



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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

Town Administrator
Mitchell Ruscitti

**Select Board
Meeting Agenda**
HYBRID MEETING
Draper Room
January 22, 2024
6:30 p.m.

RECEIVED

By Lisa M. Pedroli at 2:27 pm, Jan 18, 2024

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

B. Appointments & Resignations

C. New Business

- a. Set early voting hours for March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary
- b. Allocation of Police Officers for polling locations pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, §72; designation of authority to Police Chief to assign and schedule officers and constables.
- c. Vote to include question on May 14, 2024 Annual Town Election ballot to change Tree Warden from elected to appointed position pursuant to vote under Article 23 of the May 16, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 41, §1B.
- d. Discussion regarding plowing and maintenance of unaccepted ways
- e. Discussion regarding potential Proposition 2 ½ Override in support of Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget

D. Old Business

- a. Update regarding healthcare cost increases/options
- b. Discussion of best practices related to Highway, Water & Sewer operations, and continued collaborative efforts.

- 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)
 - a. Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization Annual Development of 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- I. Executive Session:
 - a. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and the Chair so declares. (Grafton & Upton Railroad v. Town of Hopedale); the Board will not return to open session.
 - b. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss bargaining strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and the Chair so declares. (Negotiations with Hopedale Public Employee Committee); the Board will not return to open session.
 - c. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and the Chair so declares. (Clinton et al. v. Town of Hopedale, Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2385 CV 00037); the Board will not return to open session.
 - d. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 1, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1) to discuss complaints against a municipal official, and the Chair so declares.

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.