

## Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 131, §40, The Hopedale Select Board will be holding a public hearing on Monday March 25, 2024 in the Draper Room located at 78 Hopedale Street, at 6:30pm to discuss the installment of a prefabricated handicap ramp at the Hopedale Parks Bathhouse to bring the bathhouse into ADA compliance. The ramp is located at the rear of the building, at the only egress that could accommodate the installation.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection WPA Form 1 has been received by the Administrators office and copies have been sent to DEP, per MGL.

Town of Hopedale Building Permit has been approved and copies on file.

DEP (Mia MacDonald) has confirmed that this addition is allowable.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR FAVORABLE ACTION:

I move to approve the installation of the prefabricated handicap ramp at the Hopedale Pond Bathhouse, bringing this building into ADA compliance.

**RECEIVED**

*By Lisa M. Pedroli at 3:37 pm, Mar 21, 2024*

Hopedale Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2023  
Draper Room 6:30pm

In attendance: Chair Hazard, Mr. Stock, Mr. Savage, Town Administrator Ruscitti  
Call to order: 6:33 p.m.

A. Consent Items

1. Review/Approve meeting minutes of March 24, 2022 and November 21, 2022: Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve the meeting minutes of March 24, 2022 and November 21, 2022, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

B. Appointments & Resignations

1. Appoint Lisa Donovan as Full-Time Public Safety Dispatcher effective October 23, 2023: Motion made by Mr. Stock to appoint Lisa Donovan as Full-Time Public Safety Dispatcher effective October 23, 2023, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

2. Promote Robert Minichiello to Call Firefighter effective October 23, 2023

Motion made by Mr. Stock to promote Robert Minichiello to Call Firefighter effective October 23, 2023, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

C. New Business

1. Quarterly report from Marcum LLP (Town Accountants), Tanya Campbell, Partner and Rich Howorth, Manager attending via zoom. They are nearly complete with closing out FY 23. As compared to last fiscal year, local receipts came in \$600K higher and building permit fees came in \$400K higher. The Free Cash calculation will be submitted this week for certification by DOR.

2. Free Cash discussion: The accountants anticipate Free Cash will be a little less than last year - around \$1.1Mil. TA Ruscitti met with the Finance Committee last week and discussed opportunities to pay off some of the Town's debt.

D. Old Business

1. Continued review of November 7, 2023 Special Town Meeting warrant: 12 articles are on the warrant, including several "housekeeping" articles. The town meeting warrant is available in the meeting packet on the town website. Discussion and explanation of articles is available to view on the meeting video.

2. Consider and Vote on Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Stock to sign the Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

E. Administrator Updates:

- Interviews were conducted today for a new Highway Department employee, and an offer was made to Jared Parmensi. He currently works for MassDOT, is a plowing contractor for the town and has obtained all licenses.

- The Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School Summit is shaping up to be a very well-attended event. It will be recorded by Hopedale Cable Access. The preliminary agenda has been distributed to prospective attendees. Mr. Savage intends to speak at the event and would like the Board to take a position. Chair Hazard stated that it was her hope that attendees briefly discuss their community's financial position and budget process. Mr. Stock feels that having a budget cap makes sense and that there should be a better way for all the towns to communicate before budget talks begin. TA and staff will work on putting together a position statement for the Board's consideration.

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

Chair Hazard: GURR Update, several areas are still under litigation. For full update, please view the meeting video.

Mr. Stock: Congratulated the Police Chief regarding the grant the department was awarded. Reminder that it is time to display the Scarecrows and thank you to Tracy Phillips who organizes these wonderful town events.

Mr. Savage: He feels that the town can and should do a better job informing the citizens about the ongoing litigation with GURR and where the town stands now.

Resident Len Guertin asked which attorneys provided the litigation update and Chair Hazard told him it was special counsel from Anderson Krieger. Mr. Guertin then presented the board with a FOIA request asking for a copy of the agreement that was signed on 3/13/2023 with Anderson Krieger and release of executive session minutes.

Resident Lou Costanza wanted it noted that there are many senior citizens who would like to be involved in meetings, but some boards are only meeting virtually. This is a big disadvantage. TA Ruscitti stated that this has been a big complaint from others as well. Unfortunately, it is not the Select Board's purview to tell other boards how to conduct their meetings as virtual meetings are permitted under the state's guidelines.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: TA Ruscitti will have some items to present that the staff is working on.

H. Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken): none

I. Executive Session: none

Motion made by Mr. Savage to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stock.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

Meeting adjourned by Chair Hazard at 8:03pm

Respectfully submitted: Kelly Grant

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Hopedale Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2023  
Draper Meeting Room

In Attendance: Chair Hazard, Mr. Stock, Mr. Savage (via zoom), Town Administrator Ruscitti

Meeting Called to order at 6:46pm.

A Consent Items

1. Review/Approve meeting minutes of 11/21/2022: Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve the meeting minutes of 11/21/2022, seconded by Mr. Savage.  
Stock- Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye
2. Accept \$2,000 donation from Hopedale Friends of Elders, Inc. to supplement program funding: Motion made by Mr. Stock to accept the donation, seconded by Mr. Savage.  
Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye
3. Accept \$63,519.41 donation from an anonymous donor to fund legal fees associated with West Street litigation: Motion made by Mr. Stock to accept the donation, seconded by Mr. Savage.  
Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard- Aye

B Appointments & Resignations

1. Appointment of Timothy Morse as Provisional Full-Time Firefighter/EMT effective 11/15/23. Motion made by Mr. Stock to appoint Timothy Morse as Provisional Full-Time Firefighter/EMT effective 11/15/23, seconded by Mr. Savage.  
Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

C New Business

1. Tax Classification Hearing – Cheryl Hanly, Principal Assessor: Assessor Hanly was in attendance to present this year's tax classification hearing. The entire presentation is available on the meeting video on the town website, and on the Assessor department page on the town website. The Board of Assessors (BOA) recommends that the Select Board adopt a Residential factor of 0.914 which shifts the levy 1.60 towards Commercial/Industrial/Personal properties. This brings the average residential tax bill to \$8,000 for FY24. The Select Board must also decide whether to have a residential exemption and/or a small commercial exemption. Currently Hopedale has neither. The BOA does not recommend adopting either exemption. Motion made by Mr. Stock to adopt a residential factor of 0.914 and to not adopt either the residential or small commercial exemption, seconded by Mr. Savage.  
Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard-Aye
2. Public Hearing – Complete Streets project (Adin Street): The purpose of this hearing is to allow the public to have input on the project design and engineering before plans are finalized by Tighe & Bond engineering firm. Representatives from T&B attended via zoom and presented a

virtual walk-through using a drone video, available on the meeting video on the Town website. Also presented were renderings of what the street will look like upon completion of the project. Resident Len Guertin asked if there will be any markers denoting where the “bump-outs” are as the road is dark and they will be hard to see. TA Ruscitti explained that there are ways to address those concerns (crosswalk signs, gradual bump outs, signs on curb extension, mixed use reflective paint).

3. Review & possible adoption of Policy regarding Disposal of Surplus Supplies: This was put together by the School Superintendent and Martha White and is required under MA procurement law. The policy is included with the packet available on the website. Mr. Stock would like to give the public time to comment on it. The Board will wait and vote on this at the next meeting on 11/27.

4. Schedule December meeting(s): The Board will meet as scheduled on Monday Dec 11, and will tentatively meet on Tuesday Dec 26 if needed.

5. Review & possible adoption of new fee schedule for annual licensing: Fees have not been studied for over a decade. Recommendations (and in the packet) are to increase just a small amount to bring them in line with some other communities. Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve the recommendations as presented in the packet, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

6. Request for \$3,365 in ARPA funds to supplement \$23,549 already committed for Jr.-Sr. High School boiler as the amount the Board previously approved did not factor in that the boiler needed to be dropped into the building by a crane. Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve the request for \$3,365 in ARPA funds to supplement \$23,549 already committed for Jr.-Sr. High School boiler, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

#### D Old Business

1. Consider and Vote on Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting: Motion made by Mr. Stock to sign the Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage- Aye Hazard- Aye

E Administrator Updates: TA Ruscitti advised the Board that a legislative “earmark” was awarded to the Town in the amount of \$100,000 for the Mellen/Phillips field; we will work with the Parks Commission on this project. The Police Department received two grants: an award of \$46,000 for radios and a federal grant over \$150,000 to help in support of the department’s accreditation efforts.

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

Chair Hazard: will host an office hour from 5:30-6:30 on 11/27 for any resident who would like to discuss anything. She suggested it may be helpful to have a comprehensive list of grants that we have applied for and have been awarded.

Mr. Stock thanked Carol Mullen for the Veterans' program that was held this week.

Mr. Savage thanked the police and fire departments for their diligent pursuit of grant funds, and congratulations to Hopedale HS volleyball and Golf teams on their tournament placements.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: None

H Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken): Letter from a young man in PA asking for a public safety patch for his collection. TA Ruscitti will fulfill this request.

Motion made by Mr. Stock to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Mr. Savage.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted: Kelly Grant  
Board approved: \_\_\_\_\_



# HOPEDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

40 Dutcher Street - Hopedale MA. 01747

Tel. (508) 473-1050 Fax: (508) 902-0076

[www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department)

*Thomas M. Daige – Fire Chief*

*David J. McMorrow – Deputy Chief*



Hopedale Select Board  
Town Hall Office  
78 Hopedale Street  
Hopedale MA 01747

March 13, 2024

Re: Accept anonymous donation

Madam Chair,

The Fire Department has received an anonymous donation of \$500.00 after the response to an address in town for a report of a baby not breathing. The baby, once Fire Department Paramedics were on scene, was determined to be breathing and in good health. The baby was further assessed, treated, and transported to the hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

If accepted, the donation will be used to purchase additional pediatric emergency medical supplies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Thomas Daige", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Daige  
Fire Chief

Hopedale ARPA Tracking 26-123-5153-5700  
 Non-Entitlement Community Allocation \$ 311,441.28 \$ 311,441.28  
 Non-Functional County Redistribution Amount \$ 577,955.99 \$ 577,955.99  
 Total: \$ 1,778,795.00 \$ 889,397.27 \$ 1,778,794.54

\*\*UP TO DATE AS OF 2/27/2024\*\*

Item/Project	Department	Committed by SB	Expended * FY22	Expended * FY23	Expended * FY24	Balance	Date of SB Vote/ Other	UNSPENT BALANCES/ AVAILABLE FUNDS
Water Sourcing	Water	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 197,731			\$ 2,269.00		\$ 2,269.00
Water Tank	Water	\$ 165,000.00		\$ 149,865.00		\$ 15,135.00		\$ 15,135.00
COVID Tests	Police	\$ 122.34	\$ 122.34			\$ -		\$ -
COVID Test Kits for Distribution	Town	\$ 4,408.00	\$ 4,408.00			\$ -		\$ -
COA Pandemic-related services	COA	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 1,456.00	\$ 2,304.00		\$ 40.00		\$ 40.00
Emergency Tree Work - Town Trees	Town Manager	\$ 17,500.00		\$ 15,275.00		\$ 2,225.00		\$ -
Lucas Auto Pulse	Fire	\$ 15,000.00				\$ 15,000.00		\$ -
2024 Freightliner 108SD Plow Truck	Highway	\$ 279,756.50			(Delivery 3/24)	\$ 279,756.50		\$ -
Statue of Hope	Library	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 5,450.00	\$ 14,100.00		\$ -
Town Park Renovations & Cost Determination Parks	Parks	\$ 17,500.00			\$ 17,125.00	\$ 375.00	STOP SPENDING	\$ 375.00
Cruiser (Chevy Tahoe)	Police	\$ 56,770.00			\$ 56,015.00	\$ 755.00		\$ 755.00
JSHS Boiler(1)	Schools	\$ 100,000.00			\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	STOP SPENDING	\$ -
Security System/Cameras	Treasurer	\$ 5,000.00			\$ 4,940.00	\$ 60.00	STOP SPENDING	\$ 60.00
Fuel Dispensing Equipment Upgrade	Highway	\$ 19,000.00			\$ 15,700.00	\$ 3,300.00		\$ -
Generators @ Schools (for sheltering)	Town	\$ 400,000.00				\$ 400,000.00		\$ -
Hire Recruiter for TA search	Town	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 9,200		\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00
MS4 Stormwater Permitting	Highway	\$ 120,000.00		\$ 4,140.33		\$ 115,859.67	11/14/2022	\$ -
Dam Inspection	Town Hall	\$ 12,500.00		\$ 1,875.00		\$ 10,625.00	3/13/2023	\$ -
Design of Adin Street	Town	\$ 70,000.00				\$ 70,000.00	3/27/2023	\$ -
Fire Dept Hose (was \$56,000)	Fire			\$ 18,265			rescinded 9/11/23	\$ -
Police Motorcycle	Police	\$ 26,000.00		\$ 24,725.00		\$ 1,275.00	4/10/2023	\$ 1,275.00
Hardware and Software	TA	\$ 29,000.00			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	4/10/2023	\$ -
Tax Title	Collector	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 6,427.00	\$ 18,573.00	4/10/2023	\$ -
Tree Funds	Town Manager	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 5,500.00	\$ 19,500.00	6/12/2023	\$ -
Office security measures	Town Building	\$ 6,784.00			\$ 6,534.00	\$ 250.00	8/14/2023	\$ 250.00
GIS Cartography	Assessor	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00		\$ -	8/14/2023	\$ -
Bancroft Library HVAC engineering	Library	\$ 52,200.00				\$ 52,000	9/11/2023	\$ -
Dance/Movement & Literature classes	COA	\$ 2,500.00				\$ 2,500.00	9/25/2023	\$ -
Jr.-Sr. High School water heater	Schools	\$ 23,549.00			\$ 23,549.00	\$ -	10/2/2023	\$ -
Jr.-Sr. High School water heater	Schools	\$ 3,365.00			\$ 3,365.00	\$ -	11/13/2023	\$ -
Assessor Migration Services	Town-Building	\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000	\$ -		\$ -
Engine Repair	Hopedale Fire Dept	\$ 7,000			\$ 7,000	\$ -		need SB Vote
Total Expended to Date			\$ 203,717	\$ 412,614.33	\$ 80,090.00	\$ 1,051,998.17		
Total Committed		\$ 1,729,754.84				\$ 1,747,819.84		
Balance Available/Uncommitted:		\$ 30,975.00				\$ -		\$ 20,959.00

(1) \$33,879 was deducted from School Dept. budget (ARPA allocation not overspent)



## Town Hall Deficiencies

- Heating
  - Designed for High Pressure Steam
  - Current Boiler is Low Pressure
  - Asbestos still in place
  - leaking Steam Pipes
  - Single Zone for entire building
- Air Quality Issues
- Electrical Deficiencies
  - Post & Tube Wiring still Active
  - Excessive number of Space Heaters in Use within Building
  - Large number of window Air Conditioning Units in Use
  - Last wiring update 50 years
- Floors Deteriorating
  - Carpeting in excess of 30 years old
  - Unpatched holes in Floors
- Insulation
  - No insulation in Building
- Windows
  - Windows in First Floor capable of falling out
  - Upper Floor Windows Original to Building
  - Some windows lack Storm Windows
- Wildlife
  - Basement has been treated for Termites in the past
  - Dead birds frequently found in attic
  - Ongoing Pest Control is required for rodents
  - Bird Nests found in multiple locations
- Mold
  - Mold in Basement
  - Mold in Carpeting in Assessors Office Space
- Security
  - No security where cash transactions occur
  -
- No space for public