

## TOWN OF HOPEDALE – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening  
in the Dennett Auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School

The inhabitants of the Town of Hopedale qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs met in the Dennett Auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School on Tuesday November 12, 2019. The meeting was called under the Warrant dated the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019 which was posted in accordance with Town By-Laws. Moderator Eugene Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were sixty-seven (67) registered voters recorded as present [a quorum being fifty (50) registered voters].

Privileges of the floor were extended to the following:

Thomas M. Daige, Fire Chief  
Mark Giovanella, Police Chief  
Brian Riley, Town Counsel  
Karen Crebase, School Superintendent  
Stephanie L'Etalien, Town Treasurer/Collector  
Robert Reed, Town Administrator  
Chris Nadeau, Highway Superintendent  
Robert Speroni, Building Commissioner  
Teresa M. Gonsalves, Principal Assessor

Moderator Eugene Phillips lead the Town Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence for all that have passed before us. Brian R. Keyes, Board of Selectmen Chairman, updated residents on affairs in Town. Chairman Keyes thanked previous Town Administrator, Steve Sette, for his years of service to the Town of Hopedale. Mr. Sette started a new job as Town Administrator for the Town of Uxbridge. He welcomed the Interim Town Administrator Robert Reed. A firm has been hired and a search committee will be established to find a replacement for Town Administrator. Some school information; MCAS scores are well above the state average on all content, Girls Field Hockey team has made it to the State Finals, and recognized "Super Nick Day" at the Memorial School. Highway Superintendent Bob DePonte retired on September 27, 2019 after 30 plus years of service and Chris Nadeau is the new Superintendent. Mr. Keyes thanked the Highway Dept for all their hard work. He also wanted to recognize the Fire and Police Departments for all they do in Town; coffee at Cumberland Farms, Fire Dept open house and Gobble Wobble on Thanksgiving morning and for investing so much in the Community. Chairman Keys announced that grants have been awarded to Hopedale for various projects such as radios for the Fire Dept, project for intersection at Route 16, Master Plan and Recreational Field Ad Hoc study.

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer sums of money from certain accounts to others to adjust the Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget, or take any other action related thereto.

*Samuel J. Hockenbury, Finance Committee Chairman, moved to pass over this article.  
The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay prior year bills (pre-7/1/19), or take any other action related thereto.

*Thomas A. Wesley, Board of Selectman, moved that the Town vote to transfer the following sums as outlined below:*

<u>Account From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>To Pay</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fire Department Expense	\$2269.00	Department of Treasury	\$2269.00
Fire Department Expense	\$ 79.00	Fire Department Phone	\$ 79.00
Planning Board Expense	\$ 407.00	Legal Expense	\$ 407.00

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to be authorized to augment the Ambulance Department Budget by offset receipts, or take any other action related thereto.

*Thomas A. Wesley, Board of Selectman, moved to augment the Ambulance Department FY2020 budget by transferring the sum of \$83,616 from Ambulance Department receipts as follows, and adjust the total appropriations for such purposes accordingly: Salary \$58,562 and Expenses \$25,054*

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will correct the amount to raise and appropriate for the FY20 budget, by voting to correct the amount originally voted at the Annual Town Meeting.

*Samuel J. Hockenbury, Finance Committee Chairman, moved to amend the vote taken under Article 8 of the May 21, 2019 ATM by reducing the total amount to be raised and appropriated from \$24,197,708 to \$23,224,986.00.*

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 5:** To see if the Town of Hopedale will vote to transfer \$30,000 from Overlay Surplus to the Appellate Tax Board Account, for the purpose of covering anticipated cost to defend valuation of an outstanding Appellate Tax Board Case.

*Teresa M. Gonsalves, Principal Assessor, moved to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from Overlay Surplus to the Appellate Tax Board Account, for the purpose of covering anticipated legal and other costs to defend valuation in an outstanding Appellate Tax Board case.*

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to increase certain line items (salary and expenses) for the Sewer Department from department offset receipts to adjust the operating budget for FY 20.

*Edward J. Burt, Water and Sewer Commissioner, moved to augment the Sewer Department FY2020 budget by transferring from department offset receipts, and adjusting the total appropriations accordingly, as follows: Salary \$31,900.00 and Expenses \$90,060.00.*

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Water Department retained earnings to pay for a trace fracture study and legal fees for a proceeding.

*Edward J. Burt, Water and Sewer Commissioner moved to transfer the sum of \$27,000.00 from retained earnings to cover expenses incurred for a trace fracture study and all incidental and related expenses.*

*The motion was seconded, Mr. Burt asked to make an amendment to the motion to add “and to authorize the Water and Sewer Commission to engage special counsel for the purpose of representing the Hopedale Water Department in its motion to intervene in the land taking matter before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Docket 19-39”, the Moderator ruled the motion was out of order and reverted back to the original motion which was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will allow and approve the Town to subdivide land, Parcel ID# 14-146-0, currently owned by the Town and under control of the Water and Sewer Commission and to allow for an RFP for the sale of the property.

*Eugene N. Phillips, Moderator, moved to pass over this article.  
The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 9:** To see if the Town Hall will vote to allow the School Department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with DCF (Department of Children and Families), EOHHS (Executive Office of Health and Human Services), and DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) for the Federal reimbursement of transportation expenditures for children in foster care under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

*Karen Crebase, Superintendent of Schools, moved to authorize the School Department, acting through its duly authorized representative, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE ) for the Federal reimbursement of transportation expenditures for children in foster care under the Every Student Succeeds Act, and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee to take such other action as may be necessary to effectuate this vote.*

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to reclassify the sum of \$43,603.80 approved for a Highway Department Project for Villa Drive (STM 6/15 Art. 2) to additional paving projects for Catherine St. and Overdale Parkway.

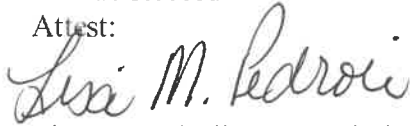
*Louis J. Arcudi III, Board of Selectman, moved to transfer the sum of \$43,603.80 from the balance remaining under Article 2 of the June, 2015 Special Town Meeting, originally appropriated for a Highway Department paving project for Villa Drive, which project is now complete, for paving projects for Catherine Street and Overdale Parkway, including any incidental and related expenses.*

*The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

Eugene N. Phillips, Moderator, thanked the residents and Town Officials for their attendance. A motion to dissolve the Warrant was made and seconded. Meeting was dissolved at 7:37pm.

A True Record

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa M. Pedroli". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Lisa M. Pedroli, Town Clerk