

Ayer News

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Town of Ayer's Health Insurance Costs Come in Lower Than Expected for FY2027

(Feb. 17, 2026) – The Town of Ayer has learned its health insurance costs will rise by 6.2 percent in FY2027, a much lower-than-expected increase, according to the Select Board meeting video from Tuesday.

The health insurance increase will add about \$161,688 to the budget, much less than the 20 percent – or \$500,000 increase – the town projected last November. After this forecast, the town's health

insurance provider had actually advised it should plan for a 22 to 25 percent increase.

The costs changed so dramatically because the town's health insurer voted on its position related to covering weight loss drugs, according to the meeting discussion. The insurer works with communities across the state, as well as the Ayer-Shirley Regional School District.

[Read article](#)

11 New Apartments Proposed on Main Street

Next week, on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, the Planning Board is scheduled to open a public hearing related to 63 Main Street. The applicant is seeking site plan approval for construction of a four-story building with one commercial unit and 11 residential units. The special permit application is related to an off-site parking request. The plans are posted on the Town of Ayer's [Planning Board webpage](#).

Nashoba Valley Tech Shares Budget Presentation with Finance Committee

(Feb. 19, 2026) - The Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School's budget shared its proposed \$20.3 million budget for FY2027 with the Ayer Finance Committee on Thursday. This represents a 4.81 percent increase over the current year. The district serves 8 communities.

We really tried, but had trouble following the financial and school budget terms so we are ending our coverage here. You can find

the [budget presentation](#) on the Town of Ayer's website. You can also watch the Finance Committee meeting video.

ICYMI: Committee Recommends Water and Sewer Rate Increases; Same Stormwater Rate

(Feb. 10, 2026) - The Rate Review Committee voted to recommend water and sewer rate increases for FY2027, while keeping the stormwater rate the same.

Rates:

This should state 4 percent

- **Water rate:** 3 percent increase & \$350K in retained earnings.
- **Sewer rate:** 5 percent increase & \$50K in retained earnings.
- **Stormwater:** stay w/ \$95 for single-family residential properties.

The water rate would raise the typical single-family residential customer's bill from \$133 to \$137 - or \$4 per year, according to the Rate Review Committee's discussion.

The Select Board will vote to set rates on March 17th, according to this meeting.

[Read article](#)

Candidates Guide 2026

Ayer News invites residents running for local office on May 12th to participate in our Candidates Guide. [Learn more.](#)

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Ayer News is compiling a candidates' guide on our website. Candidates: submit your info by **April 3rd**.

May 12, 2026

www.ayernews.org/candidates-2026

Election Day

May 12: Annual Town Election

*These are the open seats. You have until **March 20th at noon** to request nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office.*

- Assessor (1) 3-year term
- Board of Health (1) 3-year term
- Commissioner of Trust Funds (1) 3-year term
- Constable (1) 3-year term
- Library Trustee (1) 3-year term
- Park Commissioner (2) 3-year term
- Planning Board (2) 3-year term
- Regional School District Committee (1) 3-year term
- Select Board (1) 3-year term
- Housing Authority (1) 5-year term

Read our coverage on the [Ayer News website](#) or see the [town's Facebook post](#) from Feb. 9th.

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