of that day; and that the laws governing elections in the Commonwealth shall be enforced, and the Australian system of voting shall be used with the voting machine.

You are also required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet at the Farmington River Elementary School, 555 North Main Road, on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act upon the following articles, namely:

ARTICLE 1: Town Reports

To receive the reports of the various Town Officers and act thereon.

ARTICLE 2: General Fund Operating Budget

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate such money as may be necessary to defray the Town's operating expenses for this fiscal year (FY27). See appropriations list attached at end of Warrant with a total amount of **\$7,111,341.74**.

ARTICLE 3: Revolving Funds

There are hereby established in the Town of Otis pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Ch. 44, 53E 1/2, the following Revolving Funds:

Plumbing/Gas	Fees & Charges for Plumbing/Gas Inspections
Wire Inspector	Fees & Charges for Wire Inspections
Fire Department Inspections	Fees & Charges for Fire Inspections
Sanitation Inspector	Fees & Charges for Sanitation Inspections
Recreation Commission	Fees & Charges for Recreation Programs
Demolition Debris Removal	Fees & Charges for Transfer Station Demolition Debris
Cemetery	Fees & Charges for Cemetery Commission Expenses
Tax Title	Fees & Charges for Tax Title Expenses

Section II: Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. Ch. 44, 53E 1/2.

Plumbing & Gas Inspector	\$15,000.00
Wire Inspector	\$15,000.00
Fire Department Inspections	\$6,000.00
Sanitation Inspector	\$9,000.00
Recreation Commission	\$5,000.00
Demolition Debris Removal	\$50,000.00
Cemetery	\$2,000.00
Tax Title	\$30,000.00

ARTICLE 4: Wastewater Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$102,750.00** or any other sum for the operation and maintenance of the municipal sewer system, and further to provide for said appropriation transfer funds from the sewer user fees; or take any other action thereon.

ARTICLE 5: Otis Fire & Rescue Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$494,700.00** or any other sum for the operation and salaries of Otis Fire & Rescue; or take any other action thereon.

ARTICLE 6: Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$144,337.56** or any other sum for the purpose of paying the principal and interest due in fiscal 2027 for the fifth payment on the KME Fire Truck and the first payment on the Heavy Duty Highway truck; and further to provide for said appropriation, take said sum from Free Cash, or take any other action thereon.

ARTICLE 7: Wind Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$430,801.26** or any other sum in fiscal 2027 for paying the principal and interest for the Wind Project Bond; funds to be transferred from the Wind Municipal Light Plant; or take any other action thereon.

ARTICLE 8: Broadband Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$211,750.00** or any other sum for paying the principal and interest due in fiscal 2027 on funds borrowed for the Otis Fiber Bond; funds to be transferred from the Wind Municipal Light Plant; or take any other action thereon.

ARTICLE 9: Grant Funds

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply and accept Federal and State grants, including Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grant funds, and to expend any monies received and in anticipation of being received, as set forth by the appropriate grant application, and to follow the appropriate procedures, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: Town Ways and Bridges-CH90

To see if the Town will vote to accept any and all funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Transportation (Mass DOT), under provisions of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair and construction of Town ways and bridges, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 11: Rescind Prior Borrowing Authorizations

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unused borrowing authority voted under previous Town Meeting articles, or act in any other manner in relation thereto. This vote is to rescind authorized and unissued debt that is no longer required for its intended purpose, specifically **\$1,361,111.00** not used for Broadband, **\$23,750.00** not used for the Grader, **\$189.00** not used for the Loader, **\$7,057.24** not used for the Pumper Fire Truck and **\$47,674.05** not used for the Heavy Duty Highway truck.

ARTICLE 12: Town Hall Roof

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$150,000.00** or any other sum to pay all related costs for designing, constructing and or repairing the roof at the Otis Town Hall, and further to provide for said appropriation, take said sum from Free Cash, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 13: Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$115,000.00 or any other sum for the purpose of purchasing a new cruiser with the necessary equipment for the Police Department, and further to provide for said appropriation, take said sum from Free Cash, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 14: Highway Truck F600

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$210,000.00 or any other sum for the purpose of purchasing a new F600 truck outfitted with dump/ sander/plow equipment for the Highway Department, and further to provide for said appropriation, take said sum from Free Cash, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 15: Road Paving

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 or any other sum for the purpose of repairing and paving town roads including costs incidental and related thereto, and further to provide for said appropriation, take said sum from Free Cash, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 16: OPEB Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20, as amended by Section 238 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, which authorizes the establishment of an Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all actions necessary to establish and administer said Trust Fund and further to designate the Treasurer as the custodian of the OPEB Fund; and to authorize the Select Board to appoint a Trustee or Board of Trustees to oversee the investment and management of said fund, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 17: Funding OPEB Liability

To see if the Town will vote to transfer any monies remaining in the Health Insurance (914) budget at the close of FY26 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 18: Reservoir Road Culvert Replacement Easements

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the following land parcels and or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way. This will allow for the construction and roadway safety improvements for the Reservoir Road Culvert Replacement.

Total # Parcel Area (Square Feet)
Permanent Easements, 4 totaling 15,370.40
Temporary Easements 3 totaling 7,772.11

Further that the Selectmen may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels through all legal means. This includes donations, purchase or eminent domain. Funding for acquisition is in place with grant funding. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans dated March 26, 2025 “Easement Plan Surveyed for The Town of Otis, Reservoir Road, Otis, Massachusetts”, which plans are available for review at the Town Clerk’s Office, are on or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: New Library Construction Project

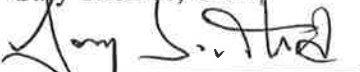
To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$9,300,000** (NINE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) or any other sum for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new Library, including but not limited to the preparation of plans and specifications, the preparation of bid documents, project management and supervision, construction of the building, water and sewer systems, mechanical systems, exterior improvements and landscaping, the purchase and installation of furniture and equipment, the purchase and installation of technology and any other costs incidental and related thereto, for which the Town is eligible for a grant in the amount of **\$6,402,354** from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC); and to meet this appropriation, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow said sum pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 44 sec. 7 or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; provided that any borrowing or expenditure hereunder shall be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion ballot question vote pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 59 sec. 21C; said funds to be expended by the Select Board in consultation with the Library Building Committee; and to authorize the Select Board to execute all documents and take all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote, or to take any other action relative thereon.


2/3 majority

Respectfully submitted:

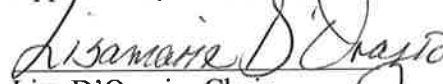
The Board of Selectmen



Gary Thomas, Chair


Larry Southard


Therese Gould

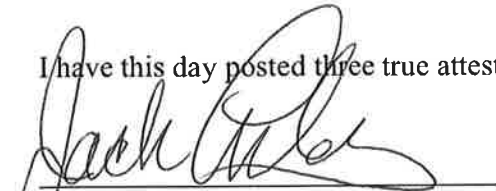
Approved by the Finance Board

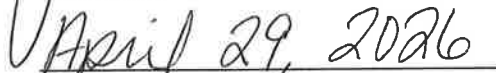

Lisa D'Orazio, Chair


Therese Gould


Susan Bauer-Brofman

I have this day posted three true attest copies in three designated places in the Town of Otis.


Constable


Date

Town of Otis
FY27 Operating Budget

Account number	Description	Done	Payroll	Approved Amount
122	Board of Selectmen	X	\$17,500.00	\$21,365.00
123	Town Administrator	X	\$158,158.89	\$162,138.89
131	Finance	X	\$1,700.00	\$2,042.00
132	Reserve Fund	X		\$10,000.00
135	Accountant	X	\$25,561.45	\$27,161.45
136	Audit	X		\$19,000.00
141	Assessors	X	\$49,627.36	\$83,177.36
145	Treasurer	X	\$58,700.00	\$75,200.00
146	Town Collector	X	\$58,716.34	\$85,591.34
150	Office Supplies	X		\$9,500.00
151	Legal	X		\$30,500.00
155	Technology	X		\$66,900.00
161	Town Clerk	X	\$58,748.79	\$62,468.79
162	Elections	X	\$12,900.00	\$21,225.00
171	Conservation	X	\$15,500.00	\$17,900.00
175	Planning Board	X	\$5,000.00	\$7,200.00
176	Zoning Board	X	\$4,500.00	\$7,100.00
190	Safety	X	\$6,000.00	\$9,500.00
192	Town Hall	X		\$24,432.75
195	Town Report	X		\$2,000.00
210	Police	X	\$399,483.40	\$439,583.40
215	Otis Fire & Rescue	X	\$400,000.00	
220	Fire	X	\$46,000.00	\$117,816.50
241	Building Inspector	X	\$83,311.69	\$88,951.69
291	Emergency	X	\$3,500.00	\$21,250.00
292	Animal Control	X	\$18,500.00	\$17,700.00
294	Tree Warden	X	\$500.00	\$500.00
300	Schools	X	\$2,600.00	\$2,809,430.68
422	Highway	X	\$235,475.67	\$595,882.17
423	Snow & Ice	X	\$88,000.00	\$205,000.00
425	Gas & Diesel	X		\$50,000.00
429	Maintenance	X	\$321,001.50	\$509,576.11
433	Health & Sanitation	X	\$124,398.02	\$322,198.02
440	WWTP	X	\$30,000.00	
491	Cemetery	X	\$1,500.00	\$12,200.00
520	Community Health	X		\$1,000.00
522	Visiting Nurse	X		\$6,300.00
523	Construct	X		\$800.00
541	Council on Aging	X	\$42,547.55	\$67,267.55
543	Veterans	X		\$60,000.00
610	Library	X		\$79,440.00
630	Recreation	X		\$7,350.00
691	Historical	X		\$11,175.00
692	Celebrations	X		\$10,000.00
699	Cultural Council	X		\$6,000.00
820	Berkshire Regional Plan	X		\$1,498.04
911	Berkshire County Retirement	X		\$223,020.00
912	Unemployment	X		\$13,000.00
914	Health Insurance	X		\$512,500.00
916	Medicare	X		\$30,000.00
945	Insurance	X		\$147,500.00

\$ 494,700.00

\$ 102,750.00

\$ 2,269,430.66 \$ 7,111,341.74 \$ 7,708,791.74