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
BANCROFT MEMORIAL LIBRARY HVAC SYSTEMS REPAIR/REPLACEMENT
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or 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
(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), as listed below:

VENDOR	INVOICE # DATE	INVOICE TOTAL	APPROPRIATION NEEDED
Direct Energy/NRG	HS33706497 6/29/2023	$291.08	$165.11
Perch Community Solar	145309 4/20/2023	$8,262.60	$1,284.39
Perch Community Solar	148616 5/19/2023	$11,551.22	$3,259.07
Perch Community Solar	151888 6/21/2023	$14,796.87	$9,319.97
Perch Community Solar	154235 7/20/2023	$9,787.93	$6,135.70
Global Montello	23311464	$7,997.09	$4,730.81
Milford Regional Medical	Voucher 62 9/21/2023	$1,680.14	$1,680.14
Orion Emergency Services	Voucher 63 9/21/2023	$326.06	$326.06
Eversource	6/8/2023	$197.36	$197.36
Clocktower Technology	24944	$1,681.20	$1,681.20
Clocktower Technology	24996-M	$2,164.31	$2,164.31
Clocktower Technology	25037	$1,627.20	$1,627.20
Clocktower Technology	25077	$1,627.00	$1,627.00
Reliant Medical Group	6/30/2023	$1,161.00	$1,161.00
Galls	24477939	$239.99	$239.99
Comcast Business	6/14/2023	$14.36	$14.36
Town of Mendon	MEHD23000428	$200.00	$200.00
Town of Mendon	MEHD23000430	$200.00	$200.00
		$63,805.41	**$36,013.67**

or take any other action related thereto

ARTICLE 3
PRIOR YEAR FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME EXPENSES
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of paying overtime expenses for Fire Department personnel, said expenses having been incurred in Fiscal Year 2023, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 4
SUPPLEMENT FY 2024 BUDGETS
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of supplementing the following FY 2024 Operating Budgets:

- 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

or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 5
RESCIND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION
(Town Treasurer)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind authorizations for unissued debt that have been determined to no longer be needed for the completion of the various projects or purchases, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 6
PAY OFF DEBT AND INTEREST
(Town Treasurer)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay off debt and interest for various projects and/or purchases authorized by prior Town Meeting votes, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 7
CLOSE OUT ACCOUNTS
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to close out certain accounts authorized by Town Meeting vote where the purposes for which funds were appropriated have been fulfilled, as listed below:

STM 10/16/21 Art. 6 Network Server	$220.82
STM 11/18/14 (adjourned to 12/1/14) Art. 3 Town Hall Cleanup	$7,324.55
STM 10/16/21 Art. 6 Tree Preservation/Protection	$890.28
STM 3/26/22 Art. 1 Electronic Permitting Software	$56,000.00
ATM 5/24/22 Art. 2 Prior Year Bills	$6.03
STM 11/14/22 Art. 1 Prior Year Bills	$417.14
ATM 5/17/16 Art. 22 Weed Control Hopedale Pond	$7,165.00
STM 3/26/22 Art. 1 Fire Chief's Vehicle	$2,217.24
STM 11/12/19 Art. 10 Catherine St & Overdale Pkwy paving	$23,357.60
TOTAL	**$97,598.66**

or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 8
AMEND FY 2024 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water Department)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY24 Water Department budget as voted under Article 3 of the May 16, 2023 Annual Town Meeting in order to properly allocate intended appropriations for the Wages and Expenses line items for reason that those line items were incorrect although the total Water Department appropriation was correct, as shown below:

	Appropriation As voted 5/16/23	Corrected Appropriation
Wages	$379,902	$370,902
Expenses	$666,550	$566,550

or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 9
ACQUIRE ACCESS EASEMENT
(Water Department)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, an access easement, containing 229 square feet, more or less, as shown on a plan entitled "Easement Plan of Land 3 Crockett Circle Hopedale, Mass.," dated September 26, 2023, prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk; and to authorize the Select Board to take such actions and execute such documents as are deemed necessary to acquire said easement, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 10
ESTABLISH AID TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAXATION FUND
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.60, §3D and, in accordance therewith, establish an Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income, said fund to be administered in accordance with the statute, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 11
PURCHASE FIRE TRUCK
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money to be expended by the Select Board to purchase a fire truck, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 12
WATER DEPARTMENT TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES
(Water Department)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Water Department Retained Earnings to fund the purchase of technology upgrades for the Water Department and any associated costs, or take any other action related thereto.

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 25th day of October, 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 #66 | Date 10/25/23