

## **TOWN OF HOPEDALE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening  
in the Dennett Auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs met in the Dennett Auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School on Tuesday May, 23, 2017. The meeting was called under the Warrant dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017 which was posted in accordance with Town By-Laws. Moderator Judge Francis P. Larkin called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. There were seventy two (72) registered voters recorded as present [a quorum being fifty (50) registered voters].

Privileges of the floor were extended to the following:

Thomas M. Daige, Fire Chief  
Mark Giovanella, Police Chief  
Brian Riley, Town Counsel  
Karen Crebase, School Superintendent  
Stephanie L'Etalien, Town Treasurer/Collector  
Ann Fields, Director Bancroft Memorial Library  
Steven Sette, Town Administrator  
Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Blackstone Valley Regional Technical H.S. Superintendent

Others in attendance but not given privileges of the floor were Bill Gaines, Athletic Director and David McMorro, Deputy Fire Chief.

Moderator Francis J. Larkin lead the Town Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Larkin made some brief remarks, introducing Brian Keyes as a newly elected member to the Board of Selectmen and also remarked that John McCarthy ran a strong campaign and wished him well in his future. He gave accolades to Bernie Stock of the Community House saying it was a remarkable transformation and it has never looked so good. Judge Larkin also spoke about the Hopedale Junior/Senior High School, how well their sports teams are performing this year and sends well wishes to all students in the graduating class of 2017. At 7:20pm Judge Larkin turned the meeting over to the Temporary Moderator, Eugene Phillips.

Eugene Phillips asked for a motion for the moderator to be able to declare a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

Eugene Phillips asked for motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 1:** Thomas A. Wesley, Board of Selectman Chairman, moved 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.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

Thomas Wesley, Board of Selectmen Chairman, wishes to thank residents for coming out this evening in support of the oldest form of government in American society, the Town Meeting. Mr. Wesley acknowledged and thanked former Selectman Bob Burns for his leadership not only in participating in the development of this FY2018 budget but also in the longer term supporting Hopedale as Selectman for the past nine years. Chairman Wesley informed residents that the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the Town Administrator are in unanimous agreement on the Town Warrant. He also addressed the two articles that directly impact our quality of life; Article 26 which address the scourge of opioid abuse in the Commonwealth and Article 28 which requests to fund a Downtown Revitalization Study.

Eugene Phillips made a motion to accept the report of Mr. Thomas Wesley.

***The motion was seconded and carried***

**Article 2:** Louis J. Arcudi III, Selectman, moved, pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §108 to fix the annual salary and compensation for each elected Town officer, and to fix the annual compensation for special appointed officials for service in fiscal year 2018.

Town Moderator (1)	\$ 200
Board of Selectmen (3)	\$ 5,850
Town Clerk (1)*	\$ 55,200
Road Commissioners (3)	\$ 1,980
Board of Health (3)	\$ 1,665
Park Commissioners (3)	\$ 1,440
Water/Sewer Commissioners (3)	\$ 1,980
Tree Warden (1)	\$ 900
Planning Board (5)	\$ 3,330
Board of Assessors (3)	\$ 1,665
Board of Registrars (3) appt.	\$ 1,600
Clerk to Registrars (1)	\$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals (5) appt.	\$ 2,340
Finance Committee (9) appt.	\$ 4,140
School Committee (5)	\$ 4,950
Conservation Committee (5)	\$ 2,340
Library Trustees (3)	\$ 1,440
Parking Clerk	\$ 600

\*Town Clerk is paid bi-weekly; all others twice per year

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 3:** Karla J. Hopkins, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved to pass over this article (Stabilization Fund)

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 4:** Walter Swift, Board of Health, moved to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding the Towns recycling center to include composting and yard waste and other related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts received in connection with the collection of recycling and hazardous waste, to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed \$30,000.00 for the fiscal year 2018, and to carry forward any existing monies in such fund for FY2019.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

*Walter Swift personally thanked the Town Hall Staff for coming together and working as a unit, and thanked them for their support in the absence of a Board of Health Agent. Mr. Costanza also wanted to thank the Highway Dept for their daily support.*

**Article 5:** Walter Swift, Board of Health, moved to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the animal control division of the Board of Health, which fund will be credited with receipts for the boarding of stray animals, fines for violations, and the licensing of animals, to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed \$15,000.00 for the fiscal year 2018, and to carry forward any existing monies in such fund for FY2019.

*The motion was seconded and carried.*

**Article 6:** Steven Sette, Town Administrator, moved 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 2018.

*The motion was seconded and carried.*

**Article 7:** Steven Sette, Town Administrator, moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to the sum of \$173,011 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. c. 90 or any other state or federal road program for road repairs.

*The motion was seconded and carried.*

**Article 8:** Brian R. Keyes, Selectman, moved to amend, pursuant to Town Bylaw, Chapter XXII-B, The Personnel Administration Bylaw the Classification and Compensation grid for non-union Town employees and to raise and appropriate the necessary funds to adjust by 2% the annual salary paid to each employee as suggested by and adopted in Article 9 of the May 20, 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

*The motion was seconded and carried.*

**Article 9:** Karla J. Hopkins, Finance Committee Chairman, moved to raise and appropriate \$21,514,250, to transfer from overlay reserves \$75,000, and to transfer \$400,000 from Certified Free Cash to defray Town charges for fiscal year 2018 as contained in the Finance Committee Budget Report. Each department of Government total was read aloud with Walter Swift placing holds on Public Safety and Human Services. A motion to accept those line items not placed on hold was heard seconded and carried.

**Public Safety** - Walter Swift had no issue with the budget but addressed the Forestry Pest Control line item informing residents about the gypsy moth infestation and told residents that he advised not to spray. At this time the original motion was seconded and carried.

**Human Services** - Walter Swift advised the residents that there is no Board of Health Agent so money is not necessary at this time but informed them that they are currently posting a secretarial position for 18 hours a week to maintain the office and might need money transferred at a later date. Eugene Phillips made a motion to accept the Human Services Budget which was seconded and carried.

*The motion was seconded and carried.*

**Article 10:** Robert P. Burns, Water and Sewer Commissioner, moved to vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Water Department Budget for fiscal year 2018 by offset receipts as follows, Salaries \$256,721, Expenses \$520,939 and Water Debt \$421,554.

*The motion was seconded and carried.*

**Article 11:** Robert P. Burns, Water and Sewer Commissioner, moved to vote a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Sewer Department Budget for fiscal year 2018 by offset receipts as follows Salaries \$318,863, Expenses \$572,139 and Sewer Debt \$223,411.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 12:** Louis J. Arcudi III, Selectman, moved to pass over this article (Ambulance Department Budget).

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 13:** Louis J. Arcudi III, Selectman, moved to vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1612.00 to pay the Town's fiscal year 2018 assessment of costs and expenses of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission District.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 14:** Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, BVT School Superintendent, moved to vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$407,098 for the Town's net operating and capital assessment for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2017.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 15:** Karen Crebase, School Superintendent, moved to authorize the continued use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding a School Bus Transportation program and other incidental and related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts from the School Department's Transportation Fee, to be expended under the authority of the School Committee, such expenditures not to exceed \$100,000 for the fiscal year 2018, and to carry forward any existing monies in such fund for FY2019.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 16:** Teresa M. Gonsalves, Principal Assessor, moved to increase the availability of tax exemptions to senior citizens owning real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 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 \$705.75 to \$716.20.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 17:** Teresa M. Gonsalves, Principal Assessor, moved to increase the availability of tax exemptions to surviving spouse, minor child, elderly person owning real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59 §5, Clause 17D, by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption, from \$236.65 to \$240.15.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 18:** Teresa M. Gonsalves, Principal Assessor, moved to accept the provisions of G.L. c.59, §5, Clause Fifty-sixth to authorize the Board of Assessors to grant, real and personal property tax abatements up to 100 percent of the total tax assessed to members of the Massachusetts National Guard and to reservists on active duty in foreign countries for the fiscal year they performed such service subject to eligibility criteria to be established by the Board of Assessors, and further that such vote shall expire two years after this vote unless reauthorized by Town Meeting.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 19:** Brian R. Keyes, Selectman, moved to amend the Town Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.1, to rezone *properties located at 125, 138, 140, 141, 143, 144, 145-147, 148 and 155 Hopedale Street, respectively*, along Route 16 (Mendon Street), from RB Residential Zone and General Business Zone to General Business-A, and to update the Zoning Map accordingly. (Handout provided)

***The motion was seconded and carried by a 2/3 vote.***

*A letter from the Planning Board along with a map was distributed to residents at check in.*

**Article 20:** Frederick G. Oldfield III, Library Trustee, moved to establish a Revolving Account for Library Programs as allowed by the recently passed Municipal Modernization Act, for revenues generated by the Library copier, fax machine and Library fines. The revenues generated will be used to provide programming and programming supplies for the Bancroft Memorial Library; the fund will not exceed \$3000 per year.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 21:** Karen Crebase, School Superintendent, moved to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 71E, for the purpose of establishing a revolving account for all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of adult and continuing education programs, including, but not limited to: (1) adult physical fitness programs conducted under section 71B; (2) summer school programs and enrichment programs, authorized by the School Committee and in connection with the use of school property under section 71; and (3) including parking fees, if any; and in particular, to fund the operating costs of Summer School programs at the Junior-Senior High School, which fund shall be credited with receipts received from tuition, to be expended under the authority of the School Committee and to carry forward and existing monies in such fund not to exceed \$100,000. Resident Amy Burns questioned what the money would be used for, Karen Crebase provided further clarification to the residents. Amy Burns made a request for a secret ballot vote, Moderator Phillips asked for a motion that was made and seconded but not passed. The original motion as presented was then seconded and passed.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 22:** Thomas A. Wesley, Board of Selectman Chairman, moved, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H and Chapter 164, Section 1, and/or any other enabling authority, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a so-called Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with 373-383 West Street Nominee Realty Trust or its affiliates, successors or assigns, with respect to payments for a sum certain in lieu of real and personal property taxes owed to the Town for a period of twenty (20) years, and on such other terms and conditions as said Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, relative to a proposed privately owned and operated solar energy facility located or to be located at 373 West Street, Hopedale, MA 01747, with an option for extension coterminous with the lease of said parcel; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any necessary documents relating thereto and take such other action as may be necessary to effectuate the vote taken hereunder.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 23:** Steven Sette, Town Administrator, moved to transfer \$152,043.65, the balance remaining in the amount originally appropriated and borrowed in Article 2 of the 11/19/13 Special Town Meeting, to repair a portion of the Memorial School Roof to the Freedom Street Bridge Sidewalk project for additional work to correct a design problem to the dam caused by the sidewalk reconstruction, including all incidental and related costs and for other road construction projects.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 24:** Louis J. Arcudi III, Selectman, moved to accept M.G.L., Ch. 60, Sect 15B, and establish a tax title revolving fund, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of allowing funds obtained by the Town through Tax Title takings to be used by the Treasurer Collector for advertising and other purposes related to future sales, with FY2018 expenditures to be limited to \$15,000.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 25:** Louis J. Arcudi III, Selectman, moved to accept the last paragraph of G.L. c.41, §111F and to establish a revolving account as allowed by M.G.L. c.44, §53E½ for the purpose of allowing funds reimbursed to the Town, as a result of members of the Police Department who are injured on duty and afforded G.L. c.111F benefits, to be deposited in said account and used by the Police Chief to pay for any overtime shifts resulting from the injured officer not being able to work and perform his duties.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 26:** Brian R. Keyes, Selectman, moved to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds a sum of money as a grant or otherwise to be expended to establish and/or maintain a regional substance abuse outreach program in the greater Milford area, or take any other action in relation thereto.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 27:** Brian R. Keyes, Selectman, moved to amend the current Town bylaw, Chapter 270, Article 1, Sect. 270-2 to read as follows:

The Tax Collector, shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each department, board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the "licensing authority", that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the "party", that has neglected or refused to pay *any* local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the Appellate Tax Board.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

**Article 28:** Thomas A. Wesley, Selectman, moved to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from certified free cash for a Downtown Revitalization Study to determine the cost to renovate the Town Hall and to propose other improvements in the area.

***The motion was seconded and carried.***

Eugene Phillips thanked Judge Larkin for allowing him to fill in as Deputy Town Moderator for the meeting tonight and also thanked the town residents and town officials for their attendance. A motion to dissolve the Warrant was made and seconded. Meeting was dissolved at 8:38pm.

A True Record

Attest:



Lisa M. Pedroli, Town Clerk