



## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES FISCAL YEAR 2021**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020  
1:00 P.M.**

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs met on the lawn of the Community House located at 43 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747 on Saturday October 24, 2020. The meeting was called under the Warrant dated the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020 which was posted in accordance with Town By-Laws. Moderator Eugene Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. There were four hundred seven (407) registered voters recorded as present [a quorum being fifty (50) registered voters].

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

Privileges of the floor were extended to the following:

Thomas M. Daige, Fire Chief  
Mark Giovanella, Police Chief  
Ann Williams, Professional Assessor  
Brian Riley, Town Counsel  
Karen Crebase, School Superintendent  
Stephanie L'Etalien, Town Treasurer/Collector  
Diana Schindler, Town Administrator  
Peter Durning, Special Counsel  
David and Laurie Mazzola 332 Mendon Street Upton, MA  
Dave Sarkisian 225 Milford Street Upton, MA

**Brian R. Keyes, Board of Selectman Chairman**, addressed the residents with some opening remarks and stated he is grateful for the overwhelming presence on a Saturday, Outstanding!! He wanted to remind the residents that the Board of Selectmen have never lost sight of what they do, they serve the residents and have the best interest of the town in mind. Mr. Keyes feels the minority should also have an opportunity to speak even if not popular. The Board of Selectmen feel the Railroad is a budget issue and felt the residents voted against an override and had to make \$700,000.00 in cuts but are willing to spend \$1.5 million to do "something else." Mr Keyes also took a moment to recognize the various Departments for all their hard work.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to dispense the reading of the warrant.

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to amend and balance the FY21 Omnibus Budget as voted in Article 7 of the July 21, 2020 Annual Town Meeting by transferring from available funds, appropriating available Overlay Excess, and reducing expenses by sums of money (to be outlined in Motion attachment); or to take any other action in relation thereto.

*Christopher Hodgens, Finance Committee Chairman, moved to amend and balance the FY21 General Fund budget as voted in Article 7 of the July 21, 2020 Annual Town Meeting by appropriating the total sum of \$25,021,104, as presented in budget top sheet and by using \$160,000 from Overlay Excess, transferring \$389,565 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved, transferring \$492,543 from Water Enterprise Receipts and transferring \$545,936 from Sewer Enterprise Receipts.*  
*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, the sum of Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$282,693), or any other amount, to pay costs of updating and replacing streetlights, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

*Louis J. Arcudi III, Board of Selectmen, moved to appropriate, the sum of Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$282,693) to pay costs of updating and replacing of streetlights, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any borrowing pursuant to this vote shall be reduced to the extent of any incentive payments received by the Town from MassSave on account of this project. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.*  
*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously*

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by purchase or eminent domain, certain property, containing 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, 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 in the amount of One Million One Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,175,000.00), and to apply any discretionary grants, gifts, awards, or donations of money given to the Town for the purpose of land conservation, said property being acquired pursuant to a right of first refusal in G.L. c. 61, §8, which right is subject to exercise by a vote of the Board of Selectmen, 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, and

further to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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.

***Brian R. Keyes, Board of Selectman Chairman, moved to appropriate, the sum of One Million One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,175,000), to pay costs of acquiring certain property, containing 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, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any borrowing pursuant to this vote shall be reduced to the extent of any grants or gifts received by the Town on account of this acquisition from the Hopedale Foundation. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.***

***Christopher Hodgens, Finance Committee Chairman, informed residents the Finance Committee speaks favorably for this article. Mr. Hodgens publicly thanked the Hopedale Foundation for its generous pledge of covering \$750,000.00, nearly half the cost of acquiring the property. Becca Solomon, Conservation Commission Chairman, Attorney Peter Durning, Special Counsel, Ed Burt Water and Sewer Chairman, and resident Glenda Hazard also spoke in favor of the article. After presentations from all, the motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously***

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by purchase or eminent domain, for the purpose of public park land, the land located at 364 West Street which is not classified as forest land under Chapter 61 of the General Laws, consisting of 25.06 acres, more or less, 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, and in order to fund said acquisition, appropriate from Free Cash, or raise from the current tax levy, or borrow pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, a sum of money, and to apply any discretionary grants, gifts, awards, or donations of money given to the Town for the purpose of land conservation, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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.

***Louis J. Arcudi III, Board of Selectmen, moved to pass over.***

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to take by eminent domain pursuant to Chapter 79 of the General Laws, for the purpose of public park land, the land located at 364 West Street which is not classified as forest land under Chapter 61 of the General Laws, consisting of 25.06 acres, more or less, 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, and in order to fund said acquisition,

appropriate from Free Cash, or raise from the current tax levy, or borrow pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, a sum of money, and to apply any discretionary grants, gifts, awards, or donations of money given to the Town for the purpose of land conservation, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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.

***Louis J. Arcudi III, Board of Selectmen, moved to purchase, or take by eminent domain pursuant to Chapter 79 of the General Laws, for the purpose of public park land, the land located at 364 West Street which is not classified as forest land under Chapter 61 of the General Laws, consisting of 25.06 acres, more or less, 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, and in order to fund said acquisition, borrow pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, the sum of \$25,000, and to apply any discretionary grants, gifts, awards, or donations of money given to the Town for the purpose of land conservation, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions and execute any and all documents to carry out the purposes of this article.***

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

#### **ARTICLE 6: Article Presented by Petition**

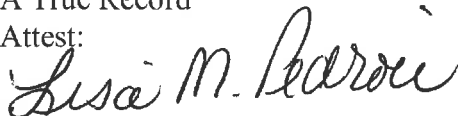
To see if the Town will vote to exercise its option to purchase the 155.24 acres of land of Charles E. Morneau, Trustee, as represented in the Notice of Intent to Sell served on July 9, 2020, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to act for the Town in taking all actions necessary to exercise said option and effectuate the acquisition; and further, to fund acquisition, to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$1,250,000, or other sum, and to determine how such sum shall be raised, whether from the current tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or by borrowing said sum pursuant to the provision of Chapter 44 of the General Laws; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

***Resident, Liz Riley, made a motion to pass over this article which was seconded and carried unanimously.***

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 2:31 pm.

A True Record

Attest:



Lisa M. Pedrolu, Town Clerk