

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Hopedale Town Hall-Draper Room**  
**March 9, 2020**  
**Regular Minutes**

Present: Selectman Brian Keyes, Selectman Thomas Wesley, Selectman Louis Arcudi arrived at 7:33 pm. Also, present; Town Administrator Robert Reed and Executive Assistant Susan Brouwer.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Selectman Keyes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present. Selectman Wesley gave a public service statement on COVID-19 and recommended steps the public should take in order to remain safe.

**A. Consent Items**

1. Approval of February 10, 2020 regular minutes  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to approve the February 10, 2020 regular minutes  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent
2. Approval of February 10, 2020 executive minutes  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to approve the February 10, 2020 executive minutes  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent
3. Approval of February 19, 2020 regular minutes  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to approve the February 19, 2020 regular minutes  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent
4. Approval of February 19, 2020 executive minutes  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to approve the February 10, 2020 executive minutes  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent
5. Approval of warrants 20-32 as signed by Selectmen Wesley and Keyes  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to approve warrants 20-32 as signed by Selectmen Wesley and Keyes  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent

**B. Appointments and Resignations**

1. Appointment of Julia Manning to the Council on Aging  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to appoint Julia Manning to the Council on Aging  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent
2. Appointment of Jim Abbruzzese to the Master Plan Committee  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes to appoint Jim Abbruzzese to the Master Plan Committee  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent

C. Public Hearing

**7:15 PM – Request to install a joint owned 35” stub pole across the street from existing pole to be used for support and removal of tree guy wires on private property of 137 Greene Street**

Selectman Keyes noted that it being 7:15 read the following public hearing notice;

*In conformity with the requirements of Section 22 of Chapter 166 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.) you are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** has been scheduled for **Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:15 PM, at the Hopedale Town Hall, Draper Room, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA based upon the petition of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, in the following public way or ways:***

**Green Street:**

**Pole 37**

**Installing a joint owned 35” stub pole across the street from the existing pole 37 to be used for support and removal of tree guy on private property of 137 Greene Street.**

*Wherefore they pray that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as they may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked:*  
**MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY AND VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.**

**Plan No. 27360368 dated: 07/31/2019**

Chairman Keyes requested a motion to open the public hearing.

Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes

Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent

Michael Parent, National Grid representative reviewed the plan to install joint owned pole at 137 Greene Street. Chairman Keyes opened the discussion to Board members and the public. Hearing no objection to the plan, Chairman Keyes requested a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes

Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent

Chairman Keyes requested a motion to approve the plan as presented. Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Keyes

Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Absent

Selectman Arcudi arrived at 7:33 p.m.

D. New Business

1. FY21 Budget Discussion with Finance Committee

Sam Hockenbury, Finance Committee Chair reviewed the following preliminary FY21 budget numbers with the BOS;

	2021 Preliminary
PRIOR YEAR LEVY PER DOR	\$15,361,867.00
LEVY INCREASE 2.5%	384,046.675
NEW GROWTH	\$120,000.00
TOTAL TAX LEVY CAPACITY ESTIMATED	\$15,865,913.68
(EXCESS) AVAILABLE LEVY	(\$15,112,990.37)

Mr. Hockenbury noted the FY21 budget is 25 million with a tax base of 15 million. There are various fixed cost items that have increased and over which the Town has little or no control. He stated that depending on how many money articles were put on the warrant, the Town was looking at a deficit in excess of one million dollars for FY 21.

Mr. Reed reviewed other items that must be considered including funding for the Library roof that is leaking - \$150K, funding MS4 Permit in the amount of \$100,000, which is required per DEP. Mr. Reed said that capital requests prepared by the Departments Heads and were forwarded to the Finance/Capital Planning Committee for review and recommendation at their meeting on March 18. Capital requests include; a salt shed for the highway department, \$250,000 engineering a turf field, reconstruction of the tennis courts, tree maintenance in the parklands, breathing apparatus for fire department, fire and police department building repairs.

The Board of Selectmen recommended the Finance Committee prepare several budget scenarios; a fully funded budget, a level funded budget and a 3% reduced budget. The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen are scheduled to meet on March 13 and will look at the various budget scenarios.

2. Review of draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant (ATM) articles  
Administrator Reed noted that ATM closed on March 6 reviewing highlights of some of articles submitted. The Board requested that the draft motions be put up on the website. There was no other comments or discussion.
3. Request from Highway Department to declare catch basin cleaner truck (no cable) as surplus  
Motion made by Selectman Arcudi seconded by Selectman Wesley to declare catch basin cleaner truck (no cable) as surplus  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye
4. Request from Highway Department to declare dump body with other scrap material as surplus  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Arcudi to declare dump body with other scrap material as surplus  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye
5. Letter of support for Massachusetts Historic Grant for Library Roof (vote)  
Motion made by Selectman Arcudi seconded by Selectman Wesley to submit a letter of support for Massachusetts Historic Grant for Library Roof  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye
6. Vote to approve Cannabis Policy and Fee  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Arcudi to approve Cannabis Policy and set the application fee at \$1,000.00.  
Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

#### E. Old Business

1. Affirm Board's vote of February 10 on issuing RFP for lease of space in lower level of Town Hall  
Motion made by Selectman Wesley seconded by Selectman Arcudi to affirm the Board's vote of February 10 on issuing RFP for lease of space in lower level of Town Hall.

Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

F. Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

None

G. Correspondence and Selectmen Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

1. Police Department Stats for January 2020
2. Notice of Alcohol Compliance Checks
3. Approval of warrants 20-33, 20-33P and 20-34 as signed by the Selectmen

There was no discussion on the above listed items.

H. Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

None

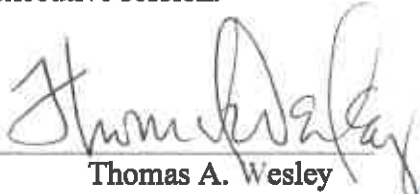
I. Executive Session

1. Grafton Upton Railroad Eminent Domain and Intervention Status
2. Request for easement of Town own land that abuts High School property
3. Non-Union Personnel
4. Permanent Firefighters Association Contract, Local 2225
5. The Massachusetts Coalition of Police Contract, AFL-CIO Local 164
6. Laborer's and Clerical Staff Public Employees Contract, Local Union 272

Chair Keyes read the following statement. I am requesting a motion to allow this board to now enter into Executive Session and not to reconvene in regular session, under M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a) Reasons (2): to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and nonunion personnel and Reason (3): to discuss strategy with respect to possible litigation, because I as chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town. Roll Call Vote

RCV: Selectman Keyes – Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

At 9:10 p.m. the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting convening into executive session.

  
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Thomas A. Wesley  
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Louis J. Arcudi, III  
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Brian R. Keyes