

TOWN OF HOPEDALE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Immediately following Special Town Meeting
on the lawn of The Community House, beginning no earlier than 5:30 pm

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 on the lawn of the Community House located at 43 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747, on July 21, 2020, immediately following the Special Town Meeting, beginning no earlier than 5:30 pm, or on Wednesday, July 22, if event is postponed and notice provided; 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 Selectmen and other offices, departments, or committees of said town, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This article allows the Board of Selectmen 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 M.G.L. c.41, §108, to fix the annual salary and compensation for elected Town officers in fiscal year 2021, or take any other action related thereto.

Town Clerk \$ 58,994

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This article will fix the annual compensation for elected Town Clerk, while the actual funding takes place in omnibus budget funding to follow.

ARTICLE 3: 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 from the Stabilization Fund will require a 2/3rd's majority vote of Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for FY21 for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, s.53E1/2, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020:

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>FY21 Spending Limit</u>
Recycling Center	\$ 8,000
Animal Control	\$ 3,500
School Transportation	\$100,000
Inspectional Services	\$ 25,000
Senior Van	\$ 1,000
COA Programs	\$ 10,000
Library Revolving	\$ 2,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: Pursuant to MGL, c 44, s53E ½, this authorizes annual spending limits for the Town's revolving funds.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to spend without further appropriation in accordance with M.G.L. c. 131, §40 certain sums as received in filing fees from prior fiscal years, for the fiscal year 2021, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission

Commentary: This article will allow the Conservation Commission to use receipts collected in conjunction with filing fees on expenditures deemed necessary without further appropriation during fiscal year 2021.

ARTICLE 6: 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 Board of Selectmen 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. c90 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 2021.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available Treasury funds, such sums of money as deemed necessary to defray Town charges for fiscal year 2021 as contained in the Finance Committee Budget Report, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Commentary: This is the principal funding for the fiscal year 2021, which will appropriate funds and set the spending limits for most departments not funded by offset receipts.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Hopedale will be allowed to assess an additional amount of funds in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Town's Operational Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1st, 2020, with such additional amount to be contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so-called, override question, pursuant to G.L. c.59, §21C, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Commentary: An override vote to fund the Town operating budget is necessary for FY 21; this is the first step of a two-step process; if this article is approved, a ballot referendum vote will also be necessary for the override to be in effect.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to accept Sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, by approving a surcharge on real property for the purposes permitted by said Act, including the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, the acquisition, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources, the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use, the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing, and the rehabilitation and restoration of such open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided under said Act; to determine the amount of such surcharge on real property as a percentage of the annual real estate tax levy against real property; to determine whether the Town will accept any of the exemptions from such surcharge permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act; or to take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This will allow the Town to adopt the Community Preservation Funding (CPA) surcharge that creates a local dedicated fund for open space preservation, preservation of historic resources, development of affordable housing, and the acquisition and development of outdoor recreational facilities, which is matched with available state funding.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Water Department Budget for fiscal year 2021 by offset 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 2021 operations of the Water Department completely from offset receipts.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Sewer Department Budget for fiscal year 2021 by offset 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 2021 operations of the Sewer Department completely from offset receipts.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Ambulance Department Budget for fiscal year 2021 by offset receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This is the principal money article which will fund the fiscal year 2021 operations of the Ambulance Department completely from offset receipts.

ARTICLE 13: 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 \$758.33 to \$775.77, 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 2021 tax bill. The increase in COLA is 2.30% as found in Informational Guideline Release (IGR) No. 20-6.

ARTICLE 14: 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 \$254.28 to \$260.13, 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 2021 tax bill. The increase in COLA is 2.30% as found in Informational Guideline Release (IGR) No. 20-6.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay prior year bills, or take any other action related thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This article will authorize payment of bills received after July 1, 2020 for goods and services incurred during the previous fiscal year. If funds for such purposes were available at the time the expense was incurred or service provided, but the bill was received after the close of the fiscal year, only a majority vote is required for approval. In the alternative, if no appropriation for such purposes existed at the time the expense was incurred, or service provided, approval of this article requires a 4/5 vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 64N Section 3 which will allow the Town to impose a local sales tax upon the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the Town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment at a rate not greater than three (3) percent of the total sales price received by the marijuana retailer, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This will accept MGL Chapter 64N Section 3 which allows local sales tax for marijuana retailers.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to enact a chapter of the Town of Hopedale's General Bylaws, to be inserted and numbered sequentially, entitled "Stretch Energy Code" for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the Stretch Energy Code, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of January 1, 2021, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Commentary: This will create a General Bylaw that accepts Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the Stretch Energy Code, including future editions, amendments, or modifications. This action is necessary for the Town to receive its Green Communities designation.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund capital repairs to the Police Station roof and the Bancroft Memorial Library roof, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Commentary: This will fund these capital items out of the Town's available reserve funds.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaws and its Zoning Map accordingly for Parcels known as 4, 6, and 8 Charlesview Road currently zoned GB-A, which shall be zoned Commercial, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Planning Board

Commentary: This will change land use zoning for the area(s) described above.

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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 sixth day of July 2020.

HOPEDALE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Thomas A. Wesley

Thomas A. Wesley

Brian R. Keyes
Chair

Louis J. Arcudi III

A True Copy, ATTEST:

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

Michael J. Arcudi
Constable

July 13, 2020
Date

Signature:

Thomas A. Wesley

Thomas A. Wesley (Jul 10, 2020 18:59 EDT)

Email: twesley@hopedale-ma.gov

Signature:

Louis J. Arcudi III

Louis J. Arcudi III (Jul 10, 2020 19:32 EDT)

Email: larcudi@hopedale-ma.gov