



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
September 25, 2023
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=eHBzbWFwODhSWUtUandGZmIrWDZqQT09>

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

- a. Review/Approve meeting minutes of February 27, 2023
- b. Accept \$56,500.00 donation from anonymous donor to fund legal fees associated with West Street litigation

B. Appointments & Resignations

- a. Discussion/Possible Appointment of Alternate to Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission
- b. Accept Resignation – Call Firefighter Juan Ruelas effective September 18, 2023
- c. Appointment – Tyler Alt as Call Firefighter effective October 1, 2023

C. New Business

- a. Announce \$444,870 FEMA grant award for Increased Flood Resiliency for Hopedale Pond; accept grant
- b. Open Warrant for November 7, 2023 Special Town Meeting
- c. Review preliminary draft Special Town Meeting warrant
- d. Council on Aging request for \$2,500 in ARPA funds for Dance/Movement and Literature classes

e. Open Space and Recreation Plan – Letter of Support

D. Old Business

E. Executive Session:

- a. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to ongoing litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town, and the Chair so declares, in matters captioned Town of Hopedale v. Jon Delli Priscoli, Reilly v. Town of Hopedale, and Grafton & Upton Railroad v. Town of Hopedale.
- b. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 2, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel: Treasurer/Collector. (To return to open session for purposes of voting any agreed-upon contract amendment(s)).

F. Administrator Updates

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

H. Requests for Future Agenda Items

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

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.

**Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023, 7:15 p.m.**

Present: Chair Hazard, Selectman Keyes, Selectman Stock, Town Administrator Nutting.

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order 7:15 p.m.

Consent Items

Appointments & Resignations

Applications for Community Preservation Committee

- Jim Abbruzzese
- Herbert T. Potter, Jr.

Talent bank forms for both applicants are available on the town website with the meeting packet. Both Mr. Potter and Mr. Abbruzzese were in attendance and spoke about their involvement in the town and interest in this committee appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Keyes and seconded by Mr. Stock to appoint Jim Abbruzzese and Herbert T. Potter, Jr. to the Community Preservation Committee.

Hazard- Aye Stock-Aye Keyes- Aye

New Business

Request for one-day liquor license – Blackstone Valley Curling Club:
Event to be held 3/25/23. All paperwork is in order.

Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Keyes to approve the one-day liquor license for the Blackstone Valley Curling Club.

Hazard- Aye Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye

Update from Highway Superintendent: As it is snowing, the Superintendent is not available.

Discussion regarding Private Ways

Mr. Nutting explained that there are several private ways that the Town either plows and/or on which the Town has performed some maintenance, noting that this issue is not unique to Hopedale. The relevant general laws were included in the meeting packet as well as a list of the private ways that the town currently maintains. Currently there is no bylaw concerning maintenance and snow removal on private ways. Mr. Nutting suggested that the Select Board and Road Commission should meet to discuss this matter and establish a consistent approach regarding maintenance of private ways.

Review/Approve Town Counsel response to Open Meeting Law complaint.

Mr. Nutting stated they received an open meeting law complaint and Kopelman Paige Law prepared a response for the Board's consideration; in their opinion there was no violation. The Board needs to vote to send the letter from KP Law.

Motion made by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Keyes to authorize the letter from KP Law to be sent.

Hazard- Aye Stock- Aye Keyes- Aye

Old Business

No items

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

1. Mr. Stock stated that Congressman Jake Auchincloss recently met with members of the community. He spent a considerable amount of time in town and was very engaged and interested.
2. Mr. Stock stated that the Hopedale Blue Raiders had a great game and a great effort on Saturday. They are now in the state playoffs.
3. Mr. Keyes stated the Treasurer and Town Clerk obtained a grant of \$10,000 through MIIA for wellness programs, including the purchase of two treadmills which have been installed at Town Hall.
4. Mr. Keyes stated that there is information that the public should know about the town's litigation regarding the West Street property. Litigation costs are over \$300K which is primarily funded by donations. Mr. Keyes is concerned that there has not been a set process or account set up to deposit the donation directly and pay invoices directly from. He takes issue with the invoices being sent directly to the donors for the donors to pay.

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

Interim Town Administrator's letter to Zoning Board (included in meeting packet available on town website).

DCR Order to Conduct a Dam Safety Phase I Inspection

Letter included in meeting packet available on town website.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

None

Administrator Updates

Financial Summit follow-up meeting March 6th 6:30 p.m.

The master budget version 1 was sent out to all departments today; numbers are still being crunched on four budgets. All committees are working extremely hard to really dig into the budget.

Information regarding May 9, 2023, Election

This information is included in the meeting packet available on the town website.

Thank you letter to the Hopedale Foundation for donation to Bancroft Library

Letter included in meeting packet available on town website.

Chair Hazard dissolved the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly Grant, Executive Assistant

Board Approved: _____



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Select Board

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

Town Administrator

Mitch Ruscitti

September 20, 2023

TO: Select Board
FROM: Martha White, Executive Assistant
RE: Appointment of Alternate to Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission
COPY TO: Mitch Ruscitti, Town Administrator
Steve Chaplin, Planning Board Chair and Delegate to the CMRPC

A notice was posted on the Town website seeking applicants to serve as the Alternate to the CMRPC. The notice requested that applications be submitted no later than September 19; as of this date, no applications have been received.



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. McMarrow - Deputy Chief



Select Board
Town Hall Office
78 Hopedale Street
Hopedale MA 01747

September 13, 2023

Re: Resignation of Call Firefighter Ruelas-Garcia

Madam Chair,

Please find enclosed a letter of resignation from Call Firefighter Candidate Juan Ruelas-Garcia effective September 18th, 2023. Juan started with us in November of 2022 and was currently going through the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Academy when he was offered full-time employment with the Town of Milford Fire Department, which he has accepted. The members and I wish Juan all the best in his future endeavors, both personally and professionally.

Respectfully,

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

Thomas Daige
Fire Chief



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Thomas M. Daige - Fire Chief

David J. McMorrow - Deputy Chief



Select Board
Town Hall Office
78 Hopedale Street
Hopedale MA 01747

September 13, 2023

Re: Appointment of Call Firefighter Candidate Tyler Alt

Madam Chair,

Please accept my recommendation to appoint Tyler Alt of Milford to the position of Call Firefighter Candidate effective October 1st, 2023. Tyler had participated in the Student Internship program with our department during his senior year at Milford High School and applied to be a Call Firefighter with us as soon as he graduated this past June. Tyler's dad, who is a career Firefighter in Milford, served as a career Firefighter/Paramedic with our department from March 2015 until April of 2018.

Respectfully,


Thomas Daige
Fire Chief



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The Hopedale Select Board hereby gives public notice of its intention to call a

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

on

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

in the

HOPEDALE JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DENNETT AUDITORIUM

Articles for inclusion in the Warrant for the November 7, 2023 Special Town Meeting may be submitted after 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, and must be received in the Office of the Select Board, Hopedale Town Hall, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747 no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

The Select Board encourages petitioners and others submitting articles to provide such materials electronically to mwhite@hopedale-ma.gov by such date and time; if submitting through this format, petitioners are advised to request a "read receipt" to verify proper and timely receipt by Select Board's Office. The Select Board further encourages that articles be submitted in narrative format only, and that maps and other supplementary material not be included as part of the warrant article.

Glenda A. Hazard, Chair
Hopedale Select Board



TOWN OF HOPEDALE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

November 7, 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 November 7, 2023, at 7:00 pm, then and there to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money for design, engineering and all other costs associated with repairs and/or replacement of the heating and air conditioning systems at the Bancroft Memorial Library, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 2
PRIOR YEAR BILLS

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 3
SUPPLEMENT FY 2024 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of supplementing FY 2023 Operating Budgets, or take any other action related thereto.

- Town Clerk Salaries & Wages – “Assistant” line item – to bring the Assistant Town Clerk’s salary into compliance with the Classification and Compensation

Plan adopted under Article 27 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, retroactive to July 1, 2023.

- Fire Department Salaries & Wages – “Permanent” line item – to fund salary increases negotiated with the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, retroactive to July 1, 2023
 - Treasurer/Collector Salaries & Wages – “Permanent” line item to fund a salary increase negotiated with the Treasurer/Collector, retroactive to July 1, 2023
-

ARTICLE 4 RESCIND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to rescind authorized but unissued debt, which unissued debt is no longer needed as the purposes for which the debt was authorized have been fulfilled or completed, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to pay off debt, including bond anticipation notes, specifically the amounts remaining after the purposes for which the funds were authorized have been fulfilled, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to release funds previously appropriated by Town Meeting, specifically the amounts remaining after the purposes for which the funds were appropriated have been fulfilled, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to *purchase a demo fire truck*, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 Water Department budget to properly identify the intended appropriations for the Wages and Expenses line items; the total Water Department appropriation of \$1,417,281 was correct but the Wages and Expenses line items were incorrect, as shown below, or take any other action related thereto.

	<u>Appropriation As voted 5/16/23</u>	<u>Corrected Appropriation</u>
Wages	\$379,902	\$370,902
Expenses	\$666,550	\$566,550
Reserves	\$100,000	\$100,000
Capital	\$ 44,000	\$ 44,000
Debt/Interest	\$335,829	\$335,829
Actual Sum	\$1,526,281	\$1,417,281
Amount Voted 5/16/23	\$1,417,281	

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to *BVT Stabilization Fund*, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 10

Property easement(s) for water tank access road on Crockett Circle

ARTICLE 11

Retained earnings spending on technological upgrades for W&S Department

NOVEMBER 7, 2023 SPECIAL 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 fourteen (14) 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 _____, 2023.

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

Hopedale ARPA Funding 9/11/23 - As Voted by Select Board 26-123-5153-5700

Non-Entitlement Community Allocation \$622,883 \$ 311,441 \$ 311,441
 Non-functional County Redistribution Amount \$1,155,912 \$ 577,956 \$ 577,956
Total: \$1,778,795 \$ 889,397 \$ 889,397

Expended thru 3/31/23**

Item/Project	Department	Committed by SB	FY22	FY23	Balance	Date of SB Vote
Water Sourcing	Water	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	
Water Tank	Water	\$ 165,000	\$ 149,865	\$ 15,135		
COVID Tests	Police	\$ 122	\$ 122	\$ -		
COVID Test Kits for Distribution	Town	\$ 4,408	\$ 4,408	\$ -		
COA Pandemic-related services	COA	\$ 3,800	\$ 1,456	\$ 2,304	40 STOP SPENDING	
Hopedale Pond/Dam/Culverts (Match)	Parks/Con Com	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	- Rescinded 3/31/23	
Emergency Tree Work - Town Trees	Tree Warden	\$ 17,500	\$ 15,275	\$ 2,225		
Lucas Auto Pulse	Fire	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -		
2024 Freightliner 108SD Plow Truck	Highway	\$ 279,757	\$ 279,757	\$ -		
Statue of Hope	Library	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,450	\$ 19,550		
Town Park Renovations & Cost Determinations	Parks	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,125	\$ 375	STOP SPENDING	
Cruiser (Chevy Tahoe)	Police	\$ 56,770	\$ 56,770	\$ -		
JSHS Boiler	Schools	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	STOP SPENDING	
Security System/Cameras	Town Hall	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,940	\$ 60	STOP SPENDING	
Fuel Dispensing Equipment Upgrade	Various Depts	\$ 19,000	\$ 15,700	\$ 3,300		
Generators @ Schools (for sheltering)	Town	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ -		
Hire Recruiter for TA search	Town	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -		
M54 Stormwater Permitting	Highway	\$ 120,000	\$ 4,140	\$ 115,860		
Dam Inspection	Fire	\$ 12,500	\$ 1,875	\$ 10,625	3/13/2023	
Design of Adin Street	Town	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -		
Fire Dept Hose (was \$56,000)	Fire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	rescinded 9/11/23	
Police Motorcycle	Police	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ -	4/10/2023	
Hardware and Software	TA	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ -	4/10/2023	
Tax Title	Collector	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	4/10/2023	
Tree Funds	Tree Warden	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	6/12/2023	
Office security measures	Treasurer	\$ 6,784	\$ 6,784	\$ -	8/14/2023	
GIS Staff Site	Assessor	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ -	8/14/2023	
Bancroft Library HVAC engineering	Library	\$ 52,200	\$ 52,200	\$ -	9/11/2023	
Dance/Movement & Literature classes	COA	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	9/25/2023	
Total Expended to Date			\$ 205,986	\$ 316,674		
Total Allocated		\$ 1,688,791			\$ 998,696	
Balance Available/Uncommitted:		\$ 90,004				

**Note: expenditures are not up-to-date



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September 25, 2023

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Town of Hopedale 2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The Hopedale Select Board is pleased to offer this letter of support for our 2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan, as prepared by our Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

Through public meetings, community-wide surveys, and meetings with other boards and commissions, this working document has benefited from substantial community input. Overall, the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee has done a commendable job on the development of this plan.

Our land use boards – in particular the Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee, Community Preservation Committee and Planning Board – all benefit from having this document as a resource when considering future acquisitions and opportunities for passive and active recreation. We are confident that the Open Space and Recreation Plan will serve as a valuable resource for many years and help guide our decision-making and future investments in these critical community assets.

We thank you for considering this Plan and supporting our open space and recreation efforts.

Sincerely,

Glenda Hazard, Chair
Hopedale Select Board

Copies to: Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee
Planning Board
Conservation Commission
Parks Commission
Community Preservation Committee



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Town Administrator

Mitch Ruscitti

August 28, 2023

TO: Town Park Area Residents
FROM: Mitch Ruscitti, Town Administrator
REGARDING: Upcoming Work in Town Park
COPY TO: Select Board
Parks Commission

The Parks Commission has brought to the Select Board's attention that sections of the existing stone retaining wall in Town Park appear to be unstable and at risk of failure. A preliminary visual inspection was conducted by the engineering firm Tighe & Bond, who recommended that the areas in the immediate vicinity of these sections be fenced off to block public access. That work has been completed.

Subsequently, the Town engaged Tighe & Bond to conduct further engineering studies and develop alternatives for partial or full replacement of the unstable sections of the retaining walls.

That work will be commencing within the next few days and will continue through early September. Specifically:

- August 31st and September 1st or September 4th – survey work will be conducted
- September 5th and 6th – a drilling crew will conduct boring tests for the retaining walls

At the end of each workday, the site will be cleaned up and any holes from drilling will be backfilled to ensure there are no safety concerns. Paint markings will be made on the ground in the areas where the rock wall has begun to fail, but nothing will be painted on the wall itself. Also, during the drilling operations, there will be some general noise (diesel engine and hammering sound from the drill).

None of this work will have an impact on scheduled events at Town Park such as Day in the Park on September 23rd.

As a nearby resident, we wanted to ensure that you are informed about this upcoming work. We are grateful to the Parks Commission for bringing this concern to light.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact my office at 508-634-2203, extension 210.

Lisa Pedroli

From: Iris Hill <iris@iimc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 3:31 PM
To: Lisa Pedroli
Subject: Congratulations on your CMC Designation



08/23/2023

Dear Lisa M. Pedroli, CMC:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that you have fulfilled all the requirements of the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Program offered by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and have earned your CMC designation. Your certification package is currently in the creation phase. Education Coordinator, Iris Hill will update you on the status of your shipment soon. Should you have any questions please reach out to Iris at iris@iimc.com.

The CMC is more than a pin, a certificate and three letters at the end of your name. It is a declaration that you are proficient in your important position and that you have demonstrated mastery of administrative skills critical to good government.

Please know that you also have the option of enrolling in the MMC program to become a Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) as of this date. [Click this link](#) for more information about this next step. Please don't hesitate to reach out to iris@iimc.com if you have questions.

We extend our warmest congratulations to you and wish you all the best in your professional endeavors.

IIMC Education Department