



**TOWN OF HOPEDALE**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Tuesday, May 16, 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 Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm, then and there to act on the following Articles:

**ARTICLE 1**  
**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**  
**(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$70,000 to fund a Settlement Agreement with a former Town employee, or take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000 to fund a Settlement Agreement with a former Town employee.

Commentary: This Article will resolve a legal dispute against the Town. If it is not approved the continued litigation will expose the Town to further costs for our attorney as well as treble (triple) damages and the costs for the Plaintiff's attorney.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE***

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**ARTICLE 2**  
**AGREEMENT FOR JUDGMENT**  
**(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$39,400 pursuant to an Agreement for Judgment between the Town of Hopedale and High Hopes, LLC, or take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$39,400 pursuant to an Agreement for Judgment between the Town of Hopedale and High Hopes, LLC.

**Commentary:** The Host Community Agreement between the Town of Hopedale and High Hopes provided that, if the Town did not incur any expenses related to High Hopes' operations, the Town must return to High Hopes the money they paid to the Town.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE***

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**ARTICLE 3  
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.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §64, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$47,782.49 for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from prior fiscal year(s), as listed below:

| <b>VENDOR</b>           | <b>INVOICE NO</b> | <b>DATE</b> | <b>AMOUNT</b>       |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| KP Law                  | 137202            | 6/14/2022   | \$10,827.67         |
| Robert Brown            | FY21 FINAL        | 10/14/2022  | \$ 1,700.00         |
| Verizon Wireless        | 9903426315        | 4/4/2022    | \$ 85.85            |
| Town of Hopedale<br>W/S | ACCT<br>9737600   | 6/30/2022   | \$ 146.76           |
| BSC Group               | 9149797           | 6/30/2022   | \$ 4,886.29         |
| WB Mason                | 224046268         | 10/7/2021   | \$ 14.79            |
| RI Analytical           | 433493            | 4/29/2021   | \$ 91.50            |
| Gatehouse Media         | 4559448           | 4/30/2022   | \$ 624.40           |
| Gatehouse Media         | 4488877           | 3/31/2022   | \$ 374.64           |
| Conway<br>Technologies  | 3240774           | 2/9/2022    | \$ 522.00           |
| Conway<br>Technologies  | 3289896           | 3/16/2022   | \$ 403.80           |
| Dell                    | 10650659497       | 1/24/2022   | \$ 791.23           |
| Stryker                 | 3063103M          | 6/24/2020   | \$ 6,768.00         |
| Stryker                 | 3443900M          | 7/1/2021    | \$ 3,204.00         |
| Stryker                 | 3552678M          | 10/18/2021  | \$17,200.97         |
| Riley Bros Asphalt      | HMA22-523         | 3/18/2022   | \$ 140.59           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            |                   |             | <b>\$ 47,782.49</b> |

Commentary: This Article will authorize payment of bills for goods and services incurred during previous fiscal year(s). Approval of this article requires a 9/10ths vote.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE**

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**ARTICLE 4  
SUPPLEMENT FY 2023 BUDGETS  
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement FY 2023 Operating Budgets, or take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$217,000 to supplement FY 2023 Operating Budgets as follows:

| <u>Budget</u>                              | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|---------------|
| Fire Department Salaries & Wages Permanent | \$185,000     |
| Fire Department Expenses                   | \$ 32,000     |

Commentary: This Article will cover shortfalls in the Fire Department budget as listed.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE***

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**ARTICLE 5  
FUND DEFICIT IN RECYCLING CENTER REVOLVING FUND  
(Board of Health)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary to fund the FY 2023-deficit in account 28-300-3560-3611, Recycling Center Revolving Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,415.65 to fund the FY 2023 deficit in account 28-300-3560-3611, Recycling Center Revolving Fund.

**Commentary:** This Article will cover a deficit in this Revolving Fund.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE***

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**ARTICLE 6  
CREATE OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND  
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and, further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town, or take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and, further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town.

**Commentary:** The Town was a participant in National Prescription Opiate Litigation and, as a result, will receive several hundred thousand dollars over the next 18 years through legal settlements with several companies. These funds can only be used for specific purposes as defined in the settlement agreement. This account is where the funds will be held until a future Town Meeting votes to appropriate them.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE***

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**ARTICLE 7  
FUND EXPENSES FOR ASSESSOR'S VALUATIONS AND RECERTIFICATION  
(Board of Assessors)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$24,866.30 from the Appellate Tax Board account (approved under Article 5 of the November 2019 Special Town Meeting) for the purpose of funding expenses associated with Real and Personal Property valuations and recertification, or take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$24,866.30 from the Appellate Tax Board account (approved under Article 5 of the November 2019 Special Town Meeting) for the purpose of funding expenses associated with Real and Personal Property valuations and recertification.

**Commentary:** This transfer of funds will be used to cover expenses associated with Real and Personal Property valuations and recertification.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE***

**MAY 16, 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

**HOPEDALE SELECT BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenda A. Hazard, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard J. Stock

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian R. Keyes

A True Copy, ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa M. Pedrolli, Town Clerk

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date