



**TOWN OF HOPEDALE
MAY 16, 2023 FY 2024
ANNUAL/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

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 16, 2023. The meeting was called under the Warrant dated the 24th day of April 2023, which was posted in accordance with Town By-Laws. Moderator Eugene N. Phillips called the Annual Town meeting to order at 7:10 PM. There were four hundred forty-four (444) registered voters recorded as present [a quorum being fifty (50) registered voters].

Eugene N. Phillips, Moderator, welcomed all residents, lead the Town Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence for all that have passed this year.

Eugene N. Phillips, Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting and move to the Special Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Special Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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 16, 2023. The meeting was called under the Warrant dated the 24th day of April 2023, which was posted in accordance with Town By-Laws. Moderator Eugene N. Phillips called the the Special Town meeting to order at 7:10 PM. There were four hundred forty-four (444) registered voters recorded as present [a quorum being fifty (50) registered voters].

**ARTICLE 1
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$70,000 to fund a Settlement Agreement with a former Town employee, or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000 to fund a Settlement Agreement with a former Town employee.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**ARTICLE 2
AGREEMENT FOR JUDGMENT
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$39,400 pursuant to an Agreement for Judgment between the Town of Hopedale and High Hopes, LLC, or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$39,400 pursuant to an Agreement for Judgment between the Town of Hopedale and High Hopes, LLC.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**ARTICLE 3
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), or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §64, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$47,782.49 for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from prior fiscal year(s), as listed below:

ENDOR	INVOICE NO	DATE	AMOUNT
KP Law	137202	6/14/2022	\$10,827.67
Robert Brown	FY21 FINAL	10/14/2022	\$ 1,700.00
Verizon Wireless	9903426315	4/4/2022	\$ 85.85
Town of Hopedale W/S	ACCT 9737600	6/30/2022	\$ 146.76
BSC Group	9149797	6/30/2022	\$ 4,886.29
WB Mason	224046268	10/7/2021	\$ 14.79
RI Analytical	433493	4/29/2021	\$ 91.50
Gatehouse Media	4559448	4/30/2022	\$ 624.40
Gatehouse Media	4488877	3/31/2022	\$ 374.64
Conway Technologies	3240774	2/9/2022	\$ 522.00
Conway Technologies	3289896	3/16/2022	\$ 403.80
Dell	10650659497	1/24/2022	\$ 791.23
Stryker	3063103M	6/24/2020	\$ 6,768.00
Stryker	3443900M	7/1/2021	\$ 3,204.00
Stryker	3552678M	10/18/2021	\$17,200.97
Riley Bros Asphalt	HMA22-523	3/18/2022	\$ 140.59
TOTAL			\$ 47,782.49

Approval of this article requires a 9/10ths vote.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the article was made, seconded, and carried, then the original motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 4 SUPPLEMENT FY 2023 BUDGETS (Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement FY 2023 Operating Budgets, or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$217,000 to supplement FY 2023 Operating Budgets as follows:

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fire Department Salaries & Wages Permanent	\$185,000
Fire Department Expenses	\$ 32,000

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 5
FUND DEFICIT IN RECYCLING CENTER REVOLVING FUND
(Board of Health)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary to fund the FY 2023-deficit in account 28-300-3560-3611, Recycling Center Revolving Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,415.65 to fund the FY 2023 deficit in account 28-300-3560-3611, Recycling Center Revolving Fund.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 6
CREATE OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and, further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town, or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and, further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 7
FUND EXPENSES FOR ASSESSOR'S VALUATIONS AND RECERTIFICATION
(Board of Assessors)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$24,866.30 from the Appellate Tax Board account (approved under Article 5 of the November 2019 Special Town Meeting) for the purpose of funding expenses associated with Real and Personal Property valuations and recertification, or take any other action related thereto.

Cheryl Hanly, Assessor, moved to transfer the sum of \$24,866.30 from the Appellate Tax Board account (approved under Article 5 of the November 2019 Special Town Meeting) for the purpose of funding expenses associated with Real and Personal Property valuations and recertification.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion to dissolve the Special Town Meeting warrant was made, seconded and carried. Meeting was dissolved at 7:24pm. Eugene N. Phillips, Moderator, moved to re-open the Annual Town Meeting, the motion was seconded and carried.

ARTICLE 1
REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICIALS
(Select Board)

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.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to hear and act upon the report of the Select Board and other offices, departments, or committees of the Town.

Interim Town Administrator, Jeffrey Nutting, gave a brief overview of the Towns financial position.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A copy of the Water & Sewer report that was handed out is attached later in this document.

ARTICLE 2
TOWN CLERK SALARY AND FY24 BUDGET
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of the Town Clerk as provided by M.G.L. c. 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 Fiscal Year 2024, as presented, or take any other action related thereto.

Ian Michelson, Finance Committee Chair, moved to fix the salary and compensation of the elected Town Clerk as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, §108, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,478,887 transfer the sum of \$345,000 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, transfer the sum of \$169,605 from Water Enterprise Receipts, transfer the sum of \$142,996 from Sewer Enterprise Receipts, and transfer the sum of \$170,000 from Free Cash to defray the expenses of the Town Departments for Fiscal Year 2024 as shown in the column captioned "Non-Contingent Appropriations" and that the amounts shown in the column captioned "Contingent Appropriation" be appropriated from the Tax Levy contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Question under M.G.L. Chapter 59, §21C.

The motion with the contingent and non-contingent budget was seconded and carried. A copy of the budget is attached later in this document.

**ARTICLE 3
FY 24 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Water Department budget for Fiscal Year 2024 from Water Enterprise receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Dr. James Morin, Water & Sewer Commissioner, moved to transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L c.44 §53F¹/₂, the following sums of to fund the Water Department budget for Fiscal Year 2024:

Wages	\$379,902
Expenses	\$666,550
Reserves	\$100,000
Capital	\$ 44,000
Debt./Interest	\$335,829
Total	\$1,417,281

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 4
FY 24 SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGET
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be authorized to fund the Sewer Department budget for Fiscal Year 2024 from Sewer Enterprise receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

Dr. James Morin, Water & Sewer Commissioner, moved to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Fund, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L c.44 §53F¹/₂, the following sums to fund the Sewer Department budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

Wages	\$ 413,007
Expenses	\$ 589,200
Reserves	\$ 60,000
Capital	\$ 50,000
Debt./Interest	\$ 424,181
Total	\$1,536,388

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 5
FUND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FY 24 OPERATIONS
(Community Preservation Committee)

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. c. 44B, such sums of money as it determines necessary for the expenses and charges for operation of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action related thereto.

Becca Solomon, Community Preservation Committee Chair, moved to appropriate from the Community Preservation Act fund, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44B, the sum of \$7,500 for the expenses and charges for operation of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 6
FUND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RESERVES
(Community Preservation Committee)

To see if the Town will vote, upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, to appropriate from the Community Preservation Act Fund, a sum of money pursuant to the requirements of the Community Preservation Act M.G.L. c. 44B, §6 for the purposes of Open Space, Community Housing (Affordable) and Historic Resources (Preservation), or take any other action related thereto.

Becca Solomon, Community Preservation Committee Chair, moved that the Town vote, pursuant to the requirements of the Community Preservation Act M.G.L. c.44B, §6, to appropriate from the Community Preservation Act Fund, as follows:

Reserve for Open Space	\$17,494
Reserve for Community Housing	\$17,494
Reserved for Historic Resources	\$17,494

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 7
PAY STORM WATER DEBT AND INTEREST
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay off the debt and interest of the Storm Water debt authorized under Article 2 of the Town Meeting of May 21, 2019 and the Dump Truck debt authorized under Article 7 of the Town Meeting of October 15, 2021, or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$95,990.88 to pay off the Storm Water debt authorized under Article 2 of the Town Meeting of May 21, 2019 as well as the associated interest on said debt and, further, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,123.30 to pay off the Dump Truck debt authorized under Article 7 of the Town Meeting of October 15, 2021 as well as the associated interest on said debt.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 8
CAPITAL ITEMS
(Select Board)**

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 action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to transfer from Free Cash the following sums for the following purposes:

Pond/Causeway Restoration Study	\$160,000
Fire Station Door Repairs	\$ 25,000
Town Park Retaining Wall Design	\$ 80,000
HVAC and Building Improvements (Jr-Sr HS)	\$ 70,000

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 9
BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS
(Road Commissioners)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, 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 funding road paving/improvement projects, and further to 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.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, 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 funding road paving/improvement projects, and further to 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.

2/3 Majority Vote Required

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 10
RESCIND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION
(Town Treasurer/Collector)**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the \$752,682 authorized, but unissued balance of the \$6,600,000 approved to be borrowed under Article 22 of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting, to pay costs of upgrading the wastewater treatment plant, which amount is no longer necessary to complete that project, or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved to rescind the borrowing authorization for the authorized but unissued borrowing in the amount of \$752,682, originally approved by a vote of the Town adopted under Article 22 of the May 19, 2015 Town Meeting, as follows:

<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Authorized Unissued</u>
\$6,600,000	\$5,847,318	\$752,682

The motion was seconded and carried.

**ARTICLE 11
BORROWING FOR NEW SCHOOL ROOF
(School Committee)**

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 School Committee, to pay costs of design and installation of a new roof on the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

Karen Crebase, Superintendent, moved to appropriate \$1,800,000 to be expended by the School Committee, to pay costs of installing a new roof on the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor.

2/3 Majority Vote Required

The Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 12
AMBULANCE PURCHASE
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$400,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing an ambulance for the use of the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved to appropriate \$400,000 to pay costs of purchasing an ambulance for the use of the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

2/3 Majority Vote Required

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 13
VACTOR TRUCK PURCHASE
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$400,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing a Vactor Truck for the use of the Highway, Water and Sewer Departments, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action related thereto.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to appropriate \$400,000 to pay costs of purchasing a Vactor Truck, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

2/3 Majority Vote Required

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 14
NEW WATER STORAGE TANK AND INSTALLATION OF WATER MAINS
(Water and Sewer Commissioners)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350,000 to be expended at the direction of the Water & Sewer Commission, to pay for the costs associated with the construction of a new water storage tank and the installation of water mains on Moore Road and Crocket Circle, 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 to take any other action related thereto.

Edward Burt, Water & Sewer Commissioner, moved to appropriate \$1,350,000, to be expended at the direction of the Water & Sewer Commission, to pay for the costs associated with the construction of a new water storage tank and the installation of water mains on Moore Road and Crocket Circle, and all incidental and related expenses, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §8(4) or pursuant to any other enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes of the Town.

2/3 Majority Vote Required

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 15
FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN PARK
(Parks Commission)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide \$4,000,000 or any other amount, to be expended by the Parks Commission for the design, construction, reconstruction and improvements to Town Park, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

Michael Reynolds, Park Commissioner Chair, moved to appropriate \$4,000,000 to be expended by the Park Commission, to pay costs of the design, construction, reconstruction and improvements to Town Park,, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor.

The motion was seconded, The Moderator called for a voice vote two times, it was un-clear, so the Moderator asked for a standing vote, without going any further he called the vote as denied, 2/3rd majority is not attained.

2/3 Majority Vote Required

**ARTICLE 16
STABILIZATION FUND
(Finance Committee)**

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.

Ian Michelson, Finance Committee Chair, moved to pass over Article 16.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 17
AMEND REVOLVING FUND BY-LAW
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 159 of the Town By-Law "Revolving Funds" by revising Column H of §159-1, or take any other action related thereto.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to amend Chapter 159 of the Town By-Law "Revolving Funds by revising Column H of §159-1 to read as follows:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of Funds
BOH Revolving	Board of Health	Sale of Refuse Bags	Purchase of Refuse Bags
Recycling Center	Board of Health	Fees from collection of recycling and hazardous waste	Operation of recycling center, including but not limited to composting, yard waste, and other related costs.
Animal Control	Board of Health	Fees from boarding of stray animals, fines for violations and the licensing of animals	Operation of animal control services

The motion was made and seconded, there was some brief discussion, the moderator declared the motion carried, after the Moderator declared it carried a resident asked for a standing count which was seconded but did not carry.

**ARTICLE 18
REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote Town to approve annual spending limits for FY24 for Revolving Funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any other action related thereto.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to approve annual spending limits for FY24 for Revolving Funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, as follows:

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>FY24 Spending Limits</u>
BOH Revolving	\$ 25,000
School Transportation	\$100,000
Inspectional Services	\$ 25,000
Senior Van Services	\$ 10,000
COA Programs	\$ 10,000
Library Revolving	\$ 3,000
School Computer Repair	\$ 10,000

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 19
INCREASE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR QUALIFYING SENIOR CITIZENS
(Board of Assessors)**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to qualifying 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 based on the cost-of-living increase issued by the Department of Revenue, or take any other action related thereto.

Cheryl Hanly, Assessor, moved to increase the availability of tax exemptions to qualifying 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, from \$841.70 to \$896.41.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 20
INCREASE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR OTHER QUALIFYING PERSONS
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to increase the availability of tax exemptions to qualifying surviving spouses, minor children, or elderly persons owning real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59, §5, Clause 17D, by approving an increase in the value of the tax exemption based on the cost-of-living increase issued by the Department of Revenue, or take any other action related thereto.

Cheryl Hanly, Assessor, moved to increase the availability of tax exemptions to qualifying surviving spouses, minor children, or elderly persons 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 \$282.23 to \$300.58.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 21
ESTABLISH MINIMUM CASH VALUE FOR TAXATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
(Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, §5 (54) to establish a minimum fair cash value required for personal property accounts to be taxed, with the minimum value to be set at \$3,000; or take any other action related thereto.

Cheryl Hanly, Assessor, moved to accept M.G.L. c. 59, §5 (54) to establish a minimum fair cash value required for personal property accounts to be taxed, with the minimum value to be set at \$3,000.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 22
APPROPRIATION FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to fund expenses associated with opioid treatment and addiction prevention, or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved to appropriate \$60,000 from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to fund expenses associated with opioid treatment and addiction prevention.

2/3 majority vote required

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 23
CHANGE TREE WARDEN FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED OFFICE
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, §1 to change the office of Tree Warden from an elected office to an appointed office; provided that the incumbent Tree Warden, if any, as of the date of this vote shall become the first appointed Tree Warden for a three-year term; or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, §1B, to change the office of Tree Warden from an elected office to an appointed office, such change to become effective pursuant to said statute if approved by the voters on the 2024 annual election ballot; and provided that the incumbent Tree Warden, if any, as of the date of this vote shall become the first appointed Tree Warden for a three-year term.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**ARTICLE 24
ADOPT LOCAL MEALS TAX
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c.64L, §2(a) to impose a local tax upon the sale of restaurant meals; or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to accept M.G.L. c. 64L, §2(a) to impose a local tax upon the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**ARTICLE 25
DELETE AND REPLACE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY-LAW (CHAPTER 79)
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 79 (Finance Committee) and insert a new Chapter 79 Finance Committee and Budget Process, or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 79 (Finance Committee) and insert a new Chapter 79 Finance Committee and Budget Process, to read as follows:

Chapter 79 Finance Committee and Budget Process

§ 79-1 Applicability of General Law

§ 79-2 Finance Committee

§ 79-3 Submission of budget and budget message

§ 79-4 Budget proposal

§ 79-5 Action on the proposed budget

§ 79-6 Capital improvements program

§ 79-1 Applicability of General Law

In all matters concerning finances and financial procedures of the Town, the provisions of general law shall apply, together with such other requirements as are provided by Bylaws of the Town.

§ 79-2 Finance Committee

A Finance Committee of 9 members shall be appointed by the Select Board for staggered 3-year terms. The Finance Committee shall elect from its membership for one-year terms of office, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Clerk. The Town Accountant and the Town Treasurer-Collector shall have ex-officio membership, without voting rights, on the Committee. No elected or appointed Town officer, or compensated Town employee who serves in more than part time employments, shall serve on the Committee. Committee members shall serve without compensation.

The Select Board shall annually appoint 3 members for 3-year terms. As of the effective date of this bylaw, the appointed terms of all then-serving members of the Finance Committee shall remain in effect and the Select Board shall make appointments upon the expiration of said terms. Vacancies on the Finance Committee shall be filled promptly by the Select Board for the unexpired term.

The Finance Committee shall carry out its duties in accordance with the provisions of general law, and bylaws, and it shall have regular and free access and inspection rights to all books and accounts of any Town department or office. The Committee shall carefully examine all budget appropriations proposals, warrant articles and Referenda and shall issue its recommendations thereon prior to consideration, debate and vote by the Town Meeting.

§ 79-3 Submission of budget and budget message

On or before February 1st of each year the Town Administrator shall submit to the Select Board and file copies with the Finance Committee a three -year fiscal forecast and the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year with an accompanying budget message and support documents.

The budget message shall explain the budget for all Town agencies in both fiscal and programmatic terms. It shall: (a) outline proposed financial policies of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year; (b) describe important features of the budget; (c) indicate any major variations from the current year in financial policies, expenditures and revenues, together with the reasons of such variations; (d) summarize the Town's debt position; and (e) include such other materials as the Town Administrator may deem desirable or the Finance Committee may require.

§ 79-4 Budget Proposal

The proposed budget shall provide a complete financial plan for all town funds and activities, including the proposed school department budget for the ensuing year.

Except for the school budget or may be required by general law, the proposed budget shall be in such form as the Town Administrator deems desirable.

In submitting the proposed budget, the Town Administrator shall utilize modern fiscal principals so as to afford maximum information and financial control. The budget shall detail all estimated revenue from the property tax levy and other sources and all proposed expenditures, including debt service for the previous, current and ensuing years, and shall indicate separately: (a) proposed expenditures for both current operations and capital projects during the ensuing year, detailed by agency, purpose and position, together with proposed financing methods.

§ 79-5 Action on the proposed budget

The Finance Committee shall conduct at least one (1) public hearing on the proposed budget at least 14 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting. The Finance Committee shall issue printed recommendations and make copies available prior to or at the time of the Town Meeting.

§ 79-6 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Departments, Boards, Commissions, Committees including the School Committee, shall submit their 5-year Capital Plan to the Town Administrator by December 15th of each year.

On or before February 15th of each year the Town Administrator shall submit to the Select Board and file copies with the Finance Committee a 5-year Capital Improvements program, which shall include: (a) a clear summary of its contents; (b) a list of all capital improvements proposed to be undertaken during the next 5 fiscal years, together with supporting data; (c) cost estimates, methods of financing and recommended time schedules; and (d) the estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining any facility to be constructed or acquired.

The information requirements described above may be revised and extended annually with respect to capital improvements in the process of construction or acquisition. A capital improvement shall be defined by the Finance Committee, in consultation with the Select Board and the Town Administrator and other town officials, such definition to be changed from time to time as necessary to reflect current economic conditions.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the article was made, seconded and carried, then the original motion was seconded and carried.

ARTICLE 26
DELETE CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE BY-LAW (CHAPTER 26)
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 26 (Capital Program Committee); or take any other action related thereto.

Bernard J. Stock, Select Board, moved to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 26 (Capital Program Committee).

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 27
UPDATE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws, 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, or take any other action related thereto.

Glenda Hazard, Select Board Chair, moved to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws, 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, in accordance with the attached Classification and Compensation Plan, as printed below:

Support Staff			Management		
Grade 1	Min	Max	Grade 1	Minimum	Maximum
Poll Worker	\$15.00	\$18.00	Dir of Public Health	\$70,000	\$90,000
Library Page	\$15.00	\$18.00	Building Comm	\$70,000	\$90,000
Summer Asst	\$15.00	\$18.00	COA Director	\$70,000	\$90,000
			Town Clerk	\$70,000	\$90,000
Grade 2					
Library Assistant	\$20.00	\$25.00	Grade2		
Outreach Worker	\$20.00	\$25.00	Library Director	\$75,000	\$95,000
Staff Asst	\$20.00	\$25.00	Principal Assessor	\$75,000	\$95,000
PT Dispatch	\$20.00	\$25.00			
			Grade 3		
Grade 3			Town Accountant	\$80,000	\$100,000

Asst Town Clerk	\$25.00	\$30.00	Treasurer Collector	\$80,000	\$100,000
COA Nurse	\$25.00	\$30.00	Deputy Fire Chief	\$80,000	\$100,000
Admin Asst	\$25.00	\$30.00			
Grade 4			Grade 4		
Sr Library Asst	\$30.00	\$35.00	Highway Supt	\$95,000	\$115,000
Youth Ser Librarian	\$30.00	\$35.00	Grade 5		
Executive Asst	\$30.00	\$35.00	Water/Sewer Director	\$100,000	\$120,000
			Police Lt	\$100,000	\$120,000
			Grade 6		
			Fire Chief	\$125,000	\$145,000
			Grade 7		
			Police Chief	\$130,000	\$150,000

A motion to dispense with the reading of the article was made, seconded and carried, then the original motion was seconded and carried.

ARTICLE 28
DELETE AND REPLACE PERSONNEL BY-LAW (CHAPTER 137)
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws Part I (Administration Legislation), by deleting in its entirety Chapter 137 (Personnel) and inserting a new Chapter 137, or take any other action related thereto.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to amend the Town of Hopedale By-Laws by deleting in its entirety Chapter 137 (Personnel) and inserting a new Chapter 137, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 137 PERSONNEL BY-LAW

- § 137-1 Purpose and Intent
- § 137-2 Application
- § 137-3 Personnel Administration
- § 137-4 Adoption of Policies
- § 137-5 Personnel System

§ 137-1 Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish a fair and equitable system of personnel administration based on merit principles and to ensure a uniform and efficient application of policies.

§ 137-2 Application

All employees of the Town, excluding elected officials and employees of the School Department, shall be subject to the provisions of this by-law and personnel policies adopted pursuant thereto. To the extent that the terms of any collective bargaining agreement conflict with any provision of this chapter or personnel policies adopted pursuant thereto, the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail.

§ 137-3 Personnel Administration

The Town Administrator shall be responsible for the administration and development of a human resources system which meets the needs of the Town. In this capacity, the Town Administrator, upon approval by the Select Board, shall have the authority to carry out the following functions, including, but not limited to:

- Appointment and removal of employees (excluding employees who by statute are appointed by officials other than the Select Board)
- Annual review of compensation and benefits and development of associated recommendations for consideration by the Select Board
- Development of methods and standards for selection and appointment of personnel
- Development and administration of performance standards
- Supervision of performance appraisals
- Additional functions as circumstances necessitate

§ 137-4 Adoption of Policies

The Select Board shall be empowered and authorized by this Chapter to adopt personnel policies that establish the rights, benefits and obligations of employees subject to this By-Law.

§ 137-5 Personnel System

The personnel policies adopted pursuant to this Chapter shall establish a personnel system which shall include, but need not be limited to, the following elements:

- Method of administration: a system which assigns responsibility for the personnel system, including
 - maintenance of personnel records
 - implementation of effective recruitment and selection processes
 - maintenance of the classification and compensation plans
 - oversight of the application of policies
 - periodic review and evaluation of the personnel system
- Rights and obligations of employees
- Other elements of a personnel system as deemed appropriate and necessary

Said By-Law to take effect January 1, 2024.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the article was made, seconded and carried, then the original motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 29
DELETE CONTRACTS; PROCUREMENTS BY-LAW (CHAPTER 49)
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to delete in its entirety Chapter 49 Contracts; Procurements from the Town's By-Laws, or take any other action related thereto.

Scott Savage, Select Board, moved to delete in its entirety Chapter 49 Contracts; Procurements from the Town's By-Laws.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**ARTICLE 30
AMEND ZONING BY-LAW TO ADD MARIJUANA OVERLAY DISTRICT
(Planning Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hopedale Zoning By-Laws by adding a Marijuana Overlay District, or take any other action related thereto.

Stephen Chaplin, Planning Board Chair, moved to amend the Zoning Map of the Town, as it is established and referenced in Section 3.2 (Location of Districts) of the Zoning Bylaw, and to adopt a new Article of the Zoning Bylaw entitled "Marijuana Overlay District", the complete Article text is printed below and the map relative to such overlay district map as shown on Appendix A. And further that the Town Clerk is authorized to renumber any subsections necessary to insert this amendment into the Zoning Bylaw.

Marijuana Overlay District Bylaw

Section ____ Purpose

The purpose of the Marijuana Overlay District Bylaw is to provide for the placement of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers ("MMTCs") and Adult Use Marijuana Establishments ("MEs") in locations suitable for such uses in accordance with G.L. c. 94G and all applicable regulations, including 935 CMR 500.000 and 935 CMR 501.000, in order to support the public's right to access marijuana and marijuana products while mitigating community impacts and protecting public health, safety and welfare.

Section ____ Establishment

The Marijuana Overlay District ("MOD") is hereby established as an overlay district and consists of the areas(s) shown on the map entitled Proposed Marijuana Overlay District, Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts, Produced by CMRPC, on file with the Town Clerk, as it may be amended from time to time.

Within the MOD, all requirements of the underlying zoning district shall remain in effect, except where these regulations provide an alternative to such requirements. Land within the MOD may be used for a (1) MMTC; and (2) any state-licensed MEs, including Marijuana Cultivator (indoor or outdoor), Marijuana Product Manufacturer, Marijuana Retailer, Marijuana Research Facility, Independent Marijuana Testing Laboratory, Marijuana Transporter, Craft Marijuana Cooperative, Marijuana Micro Business, and Marijuana Delivery Licensee, in which case the requirements set forth in this section shall apply; or (3) a use allowed in the underlying district, in which case the requirements of the underlying district shall apply. If the provisions of the MOD are silent on a zoning regulation, the requirements of the underlying district shall apply. If the provisions of the MOD conflict with the requirements of the underlying district, the requirements of the MOD shall control.

Section ____ Definitions

1. Where not expressly defined in the Zoning Bylaws, terms used in the MOD Bylaw shall be interpreted as defined in G.L. c.94G, § 1 and the regulations governing Adult Use of Marijuana (935 CMR 500.000), Medical Marijuana (935 CMR 501.000) and otherwise by their plain language.

Section ____ Limitation and Prohibitions

1. Retail Establishments: No more than four (4) Marijuana Retailers shall be permitted within the Town of Hopedale.
2. Social Consumption Establishments: No marijuana or marijuana product shall be smoked, eaten or otherwise consumed or ingested on the premises of any MMTC or ME. The prohibition on on-site consumption shall also include private social clubs or any other establishment which allows for social consumption of marijuana or marijuana products on the premises, regardless of whether the product is sold to consumers on site.

Section ____ Location and Dimensional Controls

1. MMTCs and MEs may be permitted in the MOD pursuant to a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval.
2. MMTCs and Marijuana Establishments may not be located within 500 feet of the pre-existing public or private school providing education in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12, the Draper Gym, public or private libraries, the Hopedale Community House, Draper Field, Phillips Field, or the Hopedale Town Park.

The distance under this section shall be measured in a straight line from the geometric center of the ME or MMTC Entrance to the geometric center of the nearest School Entrance, unless there is an Impassable Barrier within those 500 feet; in these cases, the buffer zone distance shall be measured along the center of the shortest publicly-accessible pedestrian travel path from the geometric center of the ME or MMTC Entrance to the geometric center of the nearest School Entrance.

3. Cultivation and Product Manufacturing Establishments located within the MOD shall be separated from adjacent uses by a 100-foot buffer strip, unless the applicant can demonstrate, and the Planning Board finds, that adequate buffering can be provided in a narrower buffer strip.

4. All aspects of a MMTCs and MEs relative to the cultivation, possession, processing, distribution, dispensing or administration of marijuana, marijuana products, or related supplies must take place at a fixed location within a fully enclosed building and shall not be visible from the exterior of the building. All sales shall be conducted either within the building or by home delivery pursuant to applicable state regulations.
5. MMTCs and MEs shall be located only in a permanent building and not within any mobile facility, storage freight container, or other similar movable enclosure, unless operating as a licensed Marijuana Transporter or Marijuana Delivery Licensee.
6. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, MMTCs and MEs shall conform to the dimensional requirements applicable to non-residential uses within the underlying zoning district.
7. All MMTCs and MEs shall conform to the signage requirements of the Zoning Bylaw. The Planning Board may impose additional restrictions on signage, as appropriate, to mitigate any aesthetic impacts.
8. No drive-through services shall be permitted at MMTCs and MEs.

Section ____ Special Permit

1. Procedure: The Planning Board shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) and the Planning Board shall conduct Site Plan Review for an applicant for a MMTC or ME.
- a. Application: In addition to the materials submission requirements of Sections 18 and 10.6 of this Bylaw, the applicant shall also include:
 - i. A detailed floor plan of the premises of the proposed MMTC or ME that identifies the square footage available and describes the functional areas of the facility;
 - ii. Detailed site plans that include the following information:
 1. Compliance with the requirements for parking and loading spaces, for lot size, frontage, yards and heights and coverage of buildings, signage and all other provisions of this Bylaw;
 2. Convenience and safety of vehicular and pedestrian movement on the site to provide secure and safe access and egress for clients and employees arriving to and from the site;
 3. Convenience and safety of vehicular and pedestrian movement off the site, if vehicular and pedestrian traffic off-site can reasonably be expected be substantially affected by on-site changes;
 4. Adequacy as to the arrangement and the number of parking and loading spaces in relation to the proposed use of the site, including designated parking for home delivery vehicle(s), as applicable;
 5. Site design such that it provides convenient, secure and safe access and egress for clients and employees arriving to and from the site.
 6. Design and appearance of proposed buildings, structures, freestanding signs, screening and landscaping; and
 7. Adequacy of water supply, surface and subsurface drainage and light.

- iii. A description of the security measures, including employee security policies;
 - iv. A copy of the emergency procedures;
 - v. A copy of proposed waste disposal procedures;
 - vi. A copy of all licensing materials issued by the Cannabis Control Commission and any materials submitted to the Cannabis Control Commission by the applicant for purposes of seeking licensing to confirm that all information provided to the Town is consistent with information provided to the Cannabis Control Commission;
 - vii. A copy of an odor control plan that provides for proper and adequate ventilation at MMTCs and MEs in such a manner so as to prevent pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals used in the cultivation or processing and/or keeping of marijuana or marijuana related products from being dispersed or released outside the facilities and to prevent odor from marijuana or its processing from being detected by a person with an unimpaired and otherwise normal sense of smell at the exterior of such facility or at any adjoining use or property; and
 - viii. Evidence of the applicant's right to use the proposed site for the MMTC or ME, such as a purchase and sale agreement, deed, owner's authorization, or lease.
- b. The SPGA shall refer copies of the application to the Building Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, the Highway Department and the Water and Sewer Department. These boards/departments shall review the application and shall submit their written recommendations. Failure to make recommendations within 35 days of referral of the application shall be deemed lack of opposition.
 - c. After notice and public hearing in accordance with Section 10.9 of the Bylaw and consideration of application materials, consultant reviews, public comments, and the recommendations of other town boards and departments, the SPGA may act upon such a permit and request for site plan approval.
2. Special Permit Findings: In addition to the standard findings for special permit set forth in Section 10.6, the SPGA shall not issue a special permit for a MMTC or MC unless it makes the following findings:
 - a. The MMTC or ME does not derogate from the purposes and intent of this Section and the Zoning Bylaw.
 - b. The proposed MMTC or ME is designed to minimize any adverse impacts on abutters and other parties in interest, as defined in MGL c. 40A, § 11.
 - c. The applicant demonstrates that the MMTC or ME will meet all the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will comply with all applicable state laws and regulations;
 - d. The security plan provides sufficient assurance that adequate security controls will be implemented to ensure the protection of the public health and safety during hours of operation and that any marijuana or marijuana related products are adequately secured on-site or via delivery.

- e. The odor control plan proposed adequately provides for the ongoing safe operation of the MMTC or ME and minimizes any adverse impacts to abutting properties from odor-emitting activities to be conducted on-site.
 - f. The proposed design and operation of the MMTC or ME will meet the requirements of this Bylaw.
3. Special Permit Conditions on MMTCs and MEs: The SPGA shall impose conditions reasonably appropriate to improve site design, traffic flow, public safety, protect water quality, air quality, and significant environmental resources, preserve the character of the surrounding area and otherwise serve the purpose of this section. In addition to any specific conditions applicable to the applicant's MMTC or ME, the SPGA may include the following conditions in any special permit granted under this Bylaw:
- a. Hours of Operation, but if none are specified in the special permit, hours of operation for retail sales shall be limited to 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - b. The use shall not generate outside odors from the cultivation or processing of marijuana and marijuana products.
 - c. A Security Plan shall be required for all MMTC and MEs, which shall be subject to approval by the Hopedale Fire and Police Chiefs and submitted to the SPGA.
 - d. The permit holder shall provide to the Zoning Enforcement Officer and Chief of the Police Department, the name, telephone number and electronic mail address of a contact person in the event that such person needs to be contacted after regular business hours to address an urgent issue. Such contact information shall be kept updated by the permit holder.
 - e. MMTCs and MEs may not operate, and the special permit will not be valid, until the applicant has obtained all licenses and permits issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and any of its agencies for the facility.
 - f. A special permit granted under this Section shall have a term limited to the duration of the applicant's ownership and use of the premises as a MMTC or ME. A special permit may be transferred only with the approval of the SPGA in the form of an amendment to the special permit.
 - g. The special permit shall lapse upon the expiration or termination of the applicant's license by the Cannabis Control Commission.
 - h. The permit holder shall notify the Zoning Enforcement Officer and SPGA in writing within 48 hours of the cessation of operation of the MMTC or ME's expiration or termination of the permit holder's license with the Cannabis Control Commission

Section ____ Prohibition Against Nuisances

No use shall be allowed in the MOD which creates a nuisance to abutters or to the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard, including but not limited to, fire, explosion, fumes, gas, smoke, odors, obnoxious dust, vapors, offensive sound or vibration, flashes, glare, objectionable effluent or electrical interference, which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.

Section ____ Curbside Retail Operations

Notwithstanding anything to contrary set forth within this Bylaw, if and only if (a) the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allows Marijuana Retailers to conduct curbside retail sales and (b) there is a government-ordered shutdown (of a like nature to that which occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic) which prevents customers of Marijuana Retailers from entering the premises of such Marijuana Retailers, then curbside retail transactions shall be allowed only to the extent permitted by Massachusetts laws and regulations; provided however, that the Marijuana Retailer shall first notify the Hopedale Chief of Police of its intent to conduct curbside retail operations not less than ten (10) days prior to the commencement of such operations and shall comply with reasonable safety measures and other restrictions imposed by the Chief of Police. Such measures and restrictions may include, but shall not be limited to, the implementation of mitigation plans to help ensure that the curbside operations do not block traffic, sidewalks, or result in increased lines or crowds. Curbside operations must occur on the licensed premises and shall be located so as to minimize compromises to security, taking into consideration camera locations, foliage or other obstructions, proximity to the MMTC or ME entrance and similar considerations.

Section ____ Severability

The provisions of this Bylaw are severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this Bylaw or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Bylaw.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the article was made, seconded and carried, then the original motion was seconded and carried 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 31 REZONE PROPERTY AT 1 AIRPORT ROAD EXTENSION (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopedale, MA, specifically Lot 22-15-1 (1 Airport Rd. Ext.) thereon, by rezoning said property from GB-A to Commercial, or take any other action related thereto.

Stephen Chaplin, Planning Board Chair, moved to amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopedale, MA, specifically Lot 22-15-1 (1 Airport Rd. Ext.) thereon, by rezoning said property from GB-A to Commercial.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 32 REZONE PROPERTY AT 124 HARTFORD AVENUE

(Citizen Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopedale, MA, specifically Lot 25-20-0 (124 Hartford Ave.) thereon, by rezoning said property from GB-A to Commercial, or take any other action related thereto.

Stephen Chaplin, Planning Board Chair, moved to amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopedale, MA, specifically Lot 25-20-0 (124 Hartford Ave.) thereon, by rezoning said property from GB-A to Commercial.

The motion was seconded and carried 2/3 vote.

Eugene Phillips thanked the town residents and town officials for their attendance. A motion to dissolve the Warrant was made, seconded and carried. Meeting was dissolved at 9:04 PM.

A True Record

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa M. Pedrolu".

Lisa M. Pedrolu, Town Clerk



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street- P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 ext. 212

Fax: 508-634-2200

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chair

James Morin

Adam Anderson

The following is the detailed information regarding the W&S articles:

Article 2. Annual Town General Fund Budget

Includes the “indirect charges” the W&S department pays to Hopedale’s general government for items such as insurance and a portion of the accounting and treasury services.

The \$169,605 for Water and \$142,996 for sewer, approximately 15 % of the overall W&S operating budgets.

Article 3. Annual Water Department’s Budget.

The total budget, including the indirect charges, capital requirements and emergency reserves is a 5% increase over last year’s budget.

The water assessment remains unchanged

The water rate was recently increased to a \$50 annual increase for the typical water user. The increase was required to address the combination of lower water usage and increased operating expenses.

Note, the largest line-item increases are with the energy (electrical/heating), salaries and cross charge accounts, each ~\$30,000. The salary line item includes a new laborer to address the water main replacement mandates and the salary split across the Water, Sewer Departments to reflect the actual services of one employee.

Article 4. Annual Sewer Department’s Budget

The total budget, including capital requirements and emergency reserves is a 2% increase over last year’s budget. This “flat budget” request was accomplished by reducing the sewer capital plans to offset the electrical, cross charge and testing expense increases.

The Sewer assessment remains unchanged.

The Sewer rate was recently increased, set to reflect a \$50 annual increase for the typical sewer user.

Article 10. Rescind Borrowing

Closes the books on the Sewer Plant upgrade project which finished under budget.

Article 13. Joint Purchase of a Jet -Vac Truck with Highway Department

Request approval to purchase a Jet-Vac Truck to be used by the WS and Highway departments. This multi-function truck meets the needs of both the Highway and WS departments. Instead of 2 trucks for the specific department functions, this shared truck provides better overall value to the Town.

Article 14. New Water Tank and Water Mains

This represents the final approval of the Water Storage Tank project which has been years in the making. A \$2 million grant is funding the majority of this project. This borrowing of \$1.35 million is needed to complete the project.

Please note:

1. This is funded by the Water Department, not from the Town's account. Therefore the project has no impact on property taxes or the override.
2. Because this has been years in the planning phase, we expect the loan repayment to be covered within the existing Water Assessment. We do not expect an increase in water bills to be necessary to address this capital expense.
3. Benefits/purpose of the Water Tank, which provides the ability to double the stored water capacity:
 - Ability to provide more water to existing water users for normal and emergency situations.
 - Minimizes, if not eliminates the need to purchase water from Milford.
 - Creates Well and Tank maintenance options improving performance, reducing some on-going operational expenses.
 - Is a very important step to increasing the available water to support the Town's future development requirements.
 - The grant application was submitted in May of 2021, with the expectation of an immediate approval and project start. However a new Federal process was established delaying the release of the funding, for all projects across the country, not just this specific project. General inflation, especially for American Steel products is the primary reason for current total cost not a change in the project's scope.
 - We expect to minimize the loan requirement by performing in-house services where appropriate, utilizing Plain St and Mendon tie-in fees, and the overall management of available project options.

- There are ramifications if this project is not completed:
 - a. Increased operational costs.
 - b. Lack of overall water quantity to support new development.
 - c. Loss of future federal funding because the new Federal process will consider the Town of Hopedale in default for not completing the project after being awarded the grant.

Annual Town Budget 5/16/2023	FY23 Budget	"Non-Contingent" Appropriation FY 24	"Contingent" Appropriation FY 24
<u>114 - TOWN MODERATOR</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$200	\$0	
<u>122 - SELECTMEN</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$5,850	\$0	
Expenses	<u>\$5,440</u>	<u>\$3,190</u>	
Total	\$11,290	\$3,190	
<u>123 - ADMINISTRATOR</u>			
Wages	\$163,998	\$200,000	\$20,000
Expense	<u>\$85,437</u>	<u>\$27,000</u>	
Total	\$249,435	\$227,000	\$247,000
<u>131 - FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>			
Salary Appointed Officials	\$4,140	\$0	
Expenses	<u>\$250</u>	<u>\$250</u>	
Total	\$4,390	\$250	
<u>132 - RESERVE FUND</u>			
RESERVE FUND	<u>\$35,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>	
	\$35,000	\$35,000	
<u>135 - ACCOUNTANT</u>			
Wages	\$0	\$0	
Expense	<u>\$117,690</u>	<u>\$135,000</u>	
Total	\$117,690	\$135,000	
<u>141 - ASSESSORS</u>			
Salary Appointed Officials	\$0	\$0	
Wages	\$98,584	\$103,449	
Expense	<u>\$29,558</u>	<u>\$29,300</u>	
Total	\$128,142	\$132,749	
<u>145 - TREASURER/COLLECTOR</u>			
Wages	\$196,421	\$201,463	
Expenses	<u>\$35,792</u>	<u>\$61,125</u>	
Total	\$232,213	\$262,588	
<u>151 - TOWN COUNSEL</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$75,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>	
Total	\$75,000	\$75,000	
<u>158 - TAX TITLE</u>			
Tax Title	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	
Total	\$3,000	\$3,000	

Annual Town Budget 5/16/2023	FY23 Budget	"Non-Contingent" Appropriation FY 24	"Contingent" Appropriation FY 24
<u>161 - TOWN CLERK</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$69,000	\$72,450	
Wages	\$21,006	\$23,056	
Certification Stipend	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Wages	\$91,006	\$96,506	
Expense	<u>\$4,701</u>	<u>\$4,725</u>	
Total	\$95,707	\$101,231	
<u>162 - ELECTIONS</u>			
Wages	\$12,158	\$12,158	
Expense	<u>\$7,082</u>	<u>\$7,082</u>	
Total	\$19,240	\$19,240	
<u>163 - REGISTRATION</u>			
Wages	\$1,600	\$1,600	
Expense	<u>\$3,675</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>	
Total	\$5,275	\$5,600	
<u>166 - PARKING CLERK</u>			
Wages	\$600	\$600	
Expenses	<u>\$291</u>	<u>\$200</u>	
Total	\$891	\$800	
<u>171 - CONSERVATION COMM</u>			
Salary Appointed Officials	\$1,150	\$0	
Wages	\$1,150	\$1,250	
Expenses	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	
Total	\$1,150	\$6,250	
<u>175 - PLANNING BOARD</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$3,330	\$0	
Wages	\$79,506	\$2,500	
Expenses	<u>\$923</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>	
Total	\$80,429	\$3,500	
<u>176 - ZONING BOARD</u>			
Salary Appointed Officials	\$2,340	\$0	
Wages	\$1,372	\$2,500	
Expenses	<u>\$1,999</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	
Total	\$5,711	\$5,500	
<u>IT DEPARTMENT</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$59,174</u>	<u>\$69,300</u>	
Total	\$59,174	\$69,300	
<u>192 - PUBLIC BLD - ALL</u>			

Annual Town Budget 5/16/2023	FY23 Budget	"Non-Contingent" Appropriation FY 24	"Contingent" Appropriation FY 24
Expenses	<u>\$75,090</u>	<u>\$200,200</u>	
Total	\$75,090	\$200,200	
<u>100 GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</u>	\$1,290,033	\$1,381,904	
<u>200 - POLICE</u>			
Wages	\$1,279,293	\$1,359,772	
Expenses	<u>\$195,812</u>	<u>\$215,316</u>	
Total	\$1,475,105	\$1,575,088	
<u>215 - DISPATCH</u>			
Wages	\$339,255	\$362,892	
Expense	<u>\$28,515</u>	<u>\$28,515</u>	
Total	\$367,770	\$391,407	
<u>220 - FIRE`</u>			
Wages	\$1,081,489	\$1,210,677	
Expense	<u>\$301,890</u>	<u>\$333,970</u>	
Total	\$1,383,379	\$1,544,647	
<u>241 - BUILDING INSPECTOR</u>			
Wages	\$59,283	\$63,135	
Expenses	<u>\$3,626</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	
Total	\$62,909	\$66,135	
<u>243 - PLUMBING INSPECTOR</u>			
Wages	\$7,275	\$8,750	
Expenses	<u>\$196</u>	<u>\$300</u>	
Total	\$7,471	\$9,050	
<u>245 - ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR</u>			
Wages	\$8,275	\$9,750	
Expenses	<u>\$490</u>	<u>\$300</u>	
Total	\$8,765	\$10,050	
<u>247 - WEIGHTS & MEASURES</u>			
Wages	<u>\$750</u>	<u>\$750</u>	
Total	\$750	\$750	
<u>291 - CIVIL DEFENSE (EMS)</u>			
Wages	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Expenses	<u>\$5,700</u>	<u>\$6,900</u>	
Total	\$10,700	\$11,900	
<u>292 - ANIMAL CONTROL</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$28,735</u>	
Total	\$0	\$28,735	

Annual Town Budget 5/16/2023	FY23 Budget	"Non-Contingent" Appropriation FY 24	"Contingent" Appropriation FY 24
<u>294 - FORESTRY-TREES</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$900	\$0	
Expenses	<u>\$7,154</u>	<u>\$1,600</u>	
Total	\$8,054	\$1,600	
<u>295 - FORESTRY-DUTCH ELM</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$637</u>	<u>\$0</u>	
Total	\$637	\$0	
<u>200 PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL</u>	\$3,325,540	\$3,639,362	
<u>300 - EDUCATION</u>			
Hopedale Schools	\$13,398,523	\$12,928,866	\$810,000
BVT School	<u>\$730,214</u>	<u>\$1,008,525</u>	
Total	\$14,128,737	\$13,937,391	
<u>300 EDUCATION TOTAL</u>	\$14,128,737	\$13,937,391	
<u>422 - HIGHWAY</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$1,980	\$0	
Wages	\$498,494	\$523,072	
Expenses	<u>\$289,482</u>	<u>\$337,629</u>	
Total	\$787,976	\$860,701	
<u>423 - SNOW REMOVAL</u>			
Wages	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Expenses	<u>\$105,000</u>	<u>\$105,000</u>	
Total	\$125,000	\$125,000	
<u>424 - STREET LIGHTING</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$65,000</u>	<u>\$69,000</u>	
Total	\$65,000	\$69,000	
<u>491 - CEMETERY</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$3,350</u>	<u>\$3,350</u>	
Total	\$3,350	\$3,350	
<u>400 PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL</u>	\$1,016,326	\$1,093,051	
<u>511 - PUBLIC HEALTH</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$1,665	\$0	
Wages	\$66,410	\$66,770	
Expense	<u>\$684,670</u>	<u>\$693,825</u>	
Total	\$751,080	\$760,595	
<u>541 - COUNCIL ON AGING</u>			

Annual Town Budget 5/16/2023	FY23 Budget	"Non-Contingent" Appropriation FY 24	"Contingent" Appropriation FY 24
Wages	\$100,303	\$0	\$110,578
Expenses	<u>\$24,843</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$24,843</u>
Total	\$125,146	\$0	\$135,421
 <u>543 - VETERANS</u>			
Wages	\$6,000	\$6,600	
Expenses	\$0	\$1,000	
Veterans's Benefits	<u>\$44,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>	
Total	\$50,000	\$42,600	
 <u>549 - COMM ON DISABILITIES</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$135</u>	<u>\$135</u>	
Total	\$135	\$135	
 <u>500 HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL</u>	\$926,361	\$803,330	
 <u>610 - LIBRARY</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$1,440	\$0	
Wages	\$199,288	\$0	\$215,582
Expenses	<u>\$120,283</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$105,402</u>
Total	\$321,011	\$0	\$320,984
 <u>650 - PARKS</u>			
Salaries Elected Officials	\$1,440	\$0	
Wages	\$26,400	\$0	\$26,400
Expenses	<u>\$56,616</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>	<u>\$37,195</u>
Total	\$84,456	\$12,000	\$63,595
 <u>691 - HISTORICAL COMMITTEE</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$2,484</u>	<u>\$1,600</u>	
Total	\$2,484	\$1,600	
 <u>692 - MEMORIAL DAY</u>			
Expenses	<u>\$245</u>	<u>\$245</u>	
Total	\$245	\$245	
 <u>693 - HIST COMM-RED SHOP</u>			
Expense	<u>\$5,465</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	
Total	\$5,465	\$3,000	
 <u>699 - CULTURAL COUNCIL</u>			
Cultural (Band concerts)	\$3,763	\$4,000	
Expenses		<u>\$2,100</u>	
Total	\$3,763	\$6,100	
 <u>600 CULTURE & RECREATION TOTAL</u>	\$417,424	\$22,945	

Annual Town Budget 5/16/2023	FY23 Budget	"Non-Contingent" Appropriation FY 24	"Contingent" Appropriation FY 24
<u>710 - PRINCIPAL ON DEBT</u>			
Total - Principal	\$240,750	\$243,728	
<u>715 - INTEREST ON DEBT</u>			
Total - Interest	\$85,514	\$101,395	
<u>700 DEBT AND INTEREST TOTAL</u>	\$326,264	\$345,123	
<u>830 - PENSIONS</u>	\$1,316,665	\$1,381,525	
<u>847 - CMRPD</u>			
Total	\$1,810	\$1,857	
<u>850 - STABILIZATION FUND</u>			
Total	\$0	\$0	
<u>800 INTERGOVERNMENTAL TOTAL</u>	\$1,318,475	\$1,383,382	
<u>912 - WORKERS COMP</u>			
Total	\$141,000	\$164,000	
<u>913- UNEMPLOYMENT</u>			
Total	\$30,000	\$30,000	
<u>914 - MEDICARE</u>			
Total	\$241,260	\$251,000	
<u>915 - HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE</u>			
Total	\$3,982,581	\$4,080,000	
<u>945 - LIABILITY INSURANCE</u>			
Total	\$166,000	\$175,000	
<u>900 UNCLASSIFIED TOTAL</u>	\$4,560,841	\$4,700,000	
Total Requests	\$26,383,640	\$27,306,488	28,656,488
Estimated Revenues		\$27,306,488	28,656,488
Difference	\$26,555,855	\$0	\$0