

Nancy Kelly Verdolino



Hopedale Select Board  
Town Hall  
Hopedale Street  
Hopedale, MA 01747

Dear Select Board Members,

“To everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven.”  
It is with mixed though hopeful emotions that I write to formally tender resignation of my elected position as Bancroft Memorial Library Trustee.

With the addition of a residence in Boston to accommodate my husband’s and my professional and personal needs (which created a long post-meeting commute when I did not stay in Hopedale), and a look ahead to more substantive life changes, the time feels right to make this anticipated change. In addition, under my Chairmanship the Trustees have successfully filled the long vacant Library Director position, and can now suggest to the Select Board the appointment of an intelligent, collaborative and dedicated individual and library patron to fill in the remainder of my term. *Marie Riddell*, an creative and thoughtful parent of older children, active patron and Friend of the Hopedale Library has followed and attended our meetings in person and is eager to join the Trustees in their work. Therefore, I feel confident that both the BML and Board of Trustees are left in capable hands with plenty of resources.

As you know, I have held this rewarding position for the past twenty years, while bringing up my family and working as a reading specialist and K-6 ELA Curriculum Chair in the public school setting. Service as a Library Trustee has been a source of great honor, duty and love and I was inspired to include libraries as a focus change agent when I became President of the Massachusetts Reading Association. I have taken the Trustee position very seriously, enjoyed what I learned and shared, and am very proud of the progress we have made over the years for adults and children, particularly through a pandemic.

As we look ahead, I am pleased to know that the Select Board will be a partner in our future aspirations which included building:

- equity for all families in town, particularly to provide more broad services for newcomers with limited English proficiency

- collaboration and agency in planning for the next iteration of downtown Hopedale as we grow, “Post-Draper Plant demolition and rebirth”
- capacity through application of new literacies and technology
- professional staff development opportunities and services to accommodate community needs

It has been my honor to serve the entire twenty years with Fred Oldfield, who has become a dear friend, and nearly as long with Kathi Wright, another dear friend. Christine Seaver has proved an invaluable addition to the Board and another friendship has deepened. The Trustees are fortunate to have hired and supervised two exceptional long term Library Directors: Merrily Sparling and Ann Fields, each of whom brought “just-in-time” skills and talents to our “hub of the community”. I enjoyed sharing Robyn York’s ideas and her love of the library during her brief tenure, and very much look forward to the fruitful talents and global outlook of Tricia Perry, who has served as temporary Director since early Fall and whom we unanimously supported hiring in November. She has already proved a treasured addition to Hopedale.

The library staff over the years has been one of the most hard-working, well meaning, and collaborative community groups I have known. They support each other and patrons; they share their invaluable ideas and talents and go with the flow; the pandemic became a challenge they mastered, providing services and learning new tools. During two major Director absences within my tenure, the staff proved that they could step up and ensure the quality library services never faltered. They are truly the backbone of the library.

The Friends of the Library is a small, unsung and hard working group that has worked behind the scenes over these years to provide funding and hands-on support. Without them, the BML is hard-pressed to provide programming and cultural activities, admission to cultural spaces, and sundry extras to youth, adult and senior populations. We can never thank them enough for their strong support of our long and short term plans, from year to year. I hope the current parents of school age students, mothers and fathers, might join the Friends to share input, resources and connections, and to ensure and sustain this volunteer organization. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light the work.”

I am proud of the positive working relationships the Board of Trustees has enjoyed over the years with various Select Boards, Town Administrators, Finance Committees, DPH and Public Safety administrators, Town Clerks and Town Hall employees (whose annual donations to the Book Fair raffle are legendary!), the Council on Aging, Historic Commissions, the Community House, Hopedale Foundation, the Cultural Council, (with

whom we collaborate for programming grants), Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and other community partners such as Draper Place and Christiano's Pizzeria (and every pizza parlor and restaurant that has generously supported our programs needs). I am particularly proud of our positive working relationship with Memorial School; we are true partners in promoting student literacy and excellence of education. I look forward to that relationship growing and changing as opportunities arise.

So yes, there is so much to look back on and a greater deal to anticipate and work toward. I thank the Select Board for your unbridled support of the BML over the years. What a boon it is to be able to confidently plan with frugality, knowing that our modest budget and capital needs are supported and understood by people who value literacy, community and history; the library building exists as a gift to the town and remains the only edifice in the Dale listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. In addition, we appreciate the town's commitment to the care and stewardship of the Statue of Hope, the truest symbol of Hopedale.

I want to wish you all well, as you lead our town over the next decade or two. I feel confident leaving the BML Trusteeship in the knowledge that the Library will continue to enjoy the respect, awe, support and collaboration it has enjoyed through my two decade tenure. Should you ever need my assistance or consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I remain respectfully yours,

Nancy Kelly Verdolino, Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Bancroft Memorial Library



**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:

Library Trustee

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: Marie Riddell

Are you a registered voter?  Yes  No

Address: [REDACTED]

How long have you lived in Hopedale? 18 years

Home Phone: [REDACTED] Cell Phone: [REDACTED] E-Mail: [REDACTED]

How would you like to be contacted? email please

Occupation: Search Engine Marketing (SEO)

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

business: n/a

Education and Experience: Education: BA in English Literature & German from Colby College

Experience: 12+ years in SEO, Database Marketing, project management

How many times during the last year have you attended a meeting of the Board/Committee to which you are requesting appointment? 1 in person, but have been following along on activities, and reading up on past projects & notes

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: Special Interests: Living history/re-enacting, general history buff, gardening, hand crafts, creative writing,  
and of course - reading!

Skills: project management, organization, coordinating activities/communication

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

I was a Cub Scout leader in Hopedale for several years, and also served as the Committee Chair for the Pack.

Reasons for wanting to serve: \_\_\_\_\_

I have been an advocate for literacy inside/outside our home. It is an essential life skill that starts in schools and libraries. At home, reading (outside of homework) is a focus for our family. I have been a "Secret Reader" at the Memorial School, and I loved it. Seeing kids' faces when you read to them is amazing. Being able to share books with them is even better. Giving back to the community is also important to me. As a Cub Scout Leader/Committee Chair, I had the opportunity to work with some great people and do some terrific activities with the kids, while giving back to Hopedale. I would like to serve as a Trustee for the Library so that I can continue to advocate for literacy in the community, give back, and help to preserve the gorgeous library.

*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 Marie E. Riddell

Date 12/21/21

**Select Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2021, 7:00 pm**

Present: Chair Brian R. Keyes, Selectman Louis J. Arcudi, III, Selectwoman Glenda A. Hazard, Town Administrator Diana M. Schindler.

Chair Keyes called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Chair Keyes began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectman Arcudi took a moment of silence to the lives that were lost in the disaster that happened in the south of the Country recently.

Chair Keyes read the Pole Petition Public Hearing Notice.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to open the public hearing at 7:06PM. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Michael Parent stated that the pole being discussed has a corner on it which makes it lean towards the opposite of the roadside, a pole across the street with an anchor would need to be placed to keep it from leaning onto or over the land. This anchor/guide pole is needed to offset the tension.

Chair Keyes noted that there were no Board member or public comments.

Selectman Arcudi moved to close the public hearing. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Selectman Arcudi moved to grant the install new pole 4-84 as shown on sketch for purpose of guying existing pole 4 Howard St. This proposed pole to be located on Town property with support anchor. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

**7:00PM** Pole Petition Public Hearing – Howard Street, *Michael Parent attending from National Grid*

In conformity with the requirements of Section 22 of Chapter 166 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.) you are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** has been scheduled for **Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7PM**, via Zoom Meeting based upon the petition of MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC., request permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary to be owned and used in common by your petitions in the following public way or ways: **Howard Street**

**National Grid respectfully request permission to install new pole 4-84 as shown on sketch for purpose of guying existing pole 4 Howard St. This proposed pole to be located on Town property with support anchor.**

Wherefore they pray that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as they may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked

**MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.**

**Plan No. 29251325 Dated 11/19/2019**

Consent Items

Approval of November 22, 2021 Regular Minutes

Selectwoman Hazard moved to approve the November 22, 2021 regular minutes. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Accept Donation of \$20.00 from Mary Arcudi and Joseph Arcudi to the Hopedale Council on Aging  
The Select Board thanked Mary and Joseph Arcudi for their donation.

Selectman Arcudi moved to accept the \$20.00 donation Mary Arcudi and Joseph Arcudi to the Hopedale Council on Aging. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Accept Donation of \$100.00 from Elmer Gross and Mona Gross to the Hopedale Council on Aging  
The Select Board thanked Elmer and Mona Gross for their donation.

Selectman Arcudi moved to accept the donation of \$100.00 from Elmer Gross and Mona Gross to the Hopedale Council on Aging. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Accept the Donation of a Holiday Wreath from the Evergreen Center, John Morin.

Chair Keyes stated that John Morin has been associated with the Evergreen Center for 5-6 years and the Evergreen Center has been donating a holiday wreath to the Town for about 13 years. Chair Keyes had the honor of accepting the wreath from John and his helpers on Thursday. The Select Board is very grateful for John and the Evergreen Centers generosity.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to accept the donation of a Holiday Wreath from the Evergreen Center. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

#### New Business

Green River Cannabis - Request for Host Community Agreement Extension, *Constant Poholek, CEO, Green River Cannabis*

Constant Poholek stated that he is looking for an extension of time on his host community agreement due to changing addresses of the business. He is currently at a continuance with the Zoning Board regarding his application. Poholek will be providing a site plan, the parking agreement, and a security plan at the next Zoning Board meeting where they will be discussing the Special Permit application for Green River Cannabis. Poholek stated that Green River Cannabis has a provisional license from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) however, they will need to send the CCC an address change application. Poholek will not be placing a change of address application with the CCC until the Hopedale Zoning Board has granted Green River the Special Permit. A community outreach meeting took place on December 2, 2021, for Green River Cannabis. Poholek requested a year's extension on Green River Cannabis' host community agreement to be operating. The Select Board stated that a year from today (December 13, 2022) is a reasonable request for an extension.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to extend the host community agreement for Green River Cannabis to December 13, 2022. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

2022 Annual ABCC License Renewals; Sign ABCC Retail Liquor License Renewal Certification  
(Applicants listed in Packet - Vote)

Selectman Arcudi stated that the Select Board received clarification that they can review and approve the applications by class instead of individually. Town Administrator Schindler stated that because all applicants are listed in the packet, the Board does not need to read off all applicants. Chair Keyes stated that he would like the Board to approve the licenses by license type.

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve Class I and Class II 2022 license renewals for D.C. Bates Equipment Co. Inc, Milford Auto Sales, Inc., Arthur Pigeon DBA A&S Detailing & Auto Sales, Costa Auto Group, Inc., Duest Motors, Lord & Son Auto Body & Paint, Off Lease Auto and Patriots Custom Auto, Inc. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve the Common Victualler 2022 license renewals for Christiano Pizza, Inc., Cumberland Farms, Inc., Michael Keromos, Inc DBA Maria’s Pizza, Zong Ju Zou DBA Hong Kong House, Hopedale Donuts, Inc, Richard Yancey DBA Beyond Full and Hopedale Country Club, Inc. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Selectwoman Hazard moved to approve the All Alcohol 2022 license renewal (Restaurant or Package Store) for the Hopedale Country Club, Inc., 404 Main St Hopedale LLC (Mutual Mart) and J&M and Sons, Inc (Hopedale Package Store). Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve the Non-Sunday Entertainment 2022 license renewal for the Hopedale Country Club, Inc. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

ABCC 2022 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form (Vote)

Town Administrator Schindler stated that this form will not change the quota/number of licenses granted by the ABCC. Selectman Arcudi stated that this document establishes how many additional licenses the ABCC would grant a Town and the timing of when the licenses would be issued, however, because Hopedale does not have an influx in tourism, Hopedale’s quota for licenses will remain the same. Regardless, the item needs to be voted and the document signed.

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve the ABCC 2022 seasonal population increase estimation form. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

2022 Annual License Renewals, Class I, Class II, Class III, Common Victualler & Non-Sunday Entertainment (Applicants listed in Packet - Vote)

Executive Assistant Mercier stated that the Board has already voted to approve the licenses, however they still need to vote to approve the ABCC 2022 renewal certification, this document requires Select Board signature as well. This document is required by the ABCC and establishes which businesses have not renewed their liquor license for the upcoming year. Executive Assistant Mercier stated that all businesses that hold a liquor license have opted to renew for the year 2022.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to approve the ABCC license renewal certification for 2022. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Discussion regarding replacing current Town Counsel (Brian Riley - KP Law and Peter Durning - Mackie, Shea and Durning) with David Lurie of Lurie Friedman LLP (Vote)

Selectman Arcudi moved to raise this item for discussion. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion. Chair Keyes moved this item for discussion.

Chair Keyes stated that the chat function will not be acknowledged regarding questions or comments. For those that would like comment or ask a question to please use the raise hand function through zoom.



Selectwoman Hazard stated that this item was added to the agenda because on social media, it was made to seem as if the Board had already discussed this item and a decision was made. Selectwoman Hazard stated that was not the case and wanted to address it during open meeting. Selectwoman Hazard clarified that Attorney Lurie did not offer to become the Town's Counsel, he offered to represent the Town in the West St litigation for zero fee. Hazard stated that this is something the Town should consider. Chair Keyes stated that he did not state the Town made a discussed or made a decision on social media. Selectman Arcudi stated that the discussion tonight is regarding Attorney Lurie representing the Town regarding the litigation for West St., not to replace Town Counsel entirely. Currently, Attorney Peter F. Durning is representing the Town regarding the West St. Litigation. Selectman Arcudi stated that Attorney Brian Riley with KP Law is representing the Town with the 10 Citizen Lawsuit. Selectwoman Hazard clarified that when she chooses to share something on social media, she is only representing her own opinion. Hazard stated that it should be made clear that on social media, an elected official is sharing their own opinion and not sharing that of the Board they sit on. Regarding Attorney Lurie, Hazard stated that if the Board is not comfortable with replacing the current Counsel for West St, she would like the Board to consider current Town Counsel to have Attorney Lurie weigh in on the West St Litigation, essentially having both firms work together. Chair Keyes stated the due to past experiences with Attorney Lurie and the litigations he has been involved in with the Town, Keyes does not feel comfortable accepting Attorney Lurie as representation for the Town. Liz Reilly stated that Attorney Lurie is open to representing the Town in the West St. Litigation at no cost to the Town or give current Counsel advice in the West St. Litigation at no cost to the Town. Reilly stated that Attorney Lurie is open to discussing with the Board. Reilly also stated that Attorney Durning and Attorney Lurie have discussed the offer and litigation strategies already. Selectman Arcudi stated that what the Board is voting tonight to replace current Counsel, Attorney Durning with Attorney Lurie regarding West St. Litigation. Selectman Arcudi stated that if the Attorneys are already discussing litigation strategy, why would the Board vote to replace current counsel. The Board opened up the discussion to the public.

Multiple residents expressed wanting to accept the free legal counsel offered by Attorney Lurie for the West St. Litigation. Resident Ed Burt stated that if the litigation goes to the Surface Transportation Board, the Town would need to replace Attorney Durning's firm with a firm that is well versed with the Surface Transportation Board. Burt and Resident Rob Fahey stated that the Town should replace Attorney Durning with Attorney Lurie regardless of if the litigation gets to the Surface Transportation Board because they feel Attorney Lurie is more well versed with this type of litigation.

Resident Matthew Berger asked the Select Board if this is normal practice to let residents decide what the Select Board does regarding litigation. The Select Board confirmed that this is not normal practice, however, the Board wanted to give the residents an opportunity to hear both sides of the discussion. The three members of the Board will be making the decision.

Resident Tara Chambers stated that Chair Keyes does not come across as having an open mind when it comes to discussing replacing current Counsel and having Attorney Lurie represent the Town.

Selectman Arcudi shared his screen with the Select Board and public. The presentation provided by Selectman Arcudi his reasoning as to why he chose to vote on the settlement agreement, the presentation also had information and timelines regarding the litigation from start to current.

Resident Rob Fahey asked for clarification on what the agenda item is and what the Select Board is voting on tonight. Chair Keyes stated that the Select Board is able to amend a motion or pass over it. Selectwoman Hazard stated that she would like to amend the motion or pass over until the Board can discuss it more. Chair Keyes stated that the Board needs to vote on this item tonight. Some Resident's made additional comments regarding the West St litigation.

Selectman Arcudi moved to replace current West St. Counsel, Peter F. Durning with Lurie Friedman LLP. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Nay, Hazard – Abstained, Keyes – Nay

Roll Call, Arcudi – Nay, Hazard – Abstained, Keyes - Nay

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

Resident Rob Fahey stated that he feels putting an industrial park next to the Parklands, referring to 364 West St will be a stain on this Select Boards record for ever. Fahey feels that the parklands will be forever changed once this industrial park gets installed. Fahey stated that other residents feel this way even though they may not be speaking at this meeting. Chair Keyes acknowledged Fahey's statements and responded that the 155 acres being discussed by Fahey have been zoned as industrial since the beginning. Keyes stated that it is unfortunate that Select Boards have not changed that in the past, but it is currently zoned as industrial. Selectman Arcudi stated that due to this, it was one of the weaker arguments the Town had when in front of the Judge. The Judge stated that however unfortunate it is, the Town zoned it as industrial it's not going to help the Town's case. Liz Reilly stated that she disagrees with the Judge's statement, and the Town does have a case.

Resident Chris Hodgen's stated that he feels if a Board follows what the Town's people wants, they will never be wrong. Hodgen's stated that the residents of Hopedale hold a lot of knowledge and the Select Board should lean into that.

Multiple residents feel that the Select Board and the citizens participating in the lawsuit should be working together.

Selectwoman Hazard stated that if any residents are wondering why she decided to vote how she did tonight to please reach out to her via email. Hazard thanked the Friends of Historic Hopedale for putting on the holiday events. Chair Keyes thanked the Hopedale Police Department and Fire Department for putting on the Santa Parade.

Select Board Member Hazard – Update on Congressman Auchincloss Hopedale Visit, 11/29/21

#### Correspondence and Selectmen Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

Chair Keyes reviewed the correspondence items.

Responses to Request for Motion for Clarification and Emergency Order filed by Attorney Riley re: Reilly, et als. v. Town of Hopedale

Resident Question (Len Guertin) re Costs to the Town if the Town does not pursue the Right of First Refusal

Ed Burt stated that there is a calculation that you can do. He stated that clearing the area of the watershed could cost upwards of 1 million dollars. This is an impact of developing in the watershed. Burt stated that when the area loses the natural filtration, it will cost the Town.

Select Board Members FY22 public hours: <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/home/bulletins/select-board-members-availability-meet-public>

Comcast/Xfinity – Price Changes & Updates

Xfinity – RE: Programming Advisory, effective December 17, 2021, Fuse HD will be added to Digital Preferred Tier Channel 1414 and FM HD will be added to More Sports & Entertainment Package channel 1638

Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) – 2022 Commission Meeting Dates

Lurie Friedman LLP – RE: Grafton & Upton Railroad Company’s IRAP Application

Green River Cannabis – Community Outreach Meeting Information

Request from Water/Sewer Commission For Outreach to GU RR Regarding Fly Ash Oversight

A/P Warrant #22-12, \$686,719.78, 12/2/21

P/R Warrant #22-12, \$799,787.58, 12/2/21

Future Agenda Items:

The joint meeting with the Board of Health was postponed to December 27, 2021 per the Board of Health’s request.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to Passover the executive session. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Executive Session:

In accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) (Purpose #3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares, which he does. (CB: Clerical; Call Fire).

Selectman Arcudi moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Chair Keyes dissolved the meeting at 10:54PM

Submitted by:

*Lindsay Mercier*

*Lindsay Mercier, Executive Assistant*

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

# BRIAN D. KELLEY

December 10, 2021

**TO:** Town of Hopedale Selectboard  
**FROM:** Firefighter Brian Kelley  
**SUBJ:** Resignation from Hopedale Fire Department

Honorable Selectboard,

Over the last decade, I have not only resided in the Town of Hopedale, but also proudly served the Town as both an On-Call and Career Firefighter. The opportunities afforded to me here are irreplaceable and will forever be a part of me that I will always cherish. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to work here – with some of the most talented individuals in the fire service. Unfortunately, over that same time period, it has become abundantly clear that the Town of Hopedale does not truly support its Firefighters.

We as Firefighters are trained to make due with the resources available to us – and we do so to the best of our ability. However, we are expected to provide and protect our residents with minimal staffing – just two Firefighters per shift – the same staffing this department had in the early 1980s, when we responded to an average of 350 calls for service. Today we average nearly 1,700 calls for service annually – this is entirely unacceptable and creates a life safety issue not only for our residents – but also for the Firefighters themselves.

Furthermore, the Fire Apparatus we are provided range in age between 14 and 28 years old. This creates a severe reliability and safety issue – even with the best preventative maintenance plans in place. Instead of purchasing new, state of the art apparatus, this department has been required to purchase used Fire and EMS apparatus – another departments discard – and utilize it as our first due apparatus. This too is entirely unacceptable and creates a life safety issue not only for our residents – but also for the Firefighters themselves.

Recently, as a result of the inability of the department to purchase the most basic of equipment – a self-loading stretcher, a Firefighter was injured on duty, resulting in him being unable to work for nearly two months. While this particular injury was fortunately non-life threatening, it could have a lifelong effect on the Firefighter. If something as simple as loading a patient into an ambulance could cause such an injury, what could happen at a Fire?

Lastly – in addition to being provided poor apparatus, equipment and inadequate staffing – the salaries and benefits package we receive is deplorable in comparison to our neighbors and other similar municipalities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

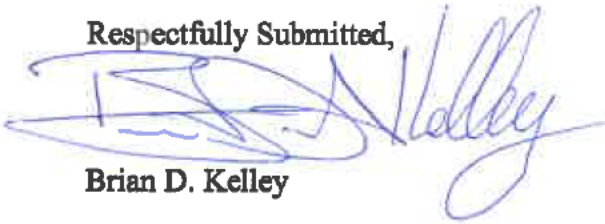
All of these items independently can make recruitment and retention of qualified employees difficult, but combined together – it is crippling. In my time at this department, we have lost over ten Career Firefighters – an average of more than one per year... and that does not include our Call Firefighters! Excluding the two senior members, the average tenure of the remaining career staff is 2 ¾ years, the average tenure of the current Call Firefighter's is not much longer, at only 3 ⅓ years.

This has not been an easy decision, or one that I make lightly – I have to do this in order to ensure that I have the best possible chance of going home safely at the end of each and every shift – and to be able to better provide financially for my family. Therefore, for the above reasons – I reluctantly will resign from a position that I love, one that I had intended to serve at until my retirement, in my home town where I intend to raise my children. Please accept this letter as my formal resignation as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Shift Officer, EMS Coordinator and SAFE Coordinator at Hopedale Fire Department, effective January 1, 2022 at 0000 hours.

I sincerely hope that the Town will take these concerns under consideration – and provide Chief Daige, Deputy Chief McMorrow and all of Hopedale's Firefighters the funding, apparatus, equipment and staffing that is so desperately needed to provide adequate and modern fire and life safety protection to the residents of Hopedale.

To my coworkers – I will treasure the memories and experiences we have had together over all of our years together. I wish all of you a long, safe and healthy career – I will miss working along side each and every one of you!

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian D. Kelley

// CC //

- 1) Chief Thomas Daige
- 2) Hopedale Permanent Firefighters Association, Local 2225

**From:** [Diana Schindler](#)  
**To:** [Lindsay Mercier](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Resignation from OSRP  
**Date:** Thursday, December 16, 2021 2:51:16 PM

---

Please add this 12/27 agenda.

Thanks,

D.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

---

**From:** Suzanne MacNeil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 3:17:34 PM  
**To:** Diana Schindler <DSchindler@hopedale-ma.gov>; Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee <OSRPCcommittee@hopedale-ma.gov>; Brian Keyes <bkeyes@hopedale-ma.gov>; Glenda Hazard <ghazard@hopedale-ma.gov>; Louis J. Arcudi <larcudi@hopedale-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Resignation from OSRP

Dear OSRP, Select Board Members, & Ms. Schindler,

I regret to inform you that, due to increased scheduling conflicts, I am unable to continue serving on the OSRP Board.

I look forward to seeing what the OSRP will do in the future. Thank you very much for the opportunity!

Sincerely,  
Suzanne MacNeil

Good morning Chief Daige,

Attached is a copy of your fully executed contracts for the FY22 Local Earmark for the Town of Hopedale for your records, along with the forms for submitting a reimbursement request. Your grant performance period begins on **December 9, 2021** and will end on **June 30, 2022**. You may now proceed with purchases of the approved equipment/services. When you have received and installed your equipment/service delivery has been completed, please submit the attached form along with a copy of the invoice from the vendor(s) and proof of payment (cancelled check copy or other official financial system record) to [OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov](mailto:OPS.DFS-TM-Grants@mass.gov) to request reimbursement.

Also attached is a Frequently Asked Questions document for DFS grant programs.

If you have any questions please let me know. Thank you!

~Justine

**Justine Potter**  
Department of Fire Services  
Executive Office  
978-567-3722  
Fax: 978-567-3121

## Department of Fire Services and the Town of Hopedale Grant Agreement Scope of Work and Budget

**Authorization:** The authorization for this grant to the **Town of Hopedale** to support the purchase of life-saving equipment, per the legislative mandate as specified in line item 8324-0050 of the FY2022 General Appropriations Act (chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021), which reads "...provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for improvements to provide life-saving equipment and personal gear to the Hopedale Fire Department;"

**Grant Project Description:** The Hopedale Fire Department will use these funds to purchase the following items:

- 1) One (1) battery operated auto-extrication combination (cutters/spreaders) tool. This tool will be kept on our primary ambulance. With just two Firefighter's working per shift, there have been times that those two Firefighters have waited up to fifteen minutes for an engine with hydraulic extrication tools to arrive to extricate a victim(s) in a car accident. With this battery-operated tool on the ambulance, it will allow the Firefighters to initiate extrication and access to treat the victim(s) quicker.
- 2) Two (2) new Thermal Imaging Camera's to replace TIC's that are > 10 years old.
- 3) Two (2) new multi-gas meters to replace meters that have been out of service because they can no longer be service (age).
- 4) Twenty-six (26) personal LED flashlights for the members so that they always have the safety of having a flashlight.

**Grant Manager:** The MA Department of Fire Services and the **Town of Hopedale** will each assign a grant manager with respect to this Scope of Work. It is anticipated that the grant manager will not change during the period the Scope of Work is in force. In the event that a change is necessary, the party requesting the change will provide prompt written notice to the other. In the event a change occurs because of a non-emergency, two-week written notice is required. For a change resulting from an emergency, prompt notice is required.

The MA Department of Fire Services grant manager will work closely with the **Town of Hopedale** to ensure successful completion of the grant, will consult with the **Town of Hopedale** to develop the Scope of Work, will coordinate input as needed, and will review and approve deliverables, progress reports and authorize acceptance and compensation of deliverables.

The **Town of Hopedale** grant manager will serve as the interface between the MA Department of Fire Services and all **Town of Hopedale** personnel participating in this engagement, will develop and maintain the Scope of Work and Budget in consultation with the MA of Fire Services grant manager, will facilitate regular communication with the MA Department of Fire Services grant manager including status reports/updates and review of performance against the



COVID Precautions effective December 27, 2021 – January 24, 2022  
(to apply to municipal facilities and vehicles)

1. Mandatory mask mandate for all visitors and employees in municipal buildings despite vaccination status (plexiglass partitions should still be in place).
2. Limit of one person per town-owned vehicle except for police and fire.
3. Police and Fire must wear a mask if they are not in a vehicle alone.
4. The Sr. Center is open with mask mandate and social distancing mandate.
5. The Library is open with mask and social distancing mandate, as well as plexiglass partitions in place.
6. All employees/Boards/Committees are encouraged to have fully remote meetings.
7. The Board of Health must sign off on any large gatherings Town-wide.