

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



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Town of Hudson MASSACHUSETTS 01749-2134

To: Registered Voters

From: Thomas Gregory

Date: November 15, 2024

Re: Special Town Meeting – Summary of Warrant Articles

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide to the registered voters attending the Special Town Meeting on November 18, 2024 a summary of each of the articles which appear on the Warrant. While this summary is intended to provide a brief explanation of the articles as well as the quantum of vote, please remember that the Warrant remains the official document.

Article 1 – This article was placed on the Warrant in anticipation that potential adjustments to the current year's operating budget (FY2025) may be needed. The only budget adjustment will be a recommendation to transfer \$1,049 from the Town's health insurance appropriation to the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School assessment. This is due to an increase in Hudson's minimum local contribution requirement for members of a regional school district. The increase was included in the final state budget which was enacted after the Annual Town Meeting adjourned in May. The Town has no choice but to fund the increase. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 2 – This article was placed on the Warrant to anticipate any invoices being received after the Town closed the FY2024 books. State statute requires that Town Meeting approve payment of an invoice of a prior fiscal year using current year funds. There was a total of \$2,894.75 in prior year invoices received which include invoices for advertisements in the *Community Advocate*, expenses related to pre-employment physicals for new-hires, and expenses related to dispatcher certification. A 9/10ths vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 3 – As there are no available funds at the moment to transfer into the Town's Stabilization Fund, the recommendation is that this article be passed over by Town Meeting.

Article 4 – This article recommends that \$210,000 be transferred from salaries to expenses within the Sewer Enterprise Fund budget. In May, Town Meeting authorized the Department of Public Works to enter into a multi-year agreement for Wastewater Plant Operations (Article #32). The Town contracted with Veolia earlier in the year after a competitive procurement was

undertaken. Because these contractual costs reside within the expenses line of the Sewer Enterprise Fund budget, funds from sewer salaries must be transferred to sewer expenses. This article is neutral with respect to sewer rates. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 5 – This article recommends that Town Meeting authorize a borrowing of \$6,716,000 for the purpose of upgrading five (5) of the Town’s fifteen (15) sewer pump stations. The project has been submitted to the Commonwealth’s State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program which offers municipalities competitive loan financing terms. Annual debt service payments for this loan will be paid from the Sewer Enterprise Fund budget. A 2/3rds vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 6 – This article requests that Town Meeting approve the transfer of \$64,162 in unexpended funds from previously authorized School Department capital projects and consolidate these funds to appropriate for the installation of a new intercom system at the Farley Elementary School. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 7 – This article requests that Town Meeting approve the transfer of \$56,381 in unexpended funds from previously authorized School Department capital projects and consolidate these funds to appropriate for the installation of a new boiler at the Quinn Middle School. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 8 – This article requests that Town Meeting authorize the Select Board to petition the state legislature to adopt legislation that would allow the Town one (1) additional beer and wine license to issue to Hudson Hives (45 Main Street) for off-premises consumption. Because the Town is currently at its quota for beer and wine licenses, this Home Rule petition is required to obtain the additional location-specific license. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 9 – This article requests that Town Meeting authorize amending the Town’s Zoning Bylaws to align with Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2024 which requires municipalities to allow attached and detached Accessory Dwelling Units up to 900 SF by-right in any single-family zoning district. The new state law becomes effective on February 2, 2025. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 10 – This “housekeeping” article requests that Town Meeting authorize amending the Town’s Zoning Bylaw with respect to proposed changes to the Town’s Official Zoning Map. Specific recommendations include re-inserting district boundaries, correcting mislabeled sections, and updating the title of the map. A 2/3rds vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 11 – This “housekeeping” article requests that Town Meeting authorize amending the Town’s Zoning Bylaw with respect to specific proposed changes to the titles and numbering of various sections of the bylaw. A 2/3rds vote is required for the passage of this article.

Article 12 – This is a petitioned article which requests that Town Meeting authorize amending the Town’s General Bylaws by creating specific regulations around the use of materials containing polystyrene in food establishments. A majority vote is required for the passage of this article.

cc: Select Board
Finance Committee
Town Moderator
Department Heads
Interested Parties