TOWN OF HOPEDALE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening
in the Dennett Auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School

Worcester SS: To the Constables in the Town of Hopedale in the County of Worcester.
Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Dennett Auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School on Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the report of the Selectmen and other offices, departments, or committees of said town, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This article allows the Board of Selectmen and other officers of the Town to present a report of their activities to the Town Meeting.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §108 to fix the annual salary and compensation for each elected Town officer, and to fix the annual compensation for special appointed officials for service in fiscal year 2018, or take any other action related thereto.

Town Moderator (1)	$ 200
Board of Selectmen (3)	$ 5,850
Town Clerk (1)*	$ 55,200
Road Commissioners (3)	$ 1,980
Board of Health (3)	$ 1,665
Park Commissioners (3)	$ 1,440
Water/Sewer Commissioners (3)	$ 1,980
Tree Warden (1)	$ 900
Planning Board (5)	$ 3,330
Board of Assessors (3)	$ 1,665
Board of Registrars (3) appt.	$ 1,600
Clerk to Registrars (1)	$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals (5) appt.	$ 2,340
Finance Committee (9) appt.	$ 4,140
School Committee (5)	$ 4,950
Conservation Committee (5)	$ 2,340
Library Trustees (3)	$ 1,440
Parking Clerk	$ 600

*Town Clerk is paid bi-weekly; all others twice per year

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This article will fix the annual compensation for elected and appointed officials, while the actual funding takes place in articles to follow.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of monies into and/or out of the Stabilization Fund as provided under M.G.L. c. 40, §5B, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee:

Commentary: The Stabilization Fund is the Town's "rainy day" fund. Any action taken under this Article to appropriate monies from the Stabilization Fund will require a 2/3rd's majority vote of Town Meeting.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding the Towns recycling center to include composting and yard waste and other related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts received in connection with the collection of recycling and hazardous waste, to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed $30,000.00 for the fiscal year 2017, and to carry forward any existing monies in such fund for FY2018; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health
Commentary: This Article will allow the Board of Health to use receipts collected in conjunction with the existing Recycling and Hazardous Waste Collections to fund both operations moving forward during fiscal year 2018 and allow for those unexpended funds to remain in the account at the end of the fiscal year.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the animal control division of the Board of Health, which fund will be credited with receipts for the boarding of stray animals, fines for violations, and the licensing of animals, to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed $15,000.00 for the fiscal year 2018, and to carry forward any existing monies in such fund for FY2018; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health
Commentary: This Article will allow the Board of Health to use receipts collected in conjunction with the existing Animal Control function to fund operations moving forward during fiscal year 2018 and allow for those unexpended funds to remain in the account at the end of the fiscal year.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to spend without further appropriation in accordance with M.G.L. c. 131, §40 certain sums as received in filing fees from prior fiscal years, for the fiscal year 2018, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission
Commentary: This Article will allow the Conservation Commission to use receipts collected in conjunction with filing fees on expenditures deemed necessary without further appropriation during fiscal year 2018.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to the sum of $173,011 in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds, or such additional amount as is anticipated to be so provided, for the purpose of providing road paving/improvement projects, and further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend such sum or any other sum that is or may be provided to the Town in accordance with M.G.L. c.90 or any other state or federal road program for road repairs, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Road Commissioners

Commentary: This Article will allow the Treasurer to borrow up to the total amount certified by the state for Hopedale Chapter 90 funds for fiscal 2018.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to amend, pursuant to Town Bylaw, Chapter XXII-B, The Personnel Administration Bylaw the Classification and Compensation grid for non-union Town employees and to raise and appropriate the necessary funds to adjust by 2% the annual salary paid to each employee as suggested by and adopted in Article 9 of the May 20, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This article will adjust by 2% the salary grade levels for all non-union employees employed by the Town, excluding employees of the School Department. This also will allow additional adjustments voted at the May 20, 2014 Annual Town Meeting to occur on schedule.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available Treasury funds, such sums of money as deemed necessary to defray Town charges for fiscal year 2018 as contained in the Finance Committee Budget Report, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee
Commentary: This is the principal funding article for the fiscal year 2018, which will appropriate funds and set the spending limits for most departments not funded by offset receipts.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Water Department Budget for fiscal year 2018 by offset receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commissioners
Commentary: This is the principal money article which will fund the fiscal year 2018 operations of the Water Department completely from offset receipts.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Sewer Department Budget for fiscal year 2018 by offset receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commissioners
Commentary: This is the principal money article which will fund the fiscal year 2018 operations of the Sewer Department completely from offset receipts.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Ambulance Department Budget for fiscal year 2018 by offset receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This is the principal money article which will fund the fiscal year 2018 operations of the Ambulance Department completely from offset receipts.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the Town's fiscal year 2018 assessment of costs and expenses of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission District, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: The anticipated amount for fiscal year 2018 is $1612.00 and represents the dues the Town pays annually to the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Town's net operating and capital assessment for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2017, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District
Commentary: The anticipated amount is $407,098, which is inclusive of $10,383 for the debt service associated with Hopedale's previously (2001) voted amount for the District's addition/ renovation project.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding a School Bus Transportation program and other incidental and related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts from the School Department's Transportation Fee, to be expended under the authority of the School Committee, such expenditures not to exceed $100,000 for the fiscal year 2018, and to carry forward any existing monies in such fund for FY2018; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted: School Committee
Commentary: This Article will allow the School Committee to use receipts, up to a maximum of $100,000, collected in conjunction with school busing, to fund busing operations during fiscal year 2018 and allow for those unexpended funds to remain in the account at the end of the fiscal year.

Article 16: To see if the Town of Hopedale will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to senior citizens owning real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59 §5, Clause 41C, as authorized under Section 51 of Chapter 184 of the Acts of 2002 of the General Court, by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption, from $705.75 to $716.20 or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Assessors
Commentary: This will increase the amount qualifying seniors receive toward their fiscal year 2018 tax bill.

Article 17: To see if the Town of Hopedale will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to surviving spouse, minor child, elderly person owning real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59 §5, Clause 17D , by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption, from $236.65 to $240.15 or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Assessors
Commentary: This will increase the amount qualifying seniors receive toward their fiscal year 2018 tax bill.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.59, §5, Clause Fifty-sixth to authorize the Board of Assessors to grant, real and personal property tax abatements up to 100 percent of the total tax assessed to members of the Massachusetts National Guard and to reservists on active duty in foreign countries for the fiscal year they performed such service subject to eligibility criteria to be established by the Board of Assessors, and further that such vote shall expire two years after this vote unless reauthorized by Town Meeting, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Assessors
Commentary: This vote is for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.1, to rezone *properties located at 125, 138, 140, 141, 143, 144, 145-147, 148 and 155 Hopedale Street, respectively,* along Route 16 (Mendon Street), from to General Business-A, and to update the Zoning Map accordingly, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Planning Board
Commentary: The proposed zoning change seeks to amend Sections 3.1,of the Town of Hopedale Zoning By-Laws by adding additional properties located at 125, 138, 140, 141, 143, 144, 145-147, 148 and 155 Hopedale Street respectively, parcels to be classified as General Business-A (GB-A).

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Account for Library Programs as allowed by the recently passed Municipal Modernization Act, for revenues generated by the Library copier, fax machine and Library fines. The revenues generated will be used to provide programming and programming supplies for the Bancroft Memorial Library; the fund will not exceed $3000 per year.

Submitted by: The Library Trustees
Commentary: This article will create a Revolving Account not to exceed $3000.00 per year that will be used for Library programs and needs.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 71E, for the purpose of establishing a revolving account for all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of adult and continuing education programs, including, but not limited to: (1) adult physical fitness programs conducted under section 71B; (2) summer school programs and enrichment programs, authorized by the School Committee and in connection with the use of school property under section 71; and (3) including parking fees, if any; and in particular, to fund the operating costs of Summer School programs at the Junior-Senior High School, which fund shall be credited with receipts received from tuition, to be expended under the authority of the School Committee and to carry forward and existing monies in such fund; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: School Committee
Commentary: This Article will allow the School Committee to use receipts collected in conjunction with tuition on expenditures deemed necessary without further appropriation and allow for those unexpended funds to remain in the account at the end of the fiscal year.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H and Chapter 164, Section 1, and/or any other enabling authority, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a so-called Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with 373-383 West Street Nominee Realty Trust or its affiliates, successors or assigns, with respect to payments for a sum certain in lieu of real and personal property taxes owed to the Town for a period of twenty (20) years, and on such other terms and conditions as said Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, relative to a proposed privately owned and operated solar energy facility located or to be located at 373 West Street, Hopedale, MA 01747, with an option for extension coterminous with the lease of said parcel; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any necessary documents relating thereto and take such other action as may be necessary to effectuate the vote taken hereunder; or take any other action related thereto. ,

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This article seeks authority for the Board of Selectmen to execute a contract known as a payment in lieu of taxes agreement with the owner of a solar energy facility that will provide certainty to both the Town and the owner as to the taxes to be paid/collected over a 20-year period. Such agreements are not meant to provide a tax "break", but instead to allow certainty with respect to tax payments.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer $152,043.65, the balance remaining in the amount originally appropriated and borrowed in Article 2 of the 11/19/13 Special Town Meeting, to repair a portion of the Memorial School Roof to the Freedom Street Bridge Sidewalk project for additional work to correct a design problem to the dam caused by the sidewalk reconstruction including all incidental and related costs, or take any action related thereto.

Submitted by: Road Commissioners
Commentary: The funds being transferred are funds that were bonded as part of the roof project that represented the amount of reimbursement that Town received for the project and should not have been bonded originally, since these are bonded funds they can only be repurposed for another project.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L., Ch. 60, Sect 15B , and establish a tax title revolving fund, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of allowing funds obtained by the Town through Tax Title takings to be used by the Treasurer Collector for advertising and other purposes related to future sales, with FY2018 expenditures to be limited to $15,000, or take any action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: Currently the Town funds these activities through the normal budget process, this will allow for this account to be funded entirely through what it takes in up to the capped amount.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving account as allowed by M.G.L. c.44, §53E½ for the purpose of allowing funds reimbursed to the Town, as a result of members of the Police Department who are injured on duty and afforded G.L. c.111F benefits, to be deposited in said account and used by the Police Chief to pay for any overtime shifts resulting from the injured officer not being able to work and perform his duties.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: When an officer is injured on duty G.L. c.41, Sect. 111F, allows for the officer to still be paid while recovering. The Town pays the officer as it would normally through its payroll The Town receives insurance reimbursement for the officer during the time off. Previously these funds would go back into the general fund. This article would allow for a separate account to be set up that would allow the reimbursement to be used by the Police Chief to pay for overtime shifts rather than through his overtime account.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds a sum of money as a grant or otherwise to be expended to establish and/or maintain a regional substance abuse outreach program in the greater Milford area, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: The Town of Hopedale has been invited to be part of a Regional grant with the Town of Milford and other Towns in an effort to combat the abuse of Opioid based substances in the area. The $5000.00 requested to be appropriated through this article will be the Town's contribution to the program and matched by funds from the grant; this account will be restricted to this program only.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to amend the current Town bylaw, Chapter 270, Article 1, Sect. 270-2 to read as follows:

The Tax Collector, shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each department, board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the "licensing authority," that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the "party," that has neglected or refused to pay *any* local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the Appellate Tax Board.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This amendment to the Town's General Bylaw will reflect the recent change in state law as part of the Municipal Modernization Act. The previous language allowed for permits and licenses to be withheld for delinquent taxpayers only if delinquency is for 12 months or more. This change will allow the permit or granting authority to have more frequently provided information to allow them to deny any permit or license with whom is not current.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to fund a Downtown revitalization study to determine the cost to renovate the Town Hall and to propose other improvements in the area.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen
Commentary: This study will determine what would be the best course of action to consider a Town Hall renovation as part of a larger redevelopment program for unused properties in Town.

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at three public places in different parts of the Town not less than seven days before the holding of said meeting Hereof fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 15th day of May 2017.

HOPEDALE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Louis J. Arcudi III

Thomas A. Wesley
Chair

Brian R. Keyes

A True Copy, ATTEST:
Posted in the Town Hall, Police Station, and Post Office Lobby.

Constable

05/16/17
Date

RECEIVED
2017 MAY 16 A 10:02
HOPEDALE TOWN CLERK