

# Office of the Selectmen

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

2026 Town Meeting

## Alert

At the 2026 February budget hearing, we reviewed two petitioned warrant articles that had been received, for your consideration at the upcoming Town Meeting on **Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> @7:30 PM**. Those warrant articles deal with paving over the existing surfaces of Dick Brown Road. The estimated combined cost of those two articles is \$828,250.

While the Board of Selectman cannot modify the language as presented, we can attach a reference as “Not Recommended” to the warrant presented at that upcoming meeting. We have done so.

While the petitioned articles are well intended, the wording puts the entire financial impact on the 2026 town tax appropriations. Their estimate is an impact of \$1.80 over the existing rate. Unfortunately, the wording, as such, requires the financial impact to “come due” on the second half 2026 December billing! If passed, **it cannot legally be amended at the Town Meeting to lessen that impact**. In addition, the total cost omits replacing culverts along the two paved sections of Dick Brown RD, nor additional gravel to shape the road. It, also, does not recognize the increases from other taxing divisions like Grafton County, schools and state property taxes.

We gave the taxpayers plenty of notice when we left SAU4 and that impact was \$1.00. If this passes in its current form, it may approach an excess of \$2.00 when other divisions are included.

We are well regarded as fiscally prudent with the Bridgewater property owners’ taxes. We started in 2023 to improve roads. We repaved Hammond Hill, Bridgewater Hill, Whittemore Point Road North, Pine Street North, Woodside Drive, Chrisden Drive, Scott Drive and a portion of Hemlock Brook Rd. Those cost a total of \$600,000 and **did not impact your tax rate!**

We urge you to attend this meeting and listen to the pros and cons. In addition, the “tea leaves” for the economy is really unsteady. (not favoring this project at this time)

Maurice Jenness Jr, Wesley Morrill, Terence Murphy  
Bridgewater Select Board