

Hopedale Select Board
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2023, 7:15pm.

Call to order 7:15 p.m. Present: Chair Hazard, Mr. Stock, Mr. Keyes, and Interim TA Mr. Nutting

A. Consent Items

1. Approve Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 29th

Hopedale resident U.S. Marine Thomas J. Beder, Jr., Vice Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Detachment 144 in Worcester, is planning three upcoming community events.

The first is a Memorial Day Parade, scheduled for May 29th. The parade will follow the same procedures as in past years, with collation at the Junior-Senior High School at 8:00 a.m. and concluding with a service at the Village Cemetery. The speakers at this service will be Ryan White, US Army, Bronze Medal Recipient, and Hopedale Firefighter.

The Police Chief, Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent have approved of this event; Mr. Beder is seeking the Select Board's approval.

Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve the Memorial Day Parade, seconded by Mr. Keyes

Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye Hazard-Aye

Mr. Beder also outlined plans for a "fill the boot" fundraising event on May 27, a Flag Day ceremony on June 14 and a "Christmas in July" event on July 1.

Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve these three events, seconded by Mr. Keyes

Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye Hazard-Aye

2. Announce Celebrate Literacy Award from the Massachusetts Reading Association to Tricia Perry, Director, Bancroft Memorial Library: Chair Hazard read the informational press release and noted that Tricia is much appreciated and that Hopedale is lucky to have her.

3. Accept donation from Hopedale Friends of Elders to Council on Aging in the amount of \$2000

Motion made by Mr. Keyes and seconded by Mr. Stock to accept the donation.

Stock-Aye Keyes- Aye Hazard-Aye

B. Appointments & Resignations: No items

C. New Business No Items

D. Old Business

1. FY 2024 Budget Discussion/Vote (All materials are included in the meeting packet available on the Town website.) TA Nutting stated that there is no question that either more revenue is needed, or services will be cut. Nutting noted that, even with a projected increase in revenues of about \$700-\$750,000, expenses are projected to exceed total revenues by about \$1,886,000. Many expense items are "fixed costs" such as pensions, insurance, State and County assessments, interest on debt, etc. Nutting presented a balanced budget which incorporates revenues that would result from a successful Proposition 2 ½ Override. The Finance Committee did not make any changes to the budget.

2. FY 2024 Capital Plan/Vote: (Plan is available in packet on town website). If voters approve an Override, there will be around \$400k of Free Cash available for capital needs. The Finance Committee

will be evaluating these capital requests at their next meeting. Of note, \$1 million in capital requests were submitted by town departments.

3. Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles/Vote: (Warrant is available in meeting packet on town website). Some articles are standard, and there are a few things that are still being worked on, such as prior year bills that need to be paid. Of note, the recycling center is being closed as the budget was overspent. The warrant closes on Wednesday April 26.

4. Review Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles/Vote: The Moderator intends to have members consider and vote on the Special Town Meeting warrant articles prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Keyes to approve and sign the warrants for the Annual and Special Town Meetings.

Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye Hazard- Aye

5. Review upcoming meeting schedule: TA Nutting asked the board if they feel they need to add an additional meeting to their schedule. At this time the board decided to add a meeting at 6p on the night of the Town Meeting.

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

1. Mr. Stock stated he attended the ribbon cutting for the Dunkin on Hartford Ave. It was nice and well attended. The owners also donated money to the food pantry. He also reminded residents that the “water bills” are water and sewer bills and are quarterly not monthly. Water and sewer costs are highly regulated and carry a high number of unfunded mandates.

2. Len Guertin: Asked if the warrant article submitted by the Parks Commission passes, how it will be funded? TA Nutting stated that it would have to be figured out as it would not be a debt exclusion.

3. Kara Chambers: She feels it was not the right time for anyone to put an article on the town meeting warrant asking for \$4 million for the parks. Nutting noted that the Parks Commission submitted the article, not the Select Board.

F. Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

1. Memo to Planning Board re: representative to serve on Master Plan Implementation Cte. (In meeting packet available on website)

2. Thank you letter to Master Plan Steering Committee (In meeting packet available on town website)

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: Mr. Keyes suggested that each member of the board should be able to see a draft agenda and weigh in prior to it being posted. He was dismayed that there was an item for next week that he felt should have been on the agenda for today.

H. Administrator Updates : no further updates

I. Executive Session(s): Mr. Keyes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Stock.

Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye Hazard- Aye

The meeting was dissolved by Chair Hazard at 9:04 p.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Grant

Minutes approved: _____

Hopedale Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023 6:30 p.m.
Draper Room

Present: Chair Hazard, Mr. Stock, Mr. Keyes, and Interim Town Administrator Jeff Nutting

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the Board would be entering Executive Session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The topic for the executive session is Marjorie Clinton et al v. Town of Hopedale, Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2385CV00037 and/or Clinton et al v. Chaplin et al, Massachusetts Land Court, 23 Misc. 000127; Attorney Robin Stein of KP Law will be in attendance and the Planning Board is participating in the Executive Session. The Board will return to open session.

Moved by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Keyes, to enter Executive Session for reasons stated by the Chair.
Stock-Aye, Keyes-Aye, Hazard-Aye

The Select Board returned to open session at 6:57 p.m.

A. Consent Items:

The Board held a moment of silence for Nancy Collins, long-time and beloved Hopedale teacher who passed away over the weekend.

1. Reminder that the Town Election is Tuesday May 9th (tomorrow), the Annual and Special Town Meetings are Tuesday May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the JSHS, and the Special Election for the Proposition 2 ½ Override Ballot Question is Tuesday May 23rd.

2. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes – 8/1/2022, 9/26/2022 and 1/23/2023: Motion made by Mr. Stock to approve the minutes as presented in packet with one edit to the January 23 minutes to clarify that Mr. Stock had not voted to approve minutes of prior meetings as he was not a Board member at when those meetings took place and grammatical edits to the September 26 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Keyes.

Stock-Aye Keyes-Aye Hazard-Aye

3. Accept \$375 donation for a tree from Jayme Solomon-Zissu: Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Keyes to accept the donation.

Stock-Aye Keyes-Aye Hazard-Aye

4. Accept \$1,300 donation for trees from Glenda Hazard: Motion made by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Keyes to accept the donation.

Stock-Aye Keyes-Aye Hazard-Aye

5. Accept donation of \$5,000 from Seven Hills Foundation for Bancroft Memorial Library in honor of Library Director's recent Celebrate Literacy award: Motion made by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Keyes.

Stock-Aye Keyes-Aye Hazard-Aye

6. Review/Approve Inter-Fund Transfers: Document with all inter-fund transfers is available on the town website in the meeting packet. TA Nutting indicated that there may be more transfers prior to June 30. Motion made by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Keyes to approve the transfers.

Stock-Aye Keyes-Aye Hazard-Aye

B. Appointments & Resignations

1. Applicant for Community Preservation Committee – Tracy Phillips: Ms. Phillips' talent bank form is available on the town website in the meeting packet. This appointment will complete the committee. Mr. Stock noted that Ms. Phillips would be a great addition as she does a great deal in town. Mr. Stock made a motion to appoint Tracy Phillips to the Community Preservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Keyes.

Stock-Aye Keyes-Aye Hazard-Aye

C. New Business

1. Review/Approve updated Zoning Board of Appeals application fees: The Zoning Board voted to approve an application fee of \$150; the applicant will be required to pay the newspaper fee for the legal ad directly. Motion made by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Keyes to approve the fee of \$150.

Stock-Aye Keyes-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 July 11, 2022, Special Town Meeting: Motion made by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Keyes to sign the Order of Taking as was directed by the voters at Town Meeting.

Stock-Aye Keyes- Nay Hazard-Aye

2. Further discussion regarding FY 2024 Operating and Capital Budget Discussion if warranted/possible vote.

The final budget is included in the meeting packet on the Town website. The budget will be going to print this week. The information presented includes a proposed budget with a successful override and one without. The choice is less services or higher taxes. TA Nutting also informed the board that the current accounting firm has stated they will not be bidding to renew the contract and therefore the town will need to select a new firm. The town is already out to bid.

3. Further discussion regarding Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles if warranted/possible
Vote: no further discussion.

4. Further discussion regarding Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles if warranted/possible
Vote: Mr. Keyes questioned if the citizen sponsored article seeking 4Mil for the parks would be included in the warrant since the Finance Committee voted "Unfavorable". TA Nutting said that it is on the warrant as citizen-sponsored articles must be included.

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

1. Mr. Arcudi thanked Mr. Keyes for his service to the community.

2. Mr. Keyes read a letter to the public stating that, while there were many ups and downs during his terms on Planning and Select Boards, he has loved serving the town for the past six years and he will miss it very much.

3. Chair Hazard asked about the Open Space and Recreation Plan. By having this plan, it will open more grant opportunities. She was concerned that the committee has not met in a year and that they may need to modify the committee. TA Nutting did not feel there is a need for it.

F. Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken).

Each of the correspondences listed are available on the town website.

1. Hopedale Police Department FY 2023 3rd Quarter Statistics.
2. Letter from Water Department regarding state-mandated water restrictions/Announce availability of Consumer Confidence Report for 2022
3. Thank you to Hopedale Friends of Elders for donation
4. Congratulations to Tricia Perry, Library Director, for Celebrate Literacy Award

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: no new request for items at this time, as Mr. Stock would prefer to wait until the newest member of the board is on board.

H. Administrator Updates: Reminder that Town Administrator interviews will be conducted Wednesday evening.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hazard at 8:11p.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Grant

Minutes Approved: _____

**TOWN OF HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS
LOCAL ELECTION WARRANT**

SS. Worcester

To any of the Constables of the Town of Hopedale,

Greetings;

In the name of the Town of Hopedale, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in the Local Election to vote at:

**George A. Draper Gymnasium
13 Dutcher Street, Hopedale Massachusetts**

on **Tuesday, The fourteenth day of May, 2024 from 7:00AM to 8:00PM** for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Local Election for the candidates for the following offices:

- BOARD OF HEALTH 3 YEARS**
- HOUSING AUTHORITY5 YEARS**
- LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 YEARS**
- PARK COMMISSION3 YEARS**
- PLANNING BOARD5 YEARS**
- ROAD COMMISSIONER.....3 YEARS**
- SCHOOL COMMITTEE3 YEARS**
- SCHOOL COMMITTEE3 YEARS**
- SELECT BOARD 3 YEARS**
- TOWN MODERATOR..... 3 YEARS**
- WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONER..... 3 YEARS**

Question #1: SHALL THE TOWN VOTE TO HAVE ITS ELECTED TREE WARDEN BECOME AN APPOINTED TREE WARDEN OF THE TOWN?

YES _____ NO _____

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of **April 2024**.

_____ Glenda A. Hazard, Select Board Chair.

_____ Bernard J. Stock, Select Board

_____ Scott M. Savage, Select Board

This notice shall be posted as required by Town bylaws in four places in the Town of Hopedale:

Town Hall, Police Station Lobby, Post Office Lobby and the Draper Gym.

Return of Service: _____ April ____, 2024
Constable

A true copy, attest: _____
Lisa M. Pedroli, Town Clerk



HOPEDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

40 Dutcher Street - Hopedale MA. 01747

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

www.hopedale-ma.gov/fire-department

Thomas M. Daige -- Fire Chief

David J. McMorrow -- Deputy Chief



Hopedale Select Board
78 Hopedale Street
Hopedale MA 01747

April 17, 2024

Re: Appointment of six (6) Call Firefighter Candidates

Madam Chair,

The Fire Department currently has just nine Call Firefighters on the roster, we are budgeted for twenty-two. Following an ad placed on the job search website Indeed looking for Call Firefighters, we received seven applications. After interviews and background checks, I am pleased to put forth six names for consideration of appointment to the position of Call Firefighter Candidate. All the applicants, except for one, live out of town, and if appointed, they will be required to stay at the firehouse or in the immediate area of Hopedale. Two of the candidates have the required Firefighter I/II certification and three others are already certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). If appointed, all the Candidates will need to complete a 1-year probationary period and those needing to be certified to the Firefighter I/II will need to successfully complete the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program. I recommend that the Select Board appoint the following members to the position of Call Firefighter Candidate:

- 1) Dalton Ionson of Uxbridge
- 2) Michael Brodt of Hopedale
- 3) Matthew Deschamps of Uxbridge
- 4) Robert Sheehan of Watertown
- 5) Darius Silva of Uxbridge
- 6) Brayden Thompson of Wrentham

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Acting Call Captain Craig Burns who placed the ad and led the hiring process of these individuals.

Respectfully,

Thomas Daige
Fire Chief