

TOWN OF HOPEDALE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT December 11, 2017
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 at 25 Adin Street in said Hopedale on Monday December 11, 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 transfer sums of money from certain accounts to others to adjust the Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Commentary: This article will transfer sums between budget lines in various departments to provide sufficient funds for current fiscal year operations. This article will require a majority vote.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay prior year bills (pre-7/1/17), or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This article will authorize payment of bills received after July 1, 2017 for goods and services incurred during the previous fiscal year. Since the account for the prior fiscal year has been closed out, it is necessary to pay the amounts, if approved, from currently available funds. Approval of this article requires a 9/10 vote.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including but not limited to Free Cash and Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, such sums as may be required for various capital purposes, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Commentary: It is anticipated this article will transfer from Free Cash and Retained Earnings, various sums for capital items. Free Cash and Retained Earnings has been traditionally used to fund capital items of a nonrecurring nature. This article will require a majority vote.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to augment the Ambulance Department Budget by offset receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: Together with the votes taken at previous Town Meetings, this article will fund the operations of the Ambulance Department completely from offset receipts. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of monies from the Stabilization Fund as provided under M.G.L. c. 40, §5B, to [insert purpose of transfer], or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Commentary: This Article is intended to transfer funds out of the Town's general purpose Stabilization Fund and will require a 2/3rd's majority vote.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the votes of past Town meetings for the following debt authorizations:

- Septic Betterments, on 5/17/2011 Article 6 for \$200,000
- School Roof on 11/19/2013 Article 2 for \$269,617

Submitted by: The Finance Committee

Commentary: The debt issued for these projects were less than the amounts authorized therefore we no longer need the authorizations and need to rescind them.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$425,444.83 to pay for design of mandated upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plan, and, as funding therefor, to transfer said sum from Sewer Department retained earnings or authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum pursuant to G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: The Water and Sewer Commissioners

Commentary: This funding amount was for the design of the EPA / DEP mandated upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Department retained earnings, the sum of \$18,500 to line 5200-5300 professional technical for engineering services related to the renewal and filling of the WWTP discharge permit and computer / cyber security upgrades, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: The Water and Sewer Commissioners

Commentary: The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharge permit from the EPA is up for renewal and expires in April 2018. This permit renewal requires professional engineering services to complete and file with EPA. (Cost \$10,000.) Additionally the department's computer system is not compatible with the scada system needed and being installed at the WWTP. An updated computer system with secure fire walls is required to run the new system. (Cost \$8,500.) Approval of this article requires a majority vote.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department retained earnings the sum of \$227,000 to account 2800-5801 (raw water storage tank) for the purchase and installation of a booster station on the raw water storage tank, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: The Water and Sewer Commissioners

Commentary: The above amount is for the purchase and installation of a booster station on the raw water Storage tank. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from account 5800-5802 (DEP mandates) to 5800-5801 (raw water storage tank) \$60,000 for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV system, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: The Water and Sewer Commissioners

Commentary: Prior Town Meeting action authorized the transfer of \$150,000 from the raw water storage tank line to comply with DEP mandates associated with the UV system at the treatment plant.. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Department retained earnings to pay prior year bill (pre-7/1/17) the sum of \$6,480.10, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: The Water and Sewer Commissioners

Commentary: This item is to pay a prior year bill for chemicals to The Holland Company. Approval of this article requires a 9/10 vote.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale Zoning By-laws and General Bylaw as set forth below to prohibit operation of non-medical marijuana retailers *in all zones except Industrial*. subject to the requirement for a special permit, provided that the proposed bylaw will not prohibit operation in the Town of other marijuana establishments, including marijuana cultivators, independent testing laboratories and product manufacturers, and will not impact the location or operation in the Town of medical marijuana dispensaries:

Insert in Section 2 of the Zoning Bylaw the following new definitions:

Non-medical marijuana retailer – a marijuana retailer as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1(n).

Non-medical marijuana establishment – a marijuana establishment as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1(j), including a marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, or any other type of licensed non-medical marijuana-related business, but excluding a marijuana retailer as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1(n).

Insert in Section 11.3 of the Zoning Bylaw, in the section captioned “Commercial Uses”, a new row, with the words, “Non-medical marijuana retailer” in the “use” column, and the letter “N” to appear in the column for all districts other than “Industrial”, and the letters “SP” to appear in the column for the Industrial district.

Insert a new chapter in Part II of the General Bylaws, Chapter 364, Non-Medical Marijuana Establishments, as follows:

§364-1 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to assert local control, consistent with the provisions of G.L. c.94G, §3, G.L. c.40, §21, and the Home Rule Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, with respect to the operation of non-medical marijuana retailers in the Town; provided, however, that this bylaw shall not regulate operation in the Town of other non-medical marijuana establishments, including marijuana cultivators, independent testing laboratories and product manufacturers, and shall not impact the location or operation in the Town of medical marijuana dispensaries

§264-2 Definitions

Non-medical marijuana retailer – a marijuana retailer as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1(n).

Non-medical marijuana establishment – a marijuana establishment as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1(j), including a marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, or any other type of licensed non-medical marijuana-related business, but excluding a marijuana retailer as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1(n).

§364-3 Non-medical marijuana retailers shall be prohibited in all districts of the Town other than those zoned as “Industrial”, subject to a special permit requirement,, all as set forth in Section 11.3 of the Zoning Bylaw.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: The Planning Board

Commentary: This item if passed will restrict the retail sale only of marijuana related products within designated areas in the Town of Hopedale.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to determine, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 121B, sec. 9, that there exists in the Town a need for urban renewal to address the clearance of substandard, decadent or blighted open areas or the provision of housing for families or elderly persons of low income or engage in a land assembly and redevelopment project, including the preservation, restoration or relocation of historical buildings, such urban renewal to be undertaken by and through the Town's Housing Authority in collaboration with the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator to address the reuse and redevelopment of the former Draper Mill Complex and associated properties, including the former landfill, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: The Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This item along with funding voted at the May Annual Meeting Article, will enable the Board of Selectmen, working along with the Hopedale Housing Authority, to develop and present to a future Town Meeting an urban re-development plan in the downtown area.

Given under our hands this 16th day of November 2017.

HOPEDALE BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Louis J. Arcudi III


Thomas A. Wesley


Brian R. Keyes

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


Constable

11-17-2017
Date

RECEIVED
2017 NOV 17 A 8:51
HOPEDALE TOWN CLERK