



Town of Hudson

MASSACHUSETTS 01749-2193

To: Select Board

From: Thomas Gregory

Date: April 2, 2025

Re: Request to Amend Annual Town Meeting Articles

I write to request that the Board consider amending four (4) of the articles on this May's Annual Town Meeting. (The Warrant has not yet been posted.) The requested amendments would replace the words "a sum of money" in each of the four (4) articles with specific dollar figures. The purpose of the articles, as originally drafted, remains the same.

Article 7: After meeting recently with representatives from TRANE, the energy management services company under contract with the Town, I am recommending that \$915,000 be appropriated to initiate a Phase 1 to HVAC improvements to Town Hall. To meet this appropriation, I am recommending a transfer of \$490,619.76 in unexpended balances from prior-year capital projects and a transfer of \$424,380.24 from previously certified and available Free Cash. (I will be filing a separate memo to the Board to describe this proposed project in detail.)

Article 8: I am recommending that \$2,228,569 be the stated sum in this article which requests Town Meeting authorize a borrowing to acquire and equip a new aerial ladder truck for the Fire Department. The purpose of the borrowing is to give the Town the ability to enter into a contract for the assembly of the ladder truck which is scheduled to take up to three or four years. The Town will not issue any debt under this article, if approved. Instead, I am recommending that the Town reserve \$1,000,000 in Free Cash over the next two fiscal years and pay the remaining balance in seven additional annual payments from Free Cash.

Article 15: There is currently \$709,965.00 remaining in the employer's portion of the Town's Health Insurance Trust Fund. This article intends to establish a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund to reduce health insurance premium expenses to the Town in future years, and to transfer \$709,965.00 from the Health Insurance Trust Fund into the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund.

Article 21: I am recommending that \$50,000 be transferred from previously certified and available Free Cash to the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust fund which has been established to reduce the Town's liability with respect to retiree health insurance. There is currently a balance of \$1,131,968.00 in the OPEB Trust Fund.

I will not have specific dollar figures for Article 2 (Year-End Transfer of Funds) and Article 6 (DPW Salt Storage Shed) until shortly before Town Meeting. I will be asking the Finance Committee to review specific dollar figures for these articles shortly before Town Meeting so that recommendations may be made on the floor. I will advise accordingly.

I appreciate the Board's consideration of this request and I am available to answer any questions.

cc: Neil Vaidya, Finance Director
Finance Committee