

# Special Town Meeting

# WARRANT



**Town of Hudson**  
**Monday, November 17, 2025**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Report and Recommendations**

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## Finance Committee

To the residents of the Town of Hudson,

Per the authority vested in the Finance Committee according to Massachusetts General Laws (“M.G.L.”), Chapter 39, Section 16, the Town of Hudson Municipal Charter, and the Town of Hudson General Bylaws, the Committee makes the following report for the Articles included in the Warrant for the Town of Hudson Special Town Meeting on November 17, 2025 based upon consideration of the Articles at public hearings with the sponsors and/or petitioners. Please note the following.

### Article 1 – Prior Year Bills

M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 64, requires that a bill from a prior year, that is, an invoice received after the Town *closes* its books for the fiscal year, must be presented to Town Meeting for authorization to pay with current year funds. Vendors submitted invoices totaling \$15,218.91 after the Town closed its books for FY25. The appropriation will be funded from the Stabilization Fund. A 9/10 vote is required for passage per Section 64.<sup>1</sup> (This is in addition to the amount approved at the September 15, 2025 Special Town Meeting, Warrant Article 1.)

### Article 2 – FY26 Operating Budget Adjustments

This Article authorizes additional taxation and the transfer of available funds from the Treasury in the amount of **\$694,682.00** to cover the cost of 1) additional, unanticipated health insurance premium increases totaling **\$138,438.00** and 2) bond interest payments totaling **\$556,244** related to previously authorized and issued debt for the new DPW facility, which is being constructed ahead of schedule. See attached memorandum to the Finance Committee from Town Manager Thomas Gregory dated October 21, 2025 regarding “Article 2 – Proposed Adjustments to FY2026 Operating Budget” and c.f., Town of Hudson May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article 4, line item 49, “Group Health Ins.,” (specifically, account 9140 – Group Health Insurance, item 0329 – “Group Health & Life”), and line item 47, “Debt Service,” respectively.

### Article 3 – Gates Pond Landfill

This is a request to conduct a Phase 1 Initial Site Assessment related to determining corrective actions necessary to bring the closed, capped landfill located at 172 Gates Pond Road, Berlin (a Town of Hudson property) into compliance with mandatory MassDEP regulations and avoid MassDEP fines. This is Phase 1 of 3. The Board of Health currently expects that the total cost of all three phases will be **\$475,000.00**, which excludes undetermined, life cycle maintenance costs.

### Article 4 – Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds

Per M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5. No additional comments.

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<sup>1</sup> Note, only a 2/3 vote is required to approve appropriations from the Stabilization Fund.

Article 5 – Amend General By-Laws: Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction By-Law

No comments as there is no known financial impact to the Town of Hudson from this proposal.

Article 6 – Amend General Bylaws: Internal Traffic Committee

This amendment merely formalizes an existing ad-hoc committee.

**The Finance Committee:**

*Sam Calandra, Chairman*

*Guy Beaudette, Herman Kabakoff*

*Steve Forti, Meagan Schermerhorn*

*Joseph McNealy, Dr. Daniel DuBreuil,*

*Claudinor Salomão*

TOWN WARRANT  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Middlesex, ss.

To any of the constables of the Town of Hudson in the County of Middlesex,  
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to  
notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hudson, qualified to vote in elections and on  
Town affairs, to assemble in the Hudson High School, 69 Brigham Street, in said Town on

MONDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF

NOVEMBER, 2025

at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. Then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

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**ARTICLE 1 Prior Years Bills**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,218.91 for the purpose of paying prior year bills for costs incurred in previous fiscal years per General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 64, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 1: The Finance Committee voted 6-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.**

**ARTICLE 2 FY2026 Operating Budget Adjustments**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 4 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting (May 5, 2025), which Article contains the appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by seeing if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury to supplement appropriations under the Annual Town Meeting Omnibus Budget Article 4; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 2: The Finance Committee has deferred action on this article until Town Meeting.**

**ARTICLE 3 Gates Pond Landfill**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$25,000 for the purpose of designing, permitting, and constructing site improvements to the cap of the closed Gates Pond Landfill, to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from the Stabilization Fund, said sum to be spent under the direction of the Public Health Director; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager  
Public Health Director  
Select Board

**Article 3: The Finance Committee voted 6-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.**

**ARTICLE 4 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Community Preservation** available funds the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for community preservation projects in fiscal year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

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- \$ 100,000** From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust for Housing Preservation;
- \$ 65,000** From the Undesignated Fund Balance to the Health Department for Housing Crisis Prevention;
- \$ 22,000** From the Historic Preservation Fund Balance to the Historic Commission for the Taylor Memorial Bridge Engineering Survey;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

***Article 4: The Finance Committee voted 6-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.***

***ARTICLE 5 Amend General By-Laws: Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction By-Law***

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws, Article XIII – Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction By-Law, Section 3.1(b) Regulated Conduct, as follows (additions shown in bold, deletions shown as strikeouts):

3.1. After January 1, 2026, Food Establishments in the Town of Hudson may not:

- a. use, sell, or otherwise distribute Disposable Food Service Ware, **which includes Disposable Plastic Utensils**; or
- b. provide a ~~Disposable Plastic Utensil or single-use condiment container~~ **Compostable and Biodegradable Food Service Ware or single-use condiments to** a customer, except upon that customer's specific request for such items or if the item is selected by a customer from a self-service dispenser.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Health

***Article 5: The Finance Committee voted 5-1-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.***

***ARTICLE 6 Amend General By-Laws: Internal Traffic Committee***

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article I, Section 8.0 of the General By-laws entitled "Public Works Services Group" by inserting the following new subsection:

**8.7 Internal Traffic Committee**

- (a) Term of Office. There shall be an Internal Traffic Committee composed of the following five (5) municipal department heads: Building Commissioner, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, and the Director of Planning and Community Development.

- (b) Powers and Duties. The Internal Traffic Committee shall review and discuss concerns relative to traffic control devices, parking, and other transportation-related issues impacting roadways under the jurisdiction of the Town of Hudson including the regulation and control of traffic flow; the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices; the installation and maintenance of traffic calming devices; and, parking management and regulations. The Internal Traffic Committee shall, from time to time, furnish to the Select Board recommendations for amendments to the Traffic Rules and Orders, and shall furnish advisory opinions to the Select Board on transportation-related matters when requested.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager  
Select Board

***Article 6: The Finance Committee voted 6-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.***



And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up copies attested by you in the following places: one at the Post Office, one at the Town House, one at the Office of the Town Clerk, and in six other public places in said Town, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting and by publication in a newspaper published in said Town.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 6th day of October signed by the Select Board in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Duplisea, Chairman

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Judy Congdon, Vice Chairman

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Steven C. Sharek, Clerk

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Diane G. Bemis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lauren A. DuBreuil

**INTRODUCTION TO TOWN MEETING**

The Town Meeting is a deliberative assembly, charged with considering a number of questions of varying complexity in a reasonable period of time, and with full regard to the rights of the majority.

**AUTHORITY**

The three elements of authority at Town Meeting are a quorum of 50 registered voters or more, the Moderator and the Town Clerk. The Moderator presides at and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and makes declarations of all votes. No one may speak on an issue without being recognized by the Moderator. It is his responsibility to approve the distribution of materials, and persons wishing to do so must seek his permission. The Moderator appoints Tellers and alternates for the purpose of counting votes of the meeting.

**THE WARRANT:** All matters to be considered at Town Meeting must be published in the Town Meeting Warrant, which is the responsibility of the Select Board. The Finance Committee reviews the warrant, making recommendations on items of business to be presented. In accordance with the By-Laws, all articles in the Warrant are considered in the order in which they appear in the Warrant, unless the Town Meeting votes otherwise, after reasons have been stated. The Moderator has full discretion to decide whether or not the motion to change the order of articles will be entertained.

**PARTICIPATION:** All remarks should be limited to the subject then under discussion. It is improper to indulge in references to personalities. The Moderator may request any person to keep silent. If after warning from the Moderator, a person refuses to be silent or persists in other disorderly behavior, the Moderator may order a person to withdraw and if he fails to withdraw, may order a police officer to remove such person from the Meeting. Each individual who speaks to the Meeting should make an effort to be as brief as possible out of consideration for others attending the Meeting and the need to give adequate time to all matters coming before it.

**CLASSIFIED MOTIONS:** Pursuant to section 8 of article II of the By-Laws of the Town of Hudson, when a question comes before Town Meeting certain motions shall be received and have precedence in the following order:

**PRIVILEGED MOTIONS:** These are motions that have no connection with the main motion before the Town Meeting, but are motions of such importance that they are entitled to immediate consideration. These motions have the privilege of temporarily setting aside the main business before the Town Meeting.

**TO ADJOURN** (decided without debate); **TO FIX THE TIME FOR ADJOURNMENT**; **SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS:** These are motions that are used to modify or dispose of the main motion being considered. Their existence as motions depend on the main motion to which they are subordinate; **TO LAY ON THE TABLE** (decided without debate);

**FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION** (decided without debate); **TO COMMIT**; **TO AMEND**; **TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY**

All motions may be withdrawn by the maker if no objection is made.

**INFORMATION ON MOTIONS:** A motion is the means of bringing a proposal or question before the Meeting for consideration. When put forward it is a motion; after is seconded and acknowledged by the Moderator, it becomes the question or proposal; and if it is approved by the Meeting, it becomes a resolution. Generally, no motion shall be entertained unless the subject is contained within a warrant article. The Moderator shall determine whether a motion is within the "scope of the article," that is, whether the warrant gives adequate notice that the action proposed by the motion might be taken at the Meeting. Articles only give notice and do not initiate action; motions do. Motions may be withdrawn; articles may not be.

Some motions avoid a final determination by the Meeting. A motion to commit or refer sends the matter to an existing board or committee or one to be established. The motion to postpone indefinitely disposes of the question without bringing it to a direct vote. The motion to postpone indefinitely should not be confused with the motion to lie on the table which only temporarily delays a vote.

Pursuant to article II, section 3 of the Town of Hudson By-Laws, no vote of Town Meeting shall be reconsidered except upon notice by an individual who voted with the majority thereon given within one hour of

such vote at the same or succeeding session. If the individual who gives notice does not immediately make such motion, then a motion to reconsider may be made by another individual voter who voted with the majority.

Pursuant to section 4 of article II, no article in the Warrant shall be again taken into consideration after disposed of unless ordered by a vote of two-thirds of the voters present and voting. Pursuant to section 5 of article II, no voter shall speak more than twice upon any question without obtaining leave of Town Meeting neither except to correct an error or explain a point, nor until all other individuals who have not spoken and so desire have been given the opportunity to speak. Pursuant to section 6 of article II, all motions must be reduced to writing before being submitted to the Town Meeting if required by the Moderator.

Pursuant to section 9 of article II, a motion to receive the report of a committee shall put the report before Town Meeting but not discharge the committee. A vote to accept or adopt such report with or without amendment shall discharge the committee.

Pursuant to section 10 of article II, a 150-voter quorum is required to conduct business at Town Meeting. However, no quorum is needed for a motion to adjourn.

Pursuant to section 11 of article II, articles in a warrant shall be considered in order, except that the Moderator upon request and for reasons stated, may entertain a motion to consider an article out of regular order.

Pursuant to section 12 of article II and in addition to the authority already specified above, the Moderator may administer the oath of office to a town officer chosen at Town Meeting. If a vote declared by the Moderator is immediately questioned by seven or more voters, then the Moderator must verify the vote by polling voters or dividing the Town Meeting. If a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required by State Statute, the count shall be taken and the vote recorded by the Town Clerk. However, if the vote is declared to be unanimous, a count is not needed and the Town Clerk shall record the vote as unanimous unless immediately questioned by seven or more voters.

#### **TOWN FINANCE TERMINOLOGY**

The following terms are used from time to time in the Annual Report and Town Meeting. In order to provide everyone with a better understanding of the meaning, the following definitions are offered:

**SURPLUS REVENUE:** (Sometimes referred to as Excess and Deficiency Account). This fund is the amount by which the Cash, Accounts Receivable, and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves.

**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** (Often called "Free Cash") This fund represents the amount of money remaining after deducting from the Surplus Revenue all uncollected taxes for prior years, taxes in litigation and court judgments. This fund is certified annually by the State Bureau of Accounts and may be used to defray town costs by a vote of the Town Meeting.

**OVERLAY:** The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges for the purpose of creating a fund to cover tax abatements and exemptions granted and to avoid fractions in the tax rate.

**RESERVE FUND:** This is a fund established by the voters at the annual town meeting and may consist of direct appropriations or transfers. Transfers from the Reserve Fund are initiated by the Town Manager and require the approval of the Finance Committee. The use of the Reserve Fund is restricted to "extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures".