



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200
www.hopedale-ma.gov

Select Board
Glenda A. Hazard, Chair
Bernard J. Stock
Scott M. Savage

Town Administrator
Mitchell Ruscitti

Select Board
Meeting Agenda
HYBRID MEETING
Draper Room
May 13, 2024
6:30 p.m.

This meeting will be held via HYBRID means¹ and will also be streamed live, click here:
https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hopedale_ma

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87145575031?pwd=eHBzbWFwODhSWUtUandGZmFrWDZqQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 4557 5031

Passcode: 189825

One tap mobile +16469313860,,87145575031#,,,,*189825# US

Public Comments – The Hopedale Select Board encourages citizens to attend its meetings and welcomes their views on pertinent subjects. Anyone may comment for up to three minutes during the Public Comment portion of the agenda regarding an issue that is not on the agenda. However, given that no public notice of the topic has been provided, the Select Board will not engage in discussion. The Select Board will give your issue appropriate consideration. Anyone may also comment during any agenda item for up to three minutes.

Call to order: 6:30 p.m.

A. Consent Items

1. Review/Approve meeting minutes: 4/24/23 and 5/10/23
2. Proclamation – Margaret “Peg” Veins to honor the occasion of her 100th birthday
3. Accept \$2,000 donation to the Council on Aging from Hopedale Friends of Elders Inc. (supplemental funding for Senior Center classes and programs)

B. Appointments and Resignations

1. Request for appointment to Conservation Commission: Michele LaReau-Alves
2. Request for Fire Department appointments:
 - i. David Shearns, Milford: Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic, effective 5/13/24
 - ii. Timothy Morse, Hopedale: Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT, effective 5/20/24

C. New Business

1. Reschedule May 27 Select Board meeting (Memorial Day)
2. Sign Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) for purchase of fire truck (Treasurer/Collector)
3. Request for ARPA funds:
 - i. \$7,190 for fire alarm system for bath house
 - ii. \$600 for meter pit for South Cemetery hydrant

D. Old Business

1. Continued discussion regarding May 21, 2024 Annual Town Meeting

E. Administrator Updates

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

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items

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

I. Executive Session:

1. Move that the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town, and the Chair so declares, in matters captioned Grafton & Upton Railroad v. Edward Burt, Timothy Watson, John Doe and Jane Doe.

Please note the Select Board agenda may be subject to change and items not anticipated may be discussed and all listed agenda items may be subject to a vote.

¹ On July 16, 2022, Lt. Governor Polito, as Acting Governor, signed into law An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency. Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 authorized a further extension – until March 31, 2025 – of the remote meeting provisions established by the initial March 12, 2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Section (1) of the executive order allowing public access through adequate, alternative means is independent from Section (2), which allows members of the public body to participate remotely. The public body may conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in section (1) or (2) or both.

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 10, 2023
Draper Room, 5:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting: Chair Hazard, Mr. Stock, Mr. Savage, John Petrin from Community Paradigm.

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Hazard.

A. Preliminary Discussion regarding Town Administrator Interviews: Mr. Petrin will facilitate the interviews on behalf of the board. Candidates will each get the same questions and the same amount of interview time. (Resumes for each candidate are available on the town website in the meeting packet and the interviews can be seen on the meeting video, also on the website).

B. Interview Town Administrator Candidate Finalists:

5:45	Justine Caggiano
6:45	Chad Lovett
7:45	Mitchell Ruscitti

C. Vote (subject to successful negotiations with selected candidate): Mr. Stock made a motion to appoint Mitch Ruscitti as the next Town Administrator pending successful negotiation. Seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock-Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye

D. Authorize the Interim Town Administrator to negotiate a contract with the selected candidate, to be submitted for the Select Board's consideration. Stock made a motion to authorize Mr. Nutting to negotiate the Town Administrators contract, subject to Board's final approval. Seconded by Mr. Savage.

Stock- Aye Savage-Aye Hazard-Aye

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hazard at 9:25p.

Respectfully submitted: Kelly Grant

Board approved: _____



*Proclamation
May 13, 2024*

Whereas, Margaret "Peg" Viens was born in 1924 in New Bedford, Massachusetts where she, along with her 3 brothers and 2 sisters, grew up and attended school, and

Whereas, Peg helped care for her family after her mother's passing when Peg was 14 years old, and

Whereas, in 1944, through a mutual friend, Peg met her future husband Elmer, with whom she was not immediately smitten, and

Whereas, Peg apparently warmed up to Elmer over time, and they were married in 1949, and

Whereas, the newlyweds initially moved to Medway, and then to Hopedale in 1953 where Elmer worked for the Draper Corporation, and

Whereas, over the years, Peg and Elmer had 3 children – Jessica, Andrew and Ann – with whom they and other family members often took summer vacations in Limerick, Maine, and

Whereas, sadly, Elmer passed away in 2018 at the age of 99, and

Whereas, Peg enjoys spending time with her children, her 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, and working on 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles.

Now, Therefore, the Hopedale Select Board congratulates Margaret "Peg" Viens on her 100th birthday and offers its best wishes on this joyous occasion.

*Hopedale Select Board
May 13, 2024*

Glenda A. Hazard, Chair

Bernard J. Stock

Scott M. Savage

**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE
TALENT BANK FORM**

Local Government needs citizens to give of their time and talents serving the Town of Hopedale. A Talent Bank has been established to compile a list of interested citizens, willing to serve on a voluntary basis on boards, commissions and committees. Some groups meet often, others require less time, and still others are busy only at specific times of the year. Occasionally, there are requirements for ad hoc committees or sub-committees appointed to work on specific projects. Experience indicates that the two most appropriate qualities for successful service are an open mind and exercise of common sense.

If you are interested in serving, please list the position(s) you wish to be considered for:

Board, Commission or Committee applying for:

Conservation Commission

Please return completed forms to:

Town Administrator's Office – Hopedale Town Hall 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747

The Town Hall mailing address is: P.O. Box 7, Hopedale MA, 01747

Please Note:

- The Board of Selectmen may fill vacancies until next election.
- It is recommended that you attend a few meetings of the committee or board you are contemplating joining to help determine your interest.
- The board/committee will be asked for their recommendation on each applicant appointment.

Name: Michele LaReau-Alves

Are you a registered voter? Yes No

Address: Hopedale St. Hopedale

How long have you lived in Hopedale? 30 yrs.

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

How would you like to be contacted? email

Occupation: Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Please list any potential conflicts of interest, e.g. membership in an organization or your

business: None

Education and Experience: See attached

How many times during the last year have you attended a meeting of the Board/Committee to which you are requesting appointment? see attached

Have you ever had business before the Board/Committee to which you are requesting an appointment?

Yes No If yes what type of business? _____

Special interests and skills: See attached

Activities, e.g. Government/Civic & Community/Charitable & Educational: _____

Reasons for wanting to serve: See attached

The completion of this form in no way assures appointment. Citizens deemed most qualified to serve in a particular capacity will fill all board, commission or committee vacancies.

Applicant's Signature Michelle R. Felber-Lewis Date 5/2/24

Volunteering for Town of Hopedale Conservation Commission

Education and Experience: BA in Psychology and MA in Counseling Psychology.

I have not attended any Conservation Commission meetings in the past year, but I have reviewed the agendas and meetings posted on the town website. It appears that the commission has not met very often recently due to lack of members. I am also familiarizing myself with the Wetlands Protection Act and the mission of the MA DEP.

My special interest is in engaging locally to protect natural resources. I walk the Hopedale Parklands almost daily and have come to appreciate the beauty and ecological diversity of our local forest and waterways. As a longtime resident of Hopedale, where I have raised two children, I am also interested in understanding and supporting the need for balance between community development and the preservation of ecosystems that support our watershed.

The skills that I offer are an interest in learning and a background in science that provides a degree of comfort in reading and interpreting scientific research. My experience as a therapist for more than 20 years and as a board member in other areas also provides me with excellent interpersonal communication and conflict management skills.

Activities that I have been involved in most recently include volunteering at a local organic farm doing field work and market prep. I have also been involved with the Hopkinton Farmers Market for about 7 years as a board member and as farm market manager. I have been involved in various leadership roles over the past 15 years at my local church and I have volunteered in food prep at a community meals program in Milford.

I want to serve on the Conservation Commission because I am aware of the need for volunteers and my daughter was on the commission last year and is no longer able to serve. The values and interests that I share with my daughter, who studied Environmental Science at UVM, are what motivate me to take her place. I also feel that it is my civic duty to engage in meaningful ways in town government.

Michele LaReau-Alves

5/2/24



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



Select Board
78 Hopedale Street
Hopedale MA 01747

May 2, 2024

Re: Appointment of Permanent Full-time Firefighter's

Madam Chair,

After proceeding through the Civil Service hiring process, I am pleased to put forth the names of David Shearns of Milford and Timothy Morse of Hopedale to be hired as Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic and Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT respectively, to replace two members who had left our department some 8 plus months prior.

Mr. Shearns has been a member of our department since January of 2020 as a Call Firefighter and has been filling one of the vacated positions as a Provisional Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic since January of 2023.

Mr. Morse has been a member of our department since June of 2022 and has been filling the other vacant positions as Provisional Full-Time Firefighter/EMT since November of 2023.

Both Mr. Shearns and Mr. Morse are members in good standing with our department and have been a great fit to our organization. Both have successfully completed the criminal, professional and personal background checks and if appointed, both individuals would need to successfully complete a 1-year probationary period as well as the Massachusetts Career Recruit Firefighting Academy.

I recommend that the Select Board appoint David Shearns to the position of Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic effective May 13th, 2024, and Timothy Morse to the Position of Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT effective May 20th, 2024.

Respectfully,


Thomas Daige
Fire Chief

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Certificate of Town Clerk

Note Number(s): 932-1

Town Treasurer's Record

Town of Hopedale

1. Date of Town Meeting Authorizing Loan November 29, 2023
2. Purpose of Loan BAN - Fire Truck
Note: Attach a Municipal Purpose Loan Form for lines 1 to 7 for all multiple purpose loans.
3. Total Amount of Loan Authorized \$505,304.00
4. Amount of Previous New Issues of this Loan \$0.00
5. Paydowns on this Issue (if required) \$0.00
6. Amount of this Issue \$505,304.00
7. Balance of this Loan Unissued \$0.00
Note: Amount Authorized minus Previous New Issues minus This Issue (New Money) equals Unissued Balance.
8. Issue Date May 21, 2024 Date Due August 23, 2024
9. Payable to UniBank For Savings
10. Payable at UmBank For Savings
11. Rate of Interest 5.150% Payable At Maturity (Annually, semi-annually or at maturity)
12. Signed by  Town Treasurer

TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS: THIS CONSTITUTES OUR AUTHORIZATION TO DELIVER THE NOTE(S), WHEN CERTIFIED, TO THE PURCHASER(S) SPECIFIED ON LINE 9 ABOVE.

COUNTERSIGNED AND APPROVED BY:

Select Board
and a
majority
thereof

In the presence of _____, Town Clerk  (complete right side)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Certificate of Town Clerk

Only one Certificate is needed to cover all notes issued on the same date for the same purpose. The Town Clerk will furnish below an exact copy of the vote authorizing the loan, as appearing in the Clerk's records, showing how the vote was passed including a copy of the article in the warrant upon which the vote was based. The completed certificate is to be signed by the Clerk and given to the Treasurer, who must transmit the same, with the note or notes, to the Director of Accounts, Department of Revenue, Boston. General Laws Chapter 44, Sections 23-27.

Copy of Vote Authorizing Loan

(Attach a certified copy of the vote and warrant article for each authorization included in this borrowing.)

(Upload Vote for Fire Truck to Gateway)



Seal

I CERTIFY that this is a true copy of the Town Treasurer's Record of the issue of notes and a true copy of the vote passed at a meeting of the voters of the Town of Hopedale, duly warned as required by law, which authorized borrowing as stated, as appears on the records of the town; that said vote is in full force and effect and has not been repealed or modified in any way by subsequent vote of the town. I FURTHER CERTIFY that the person whose signature appears on the note as treasurer of the Town of Hopedale was the duly authorized treasurer on the date when said signature was made; and that the persons whose signatures appear upon the note as those of a majority of the select board were duly qualified officials on the date when such signatures were made. I ALSO CERTIFY that the copy of the warrant article is a true copy of the same; that it was duly served and certified by the constable as required by the General Laws and by-laws or vote of the town or both.

Date _____

Town Clerk

(Revised: December 2003)

Town of Hopedale
Massachusetts

\$505,304.00

Bond Anticipation Note
Fire Truck

Dated: May 21, 2024

Due: August 23, 2024

Certificate and Covenant as to Tax-exempt Status of Notes

We, the Treasurer and Select Board of the Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts (the "Issuer"), certify and covenant on behalf of the Issuer as follows in connection with the issuance of its Notes described above and the exclusion of interest thereon from gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended (the "Code"):

1. The Issuer will take all lawful action necessary to comply with requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Notes in order that interest on the Notes be or continue to be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

2. The Notes are hereby designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purposes of Section 265(b) of the Code. We certify that the reasonably anticipated amount of tax-exempt obligations, including the Notes, that will be issued by the Issuer and all subordinate entities during the current calendar will not exceed \$10,000,000.

Dated: May 21, 2024

I, the undersigned Treasurer hereby certify that, as required by the Code, I have this day filed Form 8038G, a copy of which is attached, with the Internal Revenue Service.

Select Board


Treasurer

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HOPEDALE
ANTICIPATION SERIAL LOAN
Fire Truck**

No. 932-1

\$505,304.00

Date of Issue: May 21, 2024

For Value Received, the inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale by their Treasurer hereto duly authorized by vote of said Town passed on November 29, 2023 and Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws promise to pay to UniBank For Savings or order upon presentation and surrender thereof at UniBank For Savings, 49 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588, the sum of

FIVE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS (\$505,304.00)

on August 23, 2024, with interest at the rate of 5.150 percent per annum, payable at maturity calculated on the basis of a numerator using 30 days and a denominator using a 360 day year (30/360).

Countersigned and Approved

Signed

Majority of

the

Select Board



Treasurer

Town of _____

Town Seal

To be affixed here

I certify that this note was countersigned and approved by the Select Board in my presence.

Date

Town Clerk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Revenue, Boston

I hereby certify that this note appears to have been duly issued in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws per the attached Director of Accounts Approval Letter.



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Select Board
Glenda A. Hazard, Chair
Bernard J. Stock
Scott M. Savage

Town Administrator
Mitchell Ruscitti

May 9, 2024

TO: Select Board
FROM: Martha White, Executive Assistant
REGARDING: Request for ARPA funds
COPY TO: Mitch Ruscitti, Town Administrator

The Board had previously approved \$5,369 in ARPA funds for the South Cemetery irrigation project; to date \$4,418.78 has been, leaving a balance of \$950.22. We have an additional invoice for this project in the amount of \$1,585, accordingly, an additional authorization of \$635 in ARPA funds is requested for the South Cemetery irrigation project.

Further, a fire alarm system has been installed at the Hopedale Pond Bath House; the School Department and the Administration are sharing in this cost. Authorization for \$7,190 in ARPA funds is requested to cover the Administration's portion of the Bath House fire alarm system.



**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
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 21, 2024, 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 reports of the Select Board and other officers, departments, or committees of the Town, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 2
TOWN CLERK SALARY
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of the Town Clerk effective July 1, 2024 as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, §108, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 3
FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, such sums as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Town Departments for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 4
FISCAL YEAR 2025 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Enterprise receipts a sum of money to be utilized to fund the Water Department budget for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 5
FISCAL YEAR 2025 SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Receipts a sum of money to be utilized to fund the Sewer Department budget for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 6
SUPPLEMENT FY 2024 BUDGETS
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement FY 2024 Operating Budgets, or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 7
PRIOR YEAR BILLS
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §64 to transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from prior fiscal year(s), or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 8
FISCAL YEAR 2025 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE BUDGET
(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 2025, or take any action related thereto.

ARTICLE 9
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION 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 10
CAPITAL REQUEST: FIRE STATION DOORS
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be used to fund repairs and/or replacement of Fire Station Doors, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 11
CAPITAL REQUEST: TOWN PARK RETAINING WALL
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be used to fund repairs and/or replacement of the Town Park Retaining Wall, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 12
CAPITAL REQUEST: DENNETT AUDITORIUM
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be used to fund repairs to and/or renovation of the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School Dennett Auditorium, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 13
WATER DEPARTMENT CAPITAL ITEMS
(Water and Sewer Commission)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Water Department Retained Earnings to the Water Reserve Fund (account number 20-132-5700-5780) to fund capital items and any associated costs for the Water Department, or take any other

action related thereto.

ARTICLE 14
SEWER DEPARTMENT CAPITAL ITEMS
(Water and Sewer Commission)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sewer Department Retained Earnings to the Sewer Reserve Fund (account number 61-132-5700-5780) to fund capital items and any associated costs for the Sewer Department, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 15
ESTABLISH HOPEDALE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to determine that there is a need for a Redevelopment Authority in Hopedale for the purpose of engaging in urban renewal or other projects under M.G.L. c, 121B and that it is in the public interest that such an Authority be organized in Hopedale; and, in accordance with M.G.L. c, 121B, §4, four (4) members of the Authority shall be appointed by the Select Board to serve until an election of members at the next available annual town election; and further that the town vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be utilized by such Authority for initial operational expenses, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 16
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, and/or such additional amount(s) anticipated to be provided for the purpose of funding road paving/improvement projects and, further, to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend such sum(s) 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 17
ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for Fiscal Year 2025 for Revolving Funds established in the Town By-Laws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 18
INCREASE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR QUALIFYING SENIOR CITIZENS
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions for 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 19
INCREASE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR OTHER QUALIFYING PERSONS
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions for 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 20
ESTABLISH TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR ACTIVE-DUTY MEMBERS OF
MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to approve to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, §5, Clause 56, and authorize the Board of Assessors to allow members of the Massachusetts National Guard or military reservists who are on active duty (outside of the United States) to obtain a reduction on all or part of their real property taxes for any fiscal year they are serving in a foreign country, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 21
TOWN CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE
HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 32B, § 7A permitting the Town to pay an additional or subsidiary rate of contribution to employee and retiree health insurance premiums above the fifty percent (50%) established under M.G.L. c. 32B, § 7; and further, to set a maximum subsidiary or additional rate to be paid by the Town as seventy percent (70%) contribution by the Town toward health insurance total premiums, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 22
REFUND COMMUNITY IMPACT FEE TO CAROLINE'S CANNABIS, LLC
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000 from Free Cash, said amount having been paid to the Town by Caroline's Cannabis, LLC pursuant to the Host Community Agreement between the Town of Hopedale and Caroline's Cannabis, LLC, and which funds shall be returned to Caroline's Cannabis, LLC pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.94G, §3 and Cannabis Control Commission regulations which effectively bar communities from collecting impact fees without substantial documentation; such appropriation is required because said funds having closed out to Free Cash at the end of Fiscal Year 2022, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 23
DURATION OF CONTRACTS
(Select Board)

To see if the town will vote to authorize, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B, contracts to have a duration of up to 5 years and, in the case of real estate contracts, up to 10 years, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 24
RESCIND OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article 6 of the May 16, 2023 Special Town Meeting creating a Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, and to transfer any and all funds currently in said Stabilization Fund and any settlement funds received in the future to a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in the applicable opioid litigation settlement documents; or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 25
ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF PRUDENT INVESTOR RULE
(Treasurer/Collector)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with M.G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investor Rule"; the portion of the law to be accepted being as follows:

"(b)(1) A city, town or district that accepts this subsection in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may manage trust funds held in the custody of the treasurer of the city, town or district as a combined investment pool and may invest said funds in accordance with chapter 203C and not in accordance with subsection (a). If any provision of this subsection conflicts with the terms of a bequest, trust or other instrument that expresses the clear intent of the donor, then such funds may be managed and invested only in accordance with the terms of such bequest, trust or other instrument."

or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 26
(Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the creation of a stabilization account, voted by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee on September 14, 2023, which will enable the Regional District to address capital improvement items via self-funding and avoid dependence upon operational budget funding, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 27
(Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$10,000,000.00 borrowing authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District ("District") School Committee on February 15, 2024, and amended by its actions of March 14, 2024, for the purpose of paying costs of roof reconstruction and the replacement to energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational School Committee; with the understanding that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities, and that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the MSBA-determined percentage of eligible, approved Project costs, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and provided that the Town's approval of the borrowing is contingent upon the District's ability to secure grant approval from the MSBA; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 28
AN ARTICLE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATION WITH THE GRAFTON &
UPTON RAILROAD REGARDING THE LAND AT 364 WEST STREET
FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT
(Citizen Petition)

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopedale is engaged in ongoing legal discussions concerning the ownership and future use of the land located at 364 West Street, which has led to significant community interest and legal action from residents;

WHEREAS, the protracted legal battle over this land has imposed financial and social costs on the town and its residents, without a clear path to a beneficial resolution for all parties involved;

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopedale recognizes the importance of finding a sustainable and mutually beneficial solution that respects the interests of the Grafton & Upton Railroad, the town, and its residents, fostering community development and cooperation;

WHEREAS, a negotiated settlement with the Grafton & Upton Railroad and involving One Hundred Forty Realty Trust presents an opportunity to resolve these issues in a way that can bring long-term benefits to Hopedale, including potential economic development, enhanced community amenities, or preserved open spaces, depending on the terms agreed upon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Hopedale Town Meeting implores the Select Board to initiate and pursue constructive negotiations with the Grafton & Upton Railroad and One Hundred Forty Realty Trust with the goal of reaching a settlement agreement concerning the future of the land at 364 West Street. Such an agreement should aim to secure outcomes that are in the best interests of the Hopedale community, are economically feasible, and enhance the quality of life for its residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Select Board is empowered to act decisively and with flexibility to achieve a resolution, including the authorization to agree to compromises and commitments that are deemed necessary and beneficial for the town, with the expectation that any final agreement should be subject to approval by the Town Meeting

Or act on anything relating thereto.

MAY 21, 2024 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 ____ day of _____, 2024.

HOPEDALE SELECT BOARD

Glenda A. Hazard, Chair

Bernard J. Stock

Scott M. Savage

A True Copy, ATTEST

Lisa M. Pedroli, Town Clerk

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

Constable

Date