



**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
FY 2024
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
7:00 pm
Dennett Auditorium
Junior-Senior High School
25 Adin Street

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 located at 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, MA 01747, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1
REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICIALS
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the report of the Select Board and other offices, departments, or committees of said Town, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 2
TOWN CLERK SALARY AND FY24 BUDGET
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of the Town Clerk as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, §108, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and/or other available funds, such sums as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Town Departments for Fiscal Year 2024, as presented, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 3
FY 24 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Water Department budget for Fiscal Year 2024 from Water Enterprise receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 4
FY 24 SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Sewer Department budget for Fiscal Year 2024 from Sewer Enterprise receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 5
FUND COMMUNITY PERSERVATION COMMITTEE FY 24 OPERATIONS
(Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, appropriate from the Community Preservation Act fund, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44B, such sums of money as it determines necessary for the expenses and charges for operation of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action related thereto.

ARTICLE 6
FUND COMMUNITY PERSERVATION COMMITTEE RESERVES
(Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will vote, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, to appropriate from the Community Preservation Act Fund, a sum of money pursuant to the requirements of the Community Preservation Act M.G.L. c. 44B, §6 for the purposes of Open Space, Community Housing (Affordable) and Historic Resources (Preservation), or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 7
PAY STORM WATER DEBT AND INTEREST
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay off the debt and interest of the Storm Water debt authorized under Article 2 of the Town Meeting of May 21, 2019 and the Dump Truck debt authorized under Article 7 of the Town Meeting of October 15, 2021, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 8
CAPITAL ITEMS
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money to fund equipment and capital costs, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 9
BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS
(Road Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow a sum of money in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds, or such additional amount as is anticipated to be so provided, for the purpose of funding road paving/improvement projects, and further to authorize the Select Board 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.

**ARTICLE 10
RESCIND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION
(Town Treasurer/Collector)**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the \$752,682 authorized, but unissued balance of the \$6,600,000 approved to be borrowed under Article 22 of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting, to pay costs of upgrading the wastewater treatment plant, which amount is no longer necessary to complete that project, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 11
BORROWING FOR NEW SCHOOL ROOF
(School Committee)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money, to be expended by the School Committee, to pay costs of design and installation of a new roof on the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 12
AMBULANCE PURCHASE
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$400,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing an ambulance for the use of the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 13
VACTOR TRUCK PURCHASE
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$400,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing a Vactor Truck for the use of the Highway, Water and Sewer Departments, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 14
NEW WATER STORAGE TANK AND INSTALLATION OF WATER MAINS
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350,000 to be expended at the direction of the Water & Sewer Commission, to pay for the costs associated with the construction of a new water storage tank and the installation of water mains on Moore Road and Crocket Circle, and all incidental and related expenses, and as funding therefor, to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds (including Water Department retained earnings) or authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow said sum in accordance with M.G.L. c.44. §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes therefor, or to take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 15
FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN PARK
(Parks Commission)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide \$4,000,000 or any other amount, to be expended by the Parks Commission for the design, construction, and improvements to Town Park, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 16
STABILIZATION FUND
(Finance Committee)**

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.

**ARTICLE 17
AMEND REVOLVING FUND BY-LAW
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 159 of the Town By-Law "Revolving Funds" by revising Column H of §159-1, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 18
REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote Town to approve annual spending limits for FY24 for Revolving Funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 19
INCREASE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR QUALIFYING SENIOR CITIZENS
(Board of Assessors)**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to qualifying 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 based on the cost-of-living increase issued by the Department of Revenue, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 20
INCREASE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR OTHER QUALIFYING PERSONS
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to qualifying surviving spouses, minor children, or elderly persons owning real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59, §5, Clause 17D, by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption based on the cost-of-living increase issued by the Department of Revenue, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 21
ESTABLISH MINIMUM CASH VALUE FOR TAXATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, §5 (54) to establish a minimum fair cash value required for personal property accounts to be taxed, with the minimum value to be set at \$3,000; or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 22
APPROPRIATION FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to fund expenses associated with opioid treatment and addiction prevention, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 23
CHANGE TREE WARDEN FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED OFFICE
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, §1 to change the office of Tree Warden from an elected office to an appointed office; provided that the incumbent Tree Warden, if any, as of the date of this vote shall become the first appointed Tree Warden for a three-year term; or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 24
ADOPT LOCAL MEALS TAX
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c.64L, §2(a) to impose a local tax upon the sale of restaurant meals; or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 25
DELETE AND REPLACE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY-LAW (CHAPTER 79)
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 79 (Finance Committee) and insert a new Chapter 79 Finance Committee and Budget Process, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 26
DELETE CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE BY-LAW (CHAPTER 26)
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 26 (Capital Program Committee); or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 27
UPDATE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws, Part I (Administration Legislation), Chapter 137 (Personnel), to update the Classification and Compensation Plan for non-union, non-contractual Town employees, excluding employees of the School Department, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 28
DELETE AND REPLACE PERSONNEL BY-LAW (CHAPTER 137)
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws Part I (Administration Legislation), by deleting in its entirety Chapter 137 (Personnel) and inserting a new Chapter 137, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 29
DELETE CONTRACTS; PROCUREMENTS BY-LAW (CHAPTER 49)
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to delete in its entirety Chapter 49 Contracts; Procurements from the Town's By-Laws, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 30
AMEND ZONING BY-LAW TO ADD MARIJUANA OVERLAY DISTRICT
(Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale Zoning By-Laws by adding a Marijuana Overlay District, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 31
REZONE PROPERTY AT 1 AIRPORT ROAD EXTENSION
(Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopedale, MA, specifically Lot 22-15-1 (1 Airport Rd. Ext.) thereon, by rezoning said property from GB-A to Commercial, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 32
REZONE PROPERTY AT 124 HARTFORD AVENUE
(Citizen Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopedale, MA, specifically Lot 25-20-0 (124 Hartford Ave.) thereon, by rezoning said property from GB-A to Commercial, or take any other action related thereto.

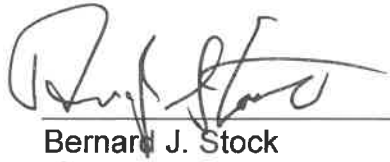
MAY 16, 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

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 (7) days before the holding of said meeting. Here of fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given our hands this 24th day of April, 2023.

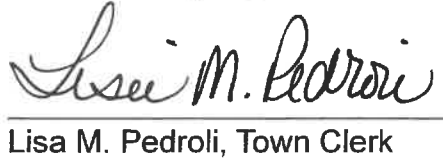
HOPEDALE SELECT BOARD


Glenda A. Hazard, Chair


Bernard J. Stock


Brian R. Keyes

A True Copy, ATTEST


Lisa M. Pedroli, Town Clerk

Posted in the Town Hall, Police Station and Post Office Lobby


Constable

042723
Date

