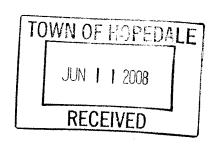
TOWN OF HOPEDALE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING May 20, 2008 MINUTES



The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs met in the auditorium of the Jr. – Sr. High School at 7:00PM. At 7:05PM Town Clerk Janet Orff Jacaruso declared a quorum (50) present and convened the Annual Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting was called under the authority of the warrant dated May 6, 2008. The Special Town Meeting was called under the authority of the warrant dated May 6, 2008. Both warrants were posted according to Town by-laws by sworn Constables.

Miss Jacaruso called upon Selectman Chair Michael Collins and Town Coordinator Eugene Phillips. Mr. Collins and Mr. Phillips unveiled the Hopedale Town Flag and presented flags to various Town departments. The Hopedale flag will also be hung in the Hall of Flags at the Statehouse. The Hopedale Foundation was recognized and thanked for the funding necessary to fabricate the flags. Miss Jacaruso then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Francis Larkin was unable to attend the meeting. In order to elect a temporary moderator, Miss Jacaruso called for nominations. Robert Moro of 4 Western Avenue was nominated. The nomination was seconded. No other nominations were put forth. Mr. Moro was elected unanimously and sworn-in.

Moderator Moro heard a motion from Eugene Phillips that any motion to outlay funds identify an area of the budget from where that same amount of money would be removed, and that both transfers of cash occur in order to have the motion or amendment pass. The motion was seconded. Brief discussion ensued. The motion was made due to the fact that the levy limit has been met and additional funds would require an override. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

A motion to extend privileges of the floor to specific non-residents was made and seconded. The non-residents included Town Counsel Joyce Frank, Police Chief Eugene Costanza, Fire Chief Scott Garland, Town Collector/Treasurer Barbara Walls, Hopedale Police Lieutenant Mark Giovanella, and Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick. The motion was carried by voice vote as declared by the Moderator.

Eugene Phillips moved to recess the Annual Town Meeting, to be reopened at the conclusion of the Special Town Meeting, and to open the Special Town Meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote as declared by the Moderator at 7:25PM.

Town Coordinator Eugene Phillips moved to dispense with the reading of the warrant. The motion was seconded and carried.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Article 1: Selectman Collins moved to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay a prior year bill (pre-7/1/07) as follows:

To Account	Amount	From Account
Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.	\$3,100.00	School Department
Call Firefighters Stipends	\$1,515.00	Firefighters Stipends
National Grid	\$ 10.11	Red Shop Electric
EnTact Environmental	\$1,400.00	Environmental Cleanup

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 7:29PM.

Article 2: Finance Committee Chair Karla Hopkins moved to transfer the following sums of money from certain accounts to others to adjust the fiscal year 2008 operating budget as follows:

To Account	Amount	From Account
Police Salaries	\$20,000	Coordinator – Environmental Cleanup
Town Hall Fuel	\$13,000	Dispatch Salaries
Police Salaries	\$12,270	FY2007 Certified Free Cash
Ladder Truck Interest	\$22,000	FY2007 Certified Free Cash
Highway Truck	\$38,000	Highway Dump Bodies

The motion was seconded and passed at 7:30PM.

Article 3: Jim Morin, Chair, moved to transfer from Water Retained Earnings, the sum of \$128,000.00 to cover additional costs within fiscal year 2008 for purchased water, electrical cost, Greene Street well repairs and bond costs.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 7:32PM.

Article 4: Jim Morin, Chair, moved to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings, the sum of \$45,000.00 to cover additional costs for fiscal year '08 for sludge hauling costs and bonding.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 7:33PM.

Article 5: Jim Carroll moved to transfer from FY2007 certified Free Cash the amount of \$242,039 to be expended for the following projects:

•	Fire Dept. Digitizer	\$19,000
•	Fire Dept. Defibrillator	\$ 3,400
•	Fire Dept. Hose Drying Tower	\$10,000
•	School Bus Lease	\$33,565
•	School Technology	\$30,000
•	Library Storage Shed	\$ 8,500
•	Library Leaded Windows	\$17,400

• Library Program	Room \$25,000)
 Police Cruiser 	\$27,000)
 Police Server 	\$ 7,174	4
 Highway Truck 	\$36,000)
• Highway Men's F	Room \$15,000)
• Parks Stone Wall	\$10,000)

The motion was seconded and passed at 7:34PM.

Article 6: Gene Phillips moved to pass over this article.

The motion was seconded and passed at 7:36PM.

Article 7: Gene Phillips moved to transfer from Stabilization \$89,500.00 to partially fund the Eminent Domain taking of a portion of the Grafton & Upton Railroad as authorized by Article 31 of the May 16, 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 7:38PM.

A motion was made to dissolve the Special Town Meeting Warrant and reconvene the Annual Town Meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously as declared by Moderator Moro at 7:39PM.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Gene Phillips moved to dispense with the reading of the warrant. The motion was seconded and passed at 7:39PM

Article 1: Selectman Chair Michael Collins moved to hear and act upon the report of the Selectmen and other offices, departments, or committees of said town.

Jim Carroll & Karla Hopkins presented for the Finance Committee. Dr. Patricia Ruane presented for the School Department.

Article 2: Selectman Alan Ryan 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 his/her service in fiscal year 2009, as follows.

Town Moderator (1) Board of Selectmen (3) Town Clerk (1)* Road Commissioners (3) Board of Health (3) Park Commissioners (3) Water/Sewer Commissioners (3)	\$ 200 \$ 6,500 \$32,905 \$ 2,200 \$ 1,850 \$ 1,600
Water/Sewer Commissioners (3) Tree Warden (1)	\$ 2,200 \$ 1,000

Planning Board (5)	\$ 3,700
Board of Assessors (3)	\$ 1,850
Board of Registrars (3) appt.	\$ 1,600
Clerk to Registrars (1)	\$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals (5) appt.	\$ 2,600
Finance Committee (9) appt.	\$ 4,600
School Committee (5)	\$ 5,500
Conservation Committee (5)	\$ 2,600
Library Trustees (3)	\$ 1,600
*Town Clerk is paid weekly; all others twice per year.	, ,

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:14PM.

Article 3: Commissioner James Morin moved to raise and appropriate through assessments provided under M.G.L. c. 83, §16, and to be collected under M.G.L. c. 44, §53E bond issue payments of \$70,525.00 for the Sewer Department.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:14PM

Article 4: Finance Committee Chair Karla Hopkins moved pass over this article.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:16PM

Article 5: Gene Phillips 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 hazardous waste collection day and recycling program to include composting and yard waste and other related costs, which fund shall be credited with receipts from the Board of Health to be expended under the authority of the Board of Health, such expenditures not to exceed \$30,000.00 for the fiscal year 2009.

The motion was seconded and passed at 8:16PM

Article 6: Gene Phillips 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 Hopedale 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 2009.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:17PM

Article 7: Conservation Commission Member Amy Burns 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 2009.

The motion was seconded and passed at 8:18PM.

Article 8: Commissioner Joseph Sweet moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to the sum of \$122,876.00 in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds for the purpose of providing road paving/improvement projects.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:19PM.

Article 9: Alan Ryan moved, pursuant to Town Bylaw, Chapter XXII-B, The Personnel Administration Bylaw, Section 137-17 to adjust the salaries to be paid by an increase of 3.00% as shown on the Compensation Plan:

2009 Rate Increase =

3.00%

	Но	urly	An	nual	An	nual	%	%
Grade	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	between	betwee
	William	Maximum	@40	.0 Hr	@37	.5 Hr	Grades	Min/Ma
1	\$ 10.33	\$ 12.40	\$ 21,574.55	\$ 25,889.46	\$ 20,148.64	\$ 24,178.37		20%
2	\$ 13.43	\$ 16.12	\$ 27,939.45	\$ 33,527.34	\$ 26,193.23	\$ 31,431.88	30%	20%
3	\$ 13.97	\$ 16.76	\$ 29,067.77	\$ 34,870.58	\$ 27,251.04	\$ 32,691.17	4%	20%
4	\$ 14.53	\$ 17.44	\$ 30,222.96	\$ 36,267.56	\$ 28,334.03	\$ 34,000.83	4%	20%
5	\$ 15.25	\$ 18.30	\$ 31,727.40	\$ 38,067.50	\$ 29,744.43	\$ 35,688.28	5%	20%
6	\$ 16.02	\$ 19.22	\$ 33,312.42	\$ 39,974.91	\$ 31,230.40	\$ 37,476.47	5%	20%
7	\$ 17.29	\$ 20.76	\$ 35,972.04	\$ 43,171.82	\$ 33,723.79	\$ 40,473.58	8%	20%
8	\$ 17.99	\$ 21.60	\$ 37,422.74	\$ 44,918.04	\$ 35,083.82	\$ 42,110.66	4%	20%
9	\$ 18.71	\$ 24.32	\$ 38,927.18	\$ 50,586.52	\$ 36,494.23	\$ 47,424.87	4%	30%
10	\$ 20.59	\$ 26.76	\$ 42,822.58	\$ 55,663.98	\$ 40,146.17	\$ 52,184.98	10%	30%
11	\$ 23.67	\$ 31.95	\$ 49,243.28	\$ 66,463.65	\$ 46,165.58	\$ 62,309.68	15%	35%
12	\$ 28.40	\$ 41.19	\$ 59,075.82	\$ 85,672.03	\$ 55,383.58	\$ 80,317.52	20%	45%

The motion was seconded and passed at 8:20PM.

Article 10: James Carroll moved to raise and appropriate \$18,807,798 to defray town charges for fiscal Year 2009 as contained in the Finance Committee Budget Report. The breakdown by department was read as detailed on the following page. Holds were placed on the following line items: Reserve Fund, School Department and Board of Health Expenses. A motion to accept those line items not placed on hold was heard, seconded and carried unanimously.

100 GENERAL GOVERN	INGENIE
	IVIENI
SALARIES ELECTED OFFICALS EXPENSE	200 25
TOWN MODERATOR	225
SALARIES ELECTED OFFICALS	6,500
EXPENSE SELECTMEN	5,500 1 2,000
	•
SALARIES EXPENSE	122,338 49,072
COORDINATOR	171,410
SALARY, APPOINTED	4,600
EXPENSE FINANCE COMMITTEE	1,225 5,825
RESERVE FUND	100,000
SALARIES	87,245
EXPENSE	22,350
ACCOUNTANT	109,595
SALARIES, PERMANENT	91,834
SALARIES, APPOINTED EXPENSE	1,850 32,710
ASSESSORS	126,394
SALARIES, PERMANENT EXPENSE	134,907 36,250
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	171,157
TOWN COUNSEL	60,000
CABLE TV COMMITTEE	67,793
TAX TITLE	6,500
SALARIES, ELECTED	32,905
EXPENSE TOWN CLERK	3,100 36,005
SALARY & WAGES PERMANEN	4,200
EXPENSE ELECTIONS	5,350
ELECTIONS	9,550
SALARIES EXPENSE	1,600 3,000
REGISTRATION	4,600
SALARY	600
EXPENSE PARKING CLERK	600 1, 200
SALARY, APPOINTED EXPENSE	2,600 365
CONSERVATION COMMITTE	2,965
SALARIES (minutes), PERMANE	1,200
SALARIES APPOINTED OFFICLE EXPENSE	3,700 12,425
PLANNING BOARD	17,325
SALARIES (minutes), PERMANE SALARIES - APPOINTED OFFIC	900
EXPENSE	2,600 2,100
ZONING BOARD	5,600
COMPUTER	31,755
PUBLIC BLD - TOWN HALL	81,324
TOTAL - GENERAL GOVT	953,430

200 PUBLIC SAFETY	
200 F OBLIC SAFETY	
SALARIES	782,428
EXPENSE	137,758
POLICE	920,186
DISPATCH SALARIES	206,124
DISPATCH	206,124
SALARIES	413,423
EXPENSES	95,310
FIRE	508,733
POLICE DETAIL SALARIES	8,000
TOWN POLICE DETAIL	8,000
GAY ADVEG	
SALARIES EXPENSES	28,659
BUILDING INSPECTOR	4,000
BUILDING INSPECTOR	32,659
SALARY & WAGES PERMANEN	7,000
EXPENSES	500
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	7,500
SALARY & WAGES PERMANEN	7,000
EXPENSES	500
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	7,500
SALARIES	900
WEIGHTS & MEASURES	900
CIVIL DEFENSE (EMS)	2,900
SALARY & WAGES PERMANEN	7,030
EXPENSES	500
DOG OFFICER	7,530
SALARIES ELECTED OFFICALS	1,000
EXPENSES	16,550
FORESTRY-TREE PLANTING	17,550
FORESTRY-PEST CONTROL	300
FORESTRY-DUTCH ELM	500
TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY	1,720,381

300 EDUCATION SCHOOL DEPARTMENT 9,749,430

400 PUBLIC WOR	KS
SALARIES, ELECTED	2,200
SALARIES, PERMANENT	289,512
EXPENSES	221,608
HIGHWAY	513,320
SALARIES	20,000
EXPENSES	75,000
SNOW REMOVAL	95,000
STREET LIGHTING	42,500
SALARY, PERMANENT	1,655
EXPENSES	750
CEMETERY	2,405
TOTAL - PUBLIC WORKS	653,225

	6
500 HUMAN SERVICES	
SALARY & WAGES PERMANEN	41,417
SALARIES ELECTED OFFICALS	1,850
EXPENSES	391,951
HEALTH OFFICER	435,218
SALARIES	41,087
EXPENSES	21,460
COUNCIL ON AGING	62,547
SALARY, PERMANENT	2,997
EXPENSES	4,000
VETERANS	6,997
COMMISSION ON DISABILIT	150
TOTAL - HUMAN SERVICES	504,912

600 CULTURE AND RECREA	ATION
SALARY & WAGES PERMANEN	139,994
SALARIES ELECTED OFFICALS	1,600
EXPENSES	90,807
LIBRARY	232,401
SALARY, PERMANENT	36,783
SALARIES ELECTED OFFICALS	1,600
EXPENSES	27,488
PARKS	65,871
RED SHOP TOTAL	3,478
EXPENSES .	2,850
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE	2,850
MEMORIAL DAY	300
CULTURAL COUNCIL	4,000
TOTAL - CULTURE AND RECR.	308,900

700 DEBT SERVICE	
RETIREMENT OF DEBT - PRI	1,522,034
RETIREMENT OF DEBT - INT	570,697
TOTAL - DEBT SERVICE	2,092,731

800 INTERGOVERNMI	ENTAL
COUNTY ASSESSMENTS	450,681
TOTAL INTERGOV.	450,681

900 MISCELLANEOUS		
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENS	25,000	
MEDICARE	151,000	
HEALTH AND LIFE INSURAN	1,999,781	
WORKERS COMPENSATION	76,992	
LIABILITY INSURANCE	121,335	
TOTAL - MISCELLANEOUS	2,3 74, 108	

TOTAL 18,807,798

Reserve Fund – Rich Martin inquired as to the function of the fund. FinCom member Jim Carroll explained that unanticipated expenses, emergency costs and year-end deficits are addressed with these funds. Any remaining funds are transferred to free cash. A motion was heard to raise and appropriate \$100,000 for the reserve fund.

The original motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:39PM.

School Department – Sandra Slattery-Biagetti made a motion for amendment to decrease the budget by \$10,588 (the cost related to Mandarin Chinese). Sue Palmer-Howes explained the funding might be used to fund a biology or health position. Ms Slattery-Biagetti withdrew her amendment.

The original motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:47PM.

Board of Health Expense – Marion Miller questioned the large expense figure in the Health Officer budget. Gene Phillips explained that \$360,000 was budgeted for trash collection. This amount was actually decreased by \$57,000 in savings due to a multitown contract for trash removal.

The original motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:49PM.

Article 11: James Morin moved to authorize the Water Department Budget to be funded by offset receipts as follows, Salaries \$188,535.00, Expenses \$583,492.00, Long Term Debt \$147,335.00

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:51PM.

Article 12: James Morin moved to authorize the Sewer Department Budget to be funded by offset receipts as follows, Salaries \$ 241,927, Expenses \$ 436,521 and Sewer Bans of \$68,375.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:51PM.

Article 13: Selectman Robert Burns moved to authorize the Ambulance Department Budget to be funded by offset receipts as follows, Salaries \$ 102,708, Expenses \$ 46,851.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:52PM.

Article 14: Gene Phillips moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,389 to pay the Town's annual assessment of costs and expenses of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission District.

The motion was seconded and passed at 8:53PM.

Article 15: Regional School Committeeman Paul Yanovitch moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 147,870 for the Town's net operating and capital assessment for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional High School, which is inclusive of

\$14,361 for the debt service associated with Hopedale's previously (2001) voted amount for the districts addition/renovation project.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 8:54PM.

Article 16: Robert Burns moved to authorize the use of a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 for the purpose of funding and operating the Hopedale Cable Advisory Board and other related costs, which fund shall be credited solely with receipts from Comcast pursuant to Sections 5.2(a) and 5.2(b) of the renewal license dated January 9, 1999 to be expended under the authority of the Hopedale Cable Advisory Committee, such expenditures not to exceed \$100,000.00 for the fiscal year 2009.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:02PM.

Article 17: Principal Assessor Teri Gonsalves moved to increase the availability of tax exemptions to senior citizens owning real property pursuant to M.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, currently \$4,784.00 in valuation or \$600.00, whichever is greater, to \$4,946.66 in valuation or \$620.40, whichever is greater.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:03PM.

Article 18: Principal Assessor Teri Gonsalves moved to pass over this article.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:03PM.

Article 19: Michael Collins moved to transfer from Stabilization \$62,500.00 to fund the fourth year of a six-year mortgage with Louis J. Noferi as authorized by Article 20 of the April 12, 2005 Annual Town Meeting and as amended by Article 20 of the May 16, 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:04PM.

Article 20: Alan Ryan moved to accept the provisions of M.G.L C40 §22F which will allow any municipal board or officer empowered to issue a license, permit, certificate, or to render a service or perform work for a person or class of persons, from time to time, to fix reasonable fees for all such licenses, permits, or certificates issued pursuant to statutes or regulations wherein the entire proceeds of the fee remain with the town, and to fix reasonable charges to be paid for any services rendered or work performed by the town or any department thereof, subject, however, to the approval of the elected appointing authority of any such board or officer.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:06PM.

Article 21: Alan Ryan moved to transfer the care, custody, management and control of a parcel of land from the Treasurer to the Board of Selectmen for recreation and

other municipal purposes, such parcel being located at 507 Greene Street, consisting of approximately 362,642 square feet, and identified on the records of the Board of Assessors as Map 13, Lot 51 and further described in Instrument of Tax Taking dated February 28, 1989 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 11987, Page 219.

The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding what department should have control over the property. Resident Chris Tomaso made & withdrew an amendment to change control. The original motion passed unanimously at 9:29PM.

Article 22: School Committee Chair Susan Palmer- Howes moved to pass over this article.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:29PM.

Article 23: Eugene Phillips moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, including the purpose of reconstructing the Mill Street Bridge and associated Spindleville Pond Spillway, the fee and drainage easements and/or temporary construction easements in portions of the following parcels of land: (a) land now or formerly owned by M.C. Machine Company, and described in deeds recorded with said Deeds in Book 15928, Page 167 and in Book 15928, Page 164; and (b) land owned by owners unknown, located on Mill Street and as may abut the river, and, further to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2000 for this purpose and any expenses related thereto and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out this acquisition.

The motion was seconded. Discussion followed regarding the future cost to the town for maintenance and inspections. The Town Coordinator stated the dam is classified as low-risk and the monetary impact would be in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range per year. He also stated that the Selectman would not agree to take ownership unless the State assured funding for the redesign and new construction.

Moderator Moro called for a vote. The motion passed by more than a 2/3 majority at 9:50PM.

Article 24: Gene Phillips move to pass over this article.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:51PM.

A motion was made to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 9:52PM.

A true copy, attest:

Janet Orff Jacaruso, Glerk