



Town of Hudson

MASSACHUSETTS 01749-2134

To: Registered Voters

From: Thomas Gregory

Date: June 16, 2025

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 June 16, 2025 a summary of each of the articles which appear on the Warrant as well as the quantum of vote required for each article. While this summary is intended to provide a brief explanation of the articles, please remember that the Warrant remains the official document to be considered at the Annual Town Meeting.

Article 1 – This article appears on the Warrant each year to anticipate receipt of invoices after the Town closes its books for the prior fiscal year. State statute requires that Town Meeting approve any bill of a prior fiscal year. There were four (4) invoices received this year after the books were closed: one (1) for \$190 for pre-employment physicals for new hires at the Library; and three (3) for \$960 for air testing of the compressor at the Fire Station, for a total of \$1,150. It is requested that previously certified and available Free Cash (i.e., previous year's surplus funds) be used to pay these bills. A 9/10ths vote of Town Meeting is necessary for the passage of this article.

Article 2 – This article recommends that \$545,299 be transferred from Free Cash for the purpose of resolving projected current fiscal year departmental deficits due to unanticipated or unbudgeted expenses (detail shown below). A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Department	Account	Amount	Explanation
Building Department	Salaries (2410-008)	\$8,000	To fund Commissioner re-classification and new Deputy Inspector salary - both mid-year appointments.
DPW - Snow & Ice Control	Expenses (4230-040)	\$323,544	To fund a snow & ice control budget deficit which includes expenses for salt, liquid calcium, and vehicle repairs.
DPW - Administration	Expenses (4210-040)	\$4,000	To fund cost increases and fluctuations in electricity usage.

DPW - Vehicles	Expenses (4219-040)	\$21,000	To fund cost increases associated with general supplies, parts, and an increase in overtime.
EA - Elections & Town Meetings	Expenses (1231-040)	\$24,800	To fund cost increases in advertising for town meetings in the <i>Community Advocate</i> ; additional June town meeting; and additional unbudgeted ATM expenses (chairs, sound system, and stage).
EA - Salaries	Salaries (1230-008)	\$9,800	To fund costs associated with a contractual increase negotiated in May/June 2024.
EA - Expenses	Expenses (1230-040)	\$540	To fund increased costs associated with conference and travel and professional dues (MMA).
EA - Legal Services	Expenses (1235-040)	\$30,000	To fund costs associated with labor negotiations including JLMC-related expenses.
EA - Town Hall Expenses	Expenses (1236-040)	\$5,800	To fund costs associated with utility rate increases as well as increased usage and repairs to two (2) Town Hall copiers.
Finance Department	Expenses (1330-040)	\$30,200	To fund an unanticipated increase in postage costs as well as costs associated with hiring a temporary staffing firm to fill a vacancy during a period of employee turnover in this department.
Fire Department	Expenses (2200-040)	\$65,000	To fund the costs associated with repairs to various apparatus, including significant repairs to Engine 2.
General Insurance	Expenses (9141-040)	\$8,800	To fund the costs associated with fidelity bonds for new employees and anticipated insurance endorsements for new vehicles.
Health Department	Expenses (5100-040)	\$12,200	To fund costs associated with landfill compliance services at the closed Hudson Landfill on Gates Pond Road in Berlin per MADEP.
Select Board	Expenses (1220-040)	\$85	To fund cost increase to MMA annual dues.
Senior Center	Expenses (5410-040)	\$1,530	To fund overages in utility expenses.
TOTAL		\$545,299	

Article 3 – This article, occurring each year, recommends the adoption of a plan of capital improvements and acquisitions for FY2026 to be funded by a transfer of \$2,269,889 from Free Cash. Included in this article is an initial deposit of \$500,000 toward the replacement of the Fire Department’s aerial tower truck. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 4 – This article recommends that \$662,000 be transferred from Free Cash to fund a new DPW salt storage shed at 1 Municipal Drive. This expense was intentionally not included in the overall DPW facility project budget because the plan was to re-purpose the existing transfer station facility as a salt storage shed. The extended permitting timeline involved in the transfer station relocation project has required the Town to identify funds to build a new salt storage shed. Approximately \$200,000 of the total estimated cost of \$862,000 will be contributed from the DPW facility project contingency. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 5 – This article requests that Town Meeting appropriate \$915,000 to design, permit, and implement improvements to the Town Hall HVAC system in a phased multi-year approach. The article seeks \$424,380.24 from Free Cash as well as \$490,619.76 from unspent balances in prior-year capital projects as described in the article. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 6 – Just as the Town’s general fund generates Free Cash at the end of each fiscal year, so also do the enterprise funds, and these funds are called Retained Earnings. Once certified by the Department of Revenue, Retained Earnings may be expended for uses related to the specific enterprise fund. This article requests that \$950,000 be transferred from Retained Earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund to make improvements to the Water Treatment Plant in addition to the replacement of a well. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 7 – This article requests that \$400,000 be transferred from Sewer Retained Earnings to make improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in addition to Wastewater pump station engineering expenses for future improvements. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 8 – This article recommends that \$605,000 be transferred from Free Cash to the Town’s Stabilization Fund. In November of 2023, Town Meeting authorized an appropriation of \$1,210,000 from the Stabilization Fund to initiate a significant investment in upgrading the Town’s municipal financial platform. Because Free Cash is not available as a funding source in the fall, the recommendation was to “borrow” from the Stabilization Fund and then to replenish the fund incrementally over the next two years. This article is the second and final reimbursement payment which represents 50% of the original appropriation. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 9 – This article requests that \$50,000 be transferred from Free Cash to fund an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) study which will assist the Town in identifying all possible options relative to EMS operations in Hudson. It is anticipated that this study will also provide cost estimates for all options identified by the consultant. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 10 – This article requests that \$30,000 be transferred from Free Cash to fund a new Senior Tax Credit Program to be administered by the Senior Center for FY2025 and FY2026. New program guidelines have been developed which include increasing the \$500 benefit per participant to \$1,500. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 11 – This article recommends that \$50,000 be transferred from Free Cash to fund the Other Post-Employments Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund. The OPEB Trust Fund was established in November 2016 so that the Town can reserve funds to address the future costs associated with the provision of health insurance to municipal retirees. The current balance in the OPEB Trust Fund as of January 1, 2025 is \$1,140,721. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 12 – This article, sponsored by the Conservation Commission, recommends that \$3,000 be transferred from Free Cash to cover the costs of OARS, Inc., a local non-profit organization, which performs annual water quality monitoring of the Assabet River in Hudson as well as services to control invasive water chestnut plants in the Assabet River in Hudson. A majority of vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 13 – This article, occurring on the Warrant each year, recommends that \$8,000 be transferred from Free Cash to cover Hudson's share of the ongoing expenses related to invasive weed control on Lake Boon. The Lake Boon Commission was created in 1941 by the State Legislature to regulate recreational activities and the use of motorboats on Lake Boon. Expenses are allocated between Stow and Hudson, with Stow responsible for 2/3rds and Hudson responsible for 1/3rd. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for the passage of this article.

Article 14 – This article recommends that \$600,000 be transferred for the design, permitting, and construction of extraordinary repairs to one of the two sewer force mains in the vicinity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant that failed earlier in the spring. Temporary repairs have re-routed sewer flow from the failed main to the functioning main. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient funds in Sewer Retained Earnings to cover this expense. However, these funds were not certified as of the date the Warrant was posted. As a contingency, the Stabilization Fund was added as a possible additional funding source in the wording of the article. This article will require a substitute motion on the floor of Town Meeting to specify the funding source.

Article 15 – This article is a citizen's petition. Because Free Cash was not available as a funding source for the May 5th Annual Town Meeting, the petitioners collected the required 100 signatures to certify this article for placement on the Warrant for the June 16th Special Town Meeting.

cc: Select Board
 Finance Committee
 All Departments
 Interested Parties