TOWN OF HOPEDALE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
FY23

Tuesday, May 24, 2022
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 24, 2022, at 7:00 pm, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the report of the Select Board and other offices, departments, or committees of said town, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
Commentary: This article allows the Select Board and other officers of the Town to present a report of their activities to the Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c.44, §64 to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from prior fiscal years, and/or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
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.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 41, §108, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and/or other available funds, such sums as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Town Departments for FY 2023, as presented; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
Commentary: This article will fix the annual compensation per MGL for elected officials, currently only the Town Clerk, and fund the ***Town's FY23 Annual Operating Budget*** *through appropriations and transfers.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money to fund equipment and capital costs, or take any other related action thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee/Capital Program Committee
Commentary: It is anticipated this article will transfer from Free Cash for various sums for equipment and/or capital items. Free Cash has been traditionally used to fund capital items of a non-recurring nature. This article will require a majority vote.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Water Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 from Water Enterprise receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commissioners
Commentary: This is the principal money article which will fund the fiscal year 2023 operations of the Water Department completely from Water Enterprise receipts.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Sewer Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 by Sewer Enterprise receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Water and Sewer Commissioners
Commentary: This is the principal money article which will fund the fiscal year 2023 operations of the Sewer Department completely from Sewer Enterprise receipts.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $4,750,000.00 for the work necessary to construct DEP required Water Treatment upgrades necessary to remove PFAS contaminants for the town water supplies, and all incidental and related expenses, in accordance with Chapter 568 of the Acts of 1948; and further vote that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws or other enabling authority, and further that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (the "Trust") established pursuant to Chapter 29C of the General Laws, and in connection therewith to enter into one or more loan agreements and/or security agreements with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to any loan or loans obtained through the Trust, and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and

That the Select Board is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $450,000 to pay for the design of DEP required treatment upgrades for the removal of PFAS from the town water supply, and all incidental and related expenses, and as funding therefor, to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds (including Water Department retained earnings) or authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow said sum in accordance with M.G.L. c.44. §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes therefor, or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to amend the *Code of the Town of Hopedale*, Part I, Administration Legislation, Chapter 137, Personnel, to update the Classification and Compensation plan for non-union, non-contractual Town employees, excluding employees of the School Department, by increasing by a percentage, the annual salary assigned to each position as adopted in Article 9 of the May 20, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
Commentary: This article will adjust by 5% the salary grade levels for all non-union, non-contractual employees of the Town, excluding employees of the School Department in the Classification and Compensation plan as voted at the May 20, 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund and implement the cost items of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Hopedale Public Safety Dispatchers MCOP Local 164 covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
Commentary: Required by MGL, 150E, §7, Articles 7-are necessary to approve the cost items within a newly signed collective bargaining agreement.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund and implement the cost items of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Hopedale Highway Water and Sewer on behalf of the Public Employees Local Union 272 covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund and implement the cost items of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Hopedale Clerical Staff on behalf of the Public Employees Local Union 272 covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund and implement the cost items of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Hopedale Fire Fighters IAFF Local 2225 covering the period of July 1, 20XX through June 30, 20XX, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund and implement the cost items of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Hopedale Call Firefighters Association covering the period of July 1, 20XX through June 30, 20XX, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of monies into and/or out of the Stabilization Fund as provided under M.G.L. c. 40, §5B, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee
Commentary: The Stabilization Fund is the Town's "rainy day" fund. Any action taken under this article to appropriate monies into the Stabilization Fund requires a majority vote, to take monies from the Stabilization Fund ***will require a 2/3 vote****.*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for FY22 for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, s.53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022:

Revolving Fund	FY23 Spending Limit
Recycling Center	$ 8,000
Animal Control	$ 23,500
School Transportation	$ 100,000
Inspectional Services	$ 25,000
Senior Van Program	$ 10,000
COA Programs	$ 10,000
Library Revolving	$ 3,000
School Computer Repair	$ 10,000

And further to amend Chapter 159 of the Town Bylaws, "Revolving Funds," by revising Column H of §159-1 to read as follows:

Revolving Fund	**Authorized to Spend**	**Revenue Source**	**Use of Funds**
School Computer Repairs	School Committee	Charges collected for damaged school computer equipment	Repair of computer equipment

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
Commentary: Pursuant to MGL, c 44, s53E ½, this authorizes annual spending limits for the Town's revolving funds. Also, amends/corrects bylaw that was voted last year for School Computer Repairs.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow a sum of money in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds, or such additional amount as is anticipated to be so provided, for the purpose of providing road paving/improvement projects, and further authorize the Select Board to accept and expend such sum or any other sum that is or may be provided to the Town in accordance with M.G.L. c. 90 or any other state or federal road program for road repairs, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Road Commissioners
Commentary: This article will allow the Treasurer to borrow up to the total amount certified by the state for Hopedale Chapter 90 funds for fiscal 2023.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town of Hopedale will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to senior citizens owning real property pursuant to G. L. Ch. 59 § 5, Clause 41C, as authorized under Section 51 of Chapter 184 of the Acts of 2002 of the General Court, by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption, from $786.63 to $841.70, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Assessors
Commentary: This will increase the amount qualifying seniors receive toward their fiscal year 2023 tax bill. The increase in COLA is 7% as found in Informational Guideline Release (IGR) No. 22-4.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town of Hopedale will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to surviving spouse, minor child, elderly person owning real property pursuant to G. L. Ch. 59 § 5, Clause 17D, by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption, from $263.77 to $282.23, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Assessors
Commentary: This will increase the amount qualifying persons receive toward their fiscal year 2023 tax bill. The increase in COLA is 7% as found in Informational Guideline Release (IGR) No. 22-4.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to amend the *Code of the Town of Hopedale*, Part I, Administration Legislation, by amending Chapter 35, Sec 1, paragraph A, titled, "Membership of the Committee", by rescinding line (5), which states "one member of the Open Space Committee as designated by said Committee," and inserting in its place the following: "One member of the Planning Board as designated by said Board.", or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board
Commentary: At last Annual Town Meeting, the Town established a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to administer the CPA program. MGL requires member of Planning Board as part of CPC Committee. This article removes committee member from Open Space Committee and adds member from the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, appropriate from the Community Preservation Act Fund, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44B, such sums of money as it determines necessary for the expenses and charges for operation of the Community Preservation Committee, all for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, inclusive; or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee
Commentary: The approval of this article provides annual funding for the administrative and operational costs of the Community Preservation Committee which includes incidental project costs associated with the Community Preservation Committee. Under the CPA Act, up to 5% of the annual CPA funds may be spent on the operation and administrative costs of the Community Preservation Committee. It is necessary to re-authorize the appropriation on an annual basis.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, appropriate from the Community Preservation Act Fund, a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Community Preservation Act, M.G.L., Chapter 44B, Section 6, for the purposes of Open Space, Community Housing (Affordable) and Historic Resources (Preservation) and to meet this appropriation, transfer a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund(s); or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee
Commentary: The purpose of this article is to comport with the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 44B, Section 6 which requires that every fiscal year, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, Town Meeting shall spend, or set aside for later spending, not less than 10 percent of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for open space, not less

than 10 percent of the annual revenues for historic resources and not less than 10 percent of the annual revenues for community housing,

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw: Section 12. 12, Non-Medical Marijuana Retailers, to prohibit the issuance of Special Permits allowing the physical locating and operation of Retail Marijuana Establishments, as defined under G.L. c94G 1, on a parcel which is within one thousand (1000) feet (to be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the property line in question to the nearest point of the property line where the Retail Marijuana Establishment is or will be located) of a parcel occupied by another licensed Retail Marijuana Establishment, or act on anything relating thereto?

Submitted by: Citizen's Petition

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to reinstate Stipends, stipends were removed a few years ago from several positions at this time, in fact, all positions. At this time, stipends should be reinstated to all previous positions that received them in the past at the preexisting rate, or act on anything relating thereto?

Submitted by: Citizen's Petition

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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 seven days before the holding of said meeting. Here of fail not to make the due return of the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands, this 16th day of May 2022.

HOPEDALE SELECT BOARD

Brian R. Keyes | Glenda A. Hazard, Chair | Bernard J. Stock

A True Copy, ATTEST Lisa M. Pedrini
Posted in the Town Hall, Police Station, and Post Office Lobby.

Constable

051722
Date