



## TOWN OF HOPEDALE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2022  
7:00 pm

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 Monday July 11, 2022. The meeting was called under the Warrant dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 2022, 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 two hundred twenty-eight (228) 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. He also went over the ground rules for the meeting and appointed Dave Guglielmi and Joe Drugan as Tellers

Privileges of the floor were extended to the following:

Thomas M. Daige, Fire Chief  
Mark Giovanella, Police Chief  
Mina S. Makarious, Town Counsel  
Diana Schindler, Town Administrator  
Stephanie L'Etalien Treasurer/Collector  
Chris Nadeau, Highway Superintendent

Moderator Phillips informed residents of the temporary road closure that will be happening Tuesday evening.

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, certain property, containing up to 130.18 acres, more or less, located at 364 West Street, being a portion of that land described in an instrument of redemption of tax title taking recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 61533, Page 78, and shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk (the "Property"), and in order to fund said acquisition, raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, a sum of money therefor, and to apply any discretionary grants, gifts, awards, or donations of money given to the Town for the purpose of land conservation, such acquisition to be made to maintain and preserve said property and the forest, water, air, and other natural resources thereon for the use of the public for conservation and recreation purposes to be managed under the control of the Hopedale Parks Commission, provided that such authorization shall not be construed as (1) ratifying the terms of the Settlement Agreement between the Town and the Grafton & Upton Railroad (the "Railroad") dated February 8, 2021; or (2) authorizing the Select Board to acquire fee title to any portions of the Property that are currently in use by the Railroad for railroad operations purposes or transloading facilities; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any and all actions and execute any and all documents to carry out the purposes of this article; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

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*Glenda Hazard Select Board Chair, moved to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, certain property, containing up to 130.18 acres, more or less, located at 364 West Street, being a portion of that land described in an instrument of redemption of tax title taking recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 61533, Page 78, and shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk (the "Property"), and in order to fund said acquisition, borrow the sum of three million, nine hundred thousand dollars (\$3,900,000) pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to apply any discretionary grants, gifts, awards, or donations of money given to the Town for the purpose of land conservation, such acquisition to be made to maintain and preserve said property and the forest, water, air, and other natural resources thereon for the use of the public for conservation and recreation purposes to be managed under the control of the Hopedale Parks Commission, provided that such authorization shall not be construed as (1) ratifying the terms of the Settlement Agreement between the Town and the Grafton & Upton Railroad (the "Railroad") dated February 8, 2021; or (2) authorizing the Select Board to acquire fee title to any portions of the Property that are currently in use by the Railroad for railroad operations purposes or transloading facilities; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any and all actions and execute any and all documents to carry out the purposes of this article.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*Glenda Hazard Select Board Chair, moved to amend the motion*

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*A vote to amend the original motion by inserting the word AND was seconded, Mina Makarious, Special Council, explained that the word AND was added to clarify that in addition to conservation purposes the land may someday be needed water resources and this amendment clarifies it so there won't be an issue down the road to withdraw water for the town's purposes.*

*Chris Hodgens, Finance Committee Chair, stated that the Finance Committee has favorable recommendations on this motion. There will be funding details to follow but as a result of this vote tonight in and of itself it does not directly raise any one's taxes at this point, still many steps to go, this is just the first one.  
The amended motion passed 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote.*

Eugene Phillips thanked the town residents and town officials for their attendance. A motion to dissolve the Warrant was made and seconded. Meeting was dissolved at 7:33 PM.

A True Record

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa M. Pedrol".

Lisa M. Pedrol, Town Clerk

