

# **Annual Town Meeting WARRANT TOWN OF HUDSON**



**MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**

**Finance Committee  
Report and Recommendations**

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**Finance Committee Preamble**

To the residents of the Town of Hudson,

Per the authority vested in the Finance Committee according to 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 Town of Hudson, May 6, 2024, Annual Town Meeting Warrant based upon consideration of the Articles at public hearings with the sponsors and/or petitioners.

The FY25 budget represents level funding for municipal services with no additional municipal personnel and no additional borrowing authorizations. FY25 state aid increased only a nominal amount and net education aid decreased. Town appropriation for Hudson Public Schools (HPS) represents a 2.25% increase. Per the HPS FY25 Annual Budget, the School Department continues to face a number of significant financial challenges and for FY25 was required to balance the school budget using \$2.8M from School Choice reserve revenue. This revenue will be unavailable in FY26 to balance the school budget and will present significant challenges to the School Department and the Town in FY26.

The following are additional comments specific to some of the warrant articles.

Article 3, FY2025 Budget

The Committee has voted to recommend each of the line items of Article 3 for the amounts requested.

Article 4, Fire Engine Borrowing Rescission

The Fire Engine approved under Article 5 of the November 20, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant will now be paid for from Free Cash.

Article 6, Lease-Purchase Financing Agreement Authorization – Vactor Truck

To replace the Vactor truck damaged during the DPW fire on February 24, 2024.

Article 7, Authorization to Appropriate from Insurance Recovery Account

Some of the insurance proceeds from the DPW fire on February 24, 2024 will be used to fund the Vactor truck in Article 6.

Article 8, Public Works Stabilization Fund – Transfer of Funds

The DPW stabilization fund captures unexpended DPW funds to use for periodic DPW capital expenses.

Article 9, Water Enterprise Fund

Paid for entirely by the revenue collected by the Water Department.

Article 10, Sewer Enterprise Fund

Paid for entirely by the revenue collected by the Sewer Department.

Article 11, Stormwater Enterprise Fund

Paid for entirely by the revenue collected by the Stormwater Department.

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Article 14, Establish Stabilization Fund – Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical

This fund captures unexpended school funds to use for periodic school capital expenses.

Article 19, Fund Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

No action taken because the sponsors decided to not fund the OPEB trust fund.

Article 28, Water Department Vactor Truck – Borrowing

This is a companion article to Article 6 and is to replace the Vactor truck damaged during the DPW fire on February 24, 2024.

Article 33, Acquire Drainage Easement: 106 Park Street

The Town does not incur any cost from this article.

Article 34, Acquire Drainage Easements: 108 Park Street

The Town does not incur any cost from this article.

Article 35, Acquire & Extinguish Permanent & Temporary Easements Over Main Street

The Town does not incur any cost from this article.

Article 37, Petitioned Article: Become an MBTA Community

The Committee does not recommend this article because the Town of Hudson is not considered an MBTA Community by statute. If the Town were to approve this article, then it would be subject to a yearly assessment from the MBTA, estimated to be hundreds of thousands of dollars, without receiving any benefit in return. Furthermore, as an “adjacent community”, the Town would be subject to MBTA Communities compliance requirements as set forth by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), including costly and restrictive zoning requirements. There are no means by which the Town could rescind becoming an MBTA community.

Article 38, Petitioned Article: Disposition of Real Property

The Committee does not recommend this article because it is an attempt to bring the Town into unnecessary and costly conflict with the MBTA regarding the ownership of this parcel.

Article 39, Petitioned Article: Disposition of Real Property

The Committee does not recommend this article because it is an attempt to bring the Town into unnecessary and costly conflict with the MBTA regarding the ownership of this parcel.

Article 40, Petitioned Article: Lease of Real Property

The Committee does not recommend this article because it is an attempt to bring the Town into unnecessary and costly conflict with the MBTA regarding the ownership of this parcel.

Article 41, Petitioned Article: Lease of Real Property

The Committee does not recommend this article because it is an attempt to bring the Town into unnecessary and costly conflict with the MBTA regarding the ownership of this parcel.

**The Finance Committee:**

*Sam Calandra, Chairman*

*Eugenia Vineyard, Vice Chair*

*Guy Beaudette*

*Robert Clark*

*Joseph Fiorello*

*Steve Forti*

*Jillian Jagling*

*Joseph McNealy*

*Claudinor Salomão*

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ARTICLE 1 PRIOR YEARS BILLS ..... 8

ARTICLE 2 YEAR-END TRANSFER OF FUNDS ..... 8

ARTICLE 3 FY2025 BUDGET ..... 8

ARTICLE 4 FIRE ENGINE BORROWING RESCISSION ..... 11

ARTICLE 5 CAPITAL PLAN – GENERAL FUND ..... 11

ARTICLE 6 LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING AGREEMENT AUTHORIZATION – VACTOR TRUCK  
12

ARTICLE 7 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE FROM INSURANCE RECOVERY ACCOUNT .. 13

ARTICLE 8 PUBLIC WORKS STABILIZATION FUND – TRANSFER OF FUNDS ..... 13

ARTICLE 9 WATER ENTERPRISE FUND ..... 13

ARTICLE 10 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND..... 14

ARTICLE 11 STORM WATER ENTERPRISE FUND ..... 15

ARTICLE 12 TRANSFER FUNDS FOR FIRE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING RENOVATIONS..... 15

ARTICLE 13 LOCAL OPTION TAX ABATEMENTS ..... 16

ARTICLE 14 ESTABLISH STABILIZATION FUND – ASSABET VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL  
TECHNICAL 16

ARTICLE 15 PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED BUDGET ..... 17

ARTICLE 16 FUND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ..... 17

ARTICLE 17 FUND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE TRUST FUND..... 17

ARTICLE 18 FUND GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND ..... 18

ARTICLE 19 FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (OPEB) LIABILITY TRUST FUND ..... 18

ARTICLE 20 THE RESERVE FUND ..... 18

ARTICLE 21 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION RESERVATION OF FUNDS..... 18

ARTICLE 22 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS ..... 19

ARTICLE 23 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TRANSFER TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING ..... 19

ARTICLE 24 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS – CENTENNIAL BEACH  
DEBT SERVICE..... 20

ARTICLE 25 JOINT DISPATCH OFFSET RECEIPTS ..... 20

ARTICLE 26 LAKE BOON WATER QUALITY REMEDIATION..... 20

ARTICLE 27 ASSABET RIVER WATER QUALITY MONITORING..... 20

ARTICLE 28 WATER DEPARTMENT VACTOR TRUCK – BORROWING..... 21

ARTICLE 29 DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS ..... 21

ARTICLE 30 LIGHT AND POWER SURPLUS ACCOUNT..... 22

ARTICLE 31 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS ..... 23

ARTICLE 32 WASTE WATER PLANT (CONTRACT OPERATION) FIVE YEARS ..... 23

ARTICLE 33 ACQUIRE DRAINAGE EASEMENT: 106 PARK STREET..... 23

ARTICLE 34 ACQUIRE DRAINAGE EASEMENTS: 108 PARK STREET ..... 24

---

<b>ARTICLE 35</b>	<b>ACQUIRE &amp; EXTINGUISH PERMANENT &amp; TEMPORARY EASEMENTS OVER MAIN STREET</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ARTICLE 36</b>	<b>PETITIONED ARTICLE: ADDICTIONS REFERRAL CENTER .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ARTICLE 37</b>	<b>PETITIONED ARTICLE: BECOME AN MBTA COMMUNITY.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ARTICLE 38</b>	<b>PETITIONED ARTICLE: DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>ARTICLE 39</b>	<b>PETITIONED ARTICLE: DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>ARTICLE 40</b>	<b>PETITIONED ARTICLE: LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>ARTICLE 41</b>	<b>PETITIONED ARTICLE: LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>28</b>

**TOWN WARRANT**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Middlesex, ss.**

To either 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 in  
Town affairs, to assemble in the Hudson High School, Brigham Street, in said Town on

**MONDAY, the Sixth day of**

**MAY**

**in the year 2024**

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 transfer \$1,605.14 from previously certified and available Free Cash for the purpose of paying prior year bills for costs incurred in previous fiscal years per General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 64; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 1: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 2 Year-End Transfer of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from previously certified and available Free Cash and appropriate said sum to various departmental appropriations for Fiscal 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 2: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 3 FY2025 Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and raise and appropriate or take from available funds a sum of money therefore to provide funds needed to defray the usual and necessary expense of the Town for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025; and raise and appropriate the money needed to carry into effect the provisions of this article, or take any action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 3: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**



Department		FY22 <u>Actual</u>	FY23 <u>Actual</u>	FY24 <u>BUDGET</u>	FY25 – Executive Asst. <u>Request</u>	FY25 – Select Board <u>Recommend</u>	FY25- Fin Com <u>Recommend</u>
1	Select Board Personnel	8,850	9,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
2	Select Board Expenses	4,761	4,563	4,850	4,850	4,850	4,850
<b>Select Board Total</b>		<b>13,611</b>	<b>13,563</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>17,850</b>
3	Executive Assistant Personnel	326,116	344,811	353,421	365,777	365,777	365,777
4	Executive Assistant Expenses	5,373	5,552	5,863	5,863	5,863	5,863
5	Election & Town Meeting Personnel	10,085	40,790	36,021	53,339	53,339	53,339
6	Election & Town Meeting Expenses	17,171	23,039	19,900	20,225	20,225	20,225
7	Community Development Personnel	238,286	231,367	276,791	296,691	296,691	296,691
8	Community Development Expenses	11,885	19,294	19,700	21,200	21,200	21,200
9	Legal Services Expenses	254,507	270,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
10	Building Maintenance Personnel	59,868	91,786	0	0	0	0
11	Town Hall Expenses Expenses	219,991	202,479	74,808	73,481	73,481	73,481
12	Personnel Expense Expenses	12,568	14,959	16,260	16,260	16,260	16,260
<b>Exe. Assistant Total</b>		<b>1,155,851</b>	<b>1,244,079</b>	<b>1,052,764</b>	<b>1,102,836</b>	<b>1,102,836</b>	<b>1,102,836</b>
13	Finance Department Personnel	600,894	720,498	888,401	697,864	697,864	697,864
14	Finance Department Expenses	157,105	155,074	281,075	157,075	157,075	157,075
<b>Finance Dept. Total</b>		<b>757,999</b>	<b>875,572</b>	<b>1,169,476</b>	<b>854,939</b>	<b>854,939</b>	<b>854,939</b>
15	IT Department Personnel	0	0	0	261,244	261,244	261,244
16	IT Department Expenses	0	0	0	358,281	358,281	358,281
<b>IT Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>619,526</b>	<b>619,526</b>	<b>619,526</b>
17	Clerk/Registrar Personnel	159,674	158,563	167,358	183,730	183,730	183,730
18	Town Clerk Expenses	12,669	14,553	15,943	16,525	16,525	16,525
<b>Town Clerk Total</b>		<b>172,343</b>	<b>173,116</b>	<b>183,301</b>	<b>200,255</b>	<b>200,255</b>	<b>200,255</b>
19	Moderator Expenses	110	110	110	110	110	110
20	Finance Committee Expenses	245	0	603	603	603	603
21	Board of Assessors Personnel	30,793	30,904	31,522	32,152	32,152	32,152
22	Board of Assessors Expenses	48,677	59,275	95,750	119,350	119,350	119,350
23	Municipal Light Board Personnel	3,300	3,900	3,600	3,900	3,900	3,900
24	Fort Meadow Comm. Expenses	5,700	4,678	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
25	Lake Boon Comm. Expenses	0	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
26	Historical District Comm. Expenses	750	750	784	784	784	784
<b>Board &amp; Com Total</b>		<b>89,575</b>	<b>102,815</b>	<b>143,769</b>	<b>168,299</b>	<b>168,299</b>	<b>168,299</b>
27	Police Department Personnel	3,397,952	3,736,680	4,184,941	4,397,149	4,397,149	4,397,149
28	Police Department Expenses	441,041	575,757	592,974	611,072	611,072	611,072
<b>Police Dept. Total</b>		<b>3,838,993</b>	<b>4,312,437</b>	<b>4,777,915</b>	<b>5,008,221</b>	<b>5,008,221</b>	<b>5,008,221</b>

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY22 Actual</u>	<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY25 - Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY25 - Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY25 - Fin Com Recommend</u>
29 Fire Department	Personnel	3,365,902	3,528,756	3,827,979	3,921,482	3,921,482	3,921,482
30 Fire Department	Expenses	384,759	389,248	422,783	463,210	463,210	463,210
<b>Fire Dept. Total</b>		<b>3,750,661</b>	<b>3,918,004</b>	<b>4,250,762</b>	<b>4,384,692</b>	<b>4,384,692</b>	<b>4,384,692</b>
31 Inspections Dept.	Personnel	181,614	207,755	306,660	314,685	314,685	314,685
32 Inspections Dept.	Expenses	8,048	17,436	12,359	16,336	16,336	16,336
<b>Insp. Dept. Total</b>		<b>189,662</b>	<b>225,191</b>	<b>319,019</b>	<b>331,021</b>	<b>331,021</b>	<b>331,021</b>
33 DPW Snow & Ice	Personnel	179,736	81,853	138,763	141,795	141,795	141,795
34 DPW Snow & Ice	Expenses	511,113	360,395	212,700	212,700	212,700	212,700
35 Public Works	Personnel	1,334,817	1,317,535	2,371,104	2,416,451	2,416,451	2,416,451
36 Public Works	Expenses	579,118	553,625	1,182,650	1,313,750	1,313,750	1,313,750
<b>DPW Total</b>		<b>2,604,784</b>	<b>2,313,408</b>	<b>3,905,217</b>	<b>4,084,696</b>	<b>4,084,696</b>	<b>4,084,696</b>
37 Board of Health	Personnel	183,162	142,612	189,901	229,141	229,141	229,141
38 Board of Health	Expenses	24,091	23,828	21,270	16,470	16,470	16,470
<b>BOH Total</b>		<b>207,253</b>	<b>166,440</b>	<b>211,171</b>	<b>245,611</b>	<b>245,611</b>	<b>245,611</b>
39 Council on Aging	Personnel	273,548	282,617	301,481	314,126	314,126	314,126
40 Council on Aging	Expenses	32,355	34,554	39,418	35,800	35,800	35,800
<b>COA Total</b>		<b>305,903</b>	<b>317,171</b>	<b>340,899</b>	<b>349,926</b>	<b>349,926</b>	<b>349,926</b>
41 Veterans' Services	Personnel	73,060	74,469	75,628	82,422	82,422	82,422
42 Veterans' Services	Expenses	69,464	55,099	78,000	68,000	68,000	68,000
<b>Veterans' Total</b>		<b>142,524</b>	<b>129,568</b>	<b>153,628</b>	<b>150,422</b>	<b>150,422</b>	<b>150,422</b>
43 Library	Personnel	503,035	605,167	662,391	706,730	701,730	701,730
44 Library	Expenses	211,098	230,995	226,628	243,884	243,884	243,884
<b>Library Dept. Total</b>		<b>714,133</b>	<b>836,162</b>	<b>889,019</b>	<b>945,614</b>	<b>945,614</b>	<b>945,614</b>
45 Recreation	Personnel	322,983	316,312	382,364	397,402	397,402	397,402
46 Recreation	Expenses	67,272	64,186	72,960	74,054	74,054	74,054
<b>Recreation Dept. Total</b>		<b>390,255</b>	<b>380,498</b>	<b>455,324</b>	<b>471,456</b>	<b>471,456</b>	<b>471,456</b>
47 Debt Service	Expenses	7,199,551	7,097,897	4,554,074	4,711,906	4,711,906	4,711,906
<b>Debt Total</b>		<b>7,199,551</b>	<b>7,097,897</b>	<b>4,554,074</b>	<b>4,711,906</b>	<b>4,711,906</b>	<b>4,711,906</b>
48 Pensions	Expenses	6,383,857	6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,920,764	7,920,764 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Pension Total</b>		<b>6,383,857</b>	<b>6,794,331</b>	<b>7,443,000</b>	<b>7,920,764</b>	<b>7,920,764</b>	<b>7,920,764</b>
49 Group Health Ins.	Expenses	5,263,971	4,655,827	6,220,600	6,336,512	6,336,512	6,336,512
50 General Insurance	Expenses	421,514	580,184	473,337	594,457	594,457	594,457
<b>Insurance Total</b>		<b>5,685,485</b>	<b>5,236,012</b>	<b>6,693,937</b>	<b>6,930,969</b>	<b>6,930,969</b>	<b>6,930,969</b>

<sup>1</sup> Recommend that \$225,000 be taken from Light & Power Surplus Account and be applied to Line 48, Contributory Retirement and Pensions.

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY25</u>
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>Exec. Asst.</u>	<u>Select Board</u>	<u>FinCom</u>
					<u>Request</u>	<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Recommend</u>
51 Assabet Valley	Expenses	3,185,718	3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,331,679	3,331,679
<b>Assabet Valley Total</b>		<b>3,185,718</b>	<b>3,178,596</b>	<b>3,301,238</b>	<b>3,331,679</b>	<b>3,331,679</b>	<b>3,331,679</b>
52 Hudson Schools	Personnel	32,944,987	33,524,361	35,055,340	35,864,710	35,864,710	35,864,710
53 Hudson Schools	Expenses	5,548,829	7,202,731	6,000,000	6,120,000	6,120,000	6,120,000
<b>Schools Total</b>		<b>38,493,816</b>	<b>40,727,091</b>	<b>41,005,340</b>	<b>41,984,710</b>	<b>41,984,710</b>	<b>41,984,710</b>
54 Schools Transportation	Expenses	2,043,825	1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	2,295,000	2,295,000
<b>Transportation Total</b>		<b>2,043,825</b>	<b>1,850,645</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>2,295,000</b>	<b>2,295,000</b>	<b>2,295,000</b>
<b>Hudson Schools Total</b>		<b>40,537,641</b>	<b>42,577,737</b>	<b>43,305,340</b>	<b>44,279,710</b>	<b>44,279,710</b>	<b>44,279,710</b>
<b>Total Operations</b>		<b>77,325,798</b>	<b>79,893,088</b>	<b>83,167,703</b>	<b>86,110,392</b>	<b>86,110,392</b>	<b>86,110,392</b>

**ARTICLE 4 Fire Engine Borrowing Rescission**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unissued borrowing authorization of \$975,950 for the Fire Engine approved under Article 5 of the November 20, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
 Finance Director  
 Select Board

**Article 4: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 5 Capital Plan – General Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$3,142,450 from previously certified and available Free Cash to purchase items of equipment and make capital improvements requested by the various departments, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant, Director of Public Works, Finance Director, Library Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Director of Recreation/Park Commission, Select Board

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>	<b>Source of Funds:</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	Roadway Resurface	\$300,000	Free Cash
	Traffic Study (Main/Lewis)	\$18,500	Free Cash
	<b>Public Works Total:</b>	<b>\$318,500</b>	
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	NFPA Certified Turnout Gear	\$200,000	Free Cash
	Breathing Air Compressor	\$80,000	Free Cash
	Station #1 Renovations	\$400,000	Free Cash
	Fire Engine	\$975,950	Free Cash
	<b>Fire Dept. Total:</b>	<b>\$1,655,950</b>	
<b>Library</b>	Design Funds – (MBLC Grant Requirement)	\$150,000	Free Cash
	<b>Library Total:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	
<b>Police</b>	Police Cruisers / Vehicles	\$215,000	Free Cash
	Computer Workstations & Monitors	\$168,000	Free Cash
	<b>Police Total:</b>	<b>\$383,000</b>	
<b>Recreation</b>	Rimkus Clubhouse Roof Replacement	\$35,000	Free Cash
	<b>Recreation Total:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	
<b>School</b>	Modular Classrooms	\$480,000	Free Cash
	HHS Gym Repairs	\$120,000	Free Cash
	<b>School Total:</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	
	<b>Grant Total Capital Plan:</b>	<b>\$3,142,450</b>	

Executive Assistant, Public Works  
 Director, Finance Director, Library  
 Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief,  
 Recreation Director, School  
 Superintendent, Select Board

**Article 5: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 6-1-0**

**ARTICLE 6 Lease-Purchase Financing Agreement Authorization – Vactor Truck**

To see if the Town will authorize, under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 21C, upon the recommendation of the Select Board, a lease-purchase financing agreement for the acquisition of a Vactor Truck for the Water Department, the term of such agreement not to exceed the useful life of the equipment as determined by the Select Board, and the Public Works Department shall be authorized to enter into such agreement on behalf of the

Town, subject to approval of an appropriation for the first-year payments; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Director of Public Works  
Select Board

**Article 6: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 7 Authorization to Appropriate from Insurance Recovery Account**

To see if the Town will authorize the Executive Assistant with the approval of the Director of the Department of Public Works to expend a sum or sums of money from the insurance proceeds received by the Town for the purpose of restoring and/or replacing property, vehicles, and equipment damaged as a result of a fire which occurred on February 14, 2024 at the DPW Garage; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Director of Public Works  
Select Board

**Article 7: The Finance Committee has deferred action on this article until Town Meeting.**

**ARTICLE 8 Public Works Stabilization Fund – Transfer of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Department of Public Works Stabilization Fund the sum \$69,000 for the acquisition of computer equipment by the Executive Assistant for the Department of Public Works, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Director of Public Works  
Select Board

**Article 8: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 9 Water Enterprise Fund**

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$4,871,997 for use of the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2025, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Water Enterprise Fund collected by the Water Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$945,212
Expenses	\$1,901,500
Indirect Costs	\$903,727

Debt Service Costs	\$1,121,558
TOTAL	\$4,871,997

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2025 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2025 at \$903,727; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2025 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
 Finance Director  
 DPW Director  
 Select Board

**Article 9: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 10 Sewer Enterprise Fund**

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$6,062,387 for use of the Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2025, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Sewer Enterprise Fund collected by the Sewer Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$782,894
Expenses	\$1,858,100
Indirect Costs	\$848,234
Debt Service Costs	\$2,573,159
TOTAL	\$6,062,387

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2025 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2025 at \$848,234; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2025 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
 Finance Director  
 DPW Director  
 Select Board

**Article 10: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 11 Storm Water Enterprise Fund**

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$1,083,963 for use of the Stormwater Department for Fiscal Year 2025, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund collected by the Stormwater Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$118,754
Expenses	\$663,000
Indirect Costs	\$177,209
Capital Outlay	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$1,083,963

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2025 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2025 at \$177,209; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2025 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
 Finance Director  
 DPW Director  
 Select Board

**Article 11: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 12 Transfer Funds for Fire Headquarters Building Renovations**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from previously certified and available Free Cash a sum of money to fund design, engineering, and construction costs relative to building renovations to Fire Headquarters; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
 Finance Director  
 Select Board

**Article 12: The Finance Committee has deferred action on this article until Town Meeting.**

**ARTICLE 13 Local Option Tax Abatements**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5C½ and to authorize an increase to property tax abatements for service-connected disabled military veterans of Hudson who are currently eligible or will become eligible equal to the amount currently received and established in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 22, 22a, 22b, 22c, 22e, and further, to include non-veterans under Clauses 17D, 37, and 41C, all as shown below;

	Current	Proposed
Clause 22	\$400	\$800
Clause 22a	\$750	\$1,500
Clause 22b	\$1,250	\$2,500
Clause 22c	\$1,500	\$3,000
Clause 22e	\$1,000	\$2,000
17D	\$175	\$350
37	\$437.50	\$875
41C	\$500	\$1,000

provided, further, as required by said Chapter 59, Section 5C ½, that the additional "Proposed" exemptions listed above shall not result in any taxpayer paying less than the taxes paid in the preceding fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Veterans Director  
Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 13: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 6-0-0**

**ARTICLE 14 Establish Stabilization Fund – Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical School Committee’s vote on January 9, 2024, to establish a Stabilization Fund for the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16G½, said Stabilization Fund to be invested and to retain its own interest earnings as provided by law and further set up an operational line item to be created to transfer available monies into said Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Assabet Valley Regional Vocational  
Technical School Committee

**Article 14: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 6-1-0**



**ARTICLE 15 PEG Access and Cable Related Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following expenditures from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F¾:

**HUD Access Television Studio**

HUD-TV Salaries	\$228,478
HUD-TV Operational Expenses	\$72,647

**Town Internet Networking (INET)**

INET Salaries	\$0
INET Operational Expenses	\$131,000

\$432,125

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
School Director of Technology  
Select Board

**Article 15: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 16 Fund Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer the sum of \$25,000 to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to provide for the anticipated costs of funding reimbursements to the Commonwealth for unemployment compensation benefits and administration in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 5E, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 16: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 17 Fund Workers' Compensation Insurance Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$278,000 to the Workers' Compensation Insurance Trust Fund, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from Overlay Surplus for the purpose of paying liabilities relative to workers' compensation insurance, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

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**Article 17: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 18 Fund General Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$605,000 from previously certified and available Free Cash, said sum to be transferred to the General Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 18: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 19 Fund Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from previously certified and available Free Cash to fund the OPEB Liability Trust Fund established under Article 16 of the November 2016 Town Meeting for retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 19: The Finance Committee has no recommendation of the subject matter of this article.**

**ARTICLE 20 The Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures or transfers, to be made to the departments only by vote of the Finance Committee, as provided for in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 6 as amended, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to carry into effect the provisions of this article; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Finance Director  
Select Board

**Article 20: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0**

**ARTICLE 21 Community Preservation Reservation of Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation

Committee for committee administrative expenses and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2025, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2025 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 15,082.62

**Reserves:**

From FY 2025 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$ 75,413.10

From FY 2025 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$ 75,413.10

From FY 2025 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$ 75,413.10

From FY 2025 estimated revenues for Budgeted/General Reserve \$512,809.08

or take any action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

***Article 21: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0***

***ARTICLE 22 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 2025, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

- \$ 30,000** From Historic Preservation Reserve to the Park Commission for Liberty Park Monument Restoration;
- \$214,500** From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Park Commission for Morgan Bowl Bleacher and Facilities Design Services;
- \$ 1,100** From Historic Preservation Reserve to the Historic Commission for additional funds for Historic Signs;
- \$200,000** From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Community Development Department for Matching Funds for Mass Central Rail Trail Design Grant;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

***Article 22: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0***

***ARTICLE 23 Community Preservation Transfer to Affordable Housing***

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer \$75,413.10 from the Community Preservation Reserve for Community Housing fund balance to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Article 23: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 24 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds – Centennial Beach Debt Service**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of \$104,000.00 to pay the annual Centennial Beach Bond debt service recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the beach renovation project; or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**Article 24: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 25 Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$709,512, said sum to be utilized to offset the cost of operating and maintaining a joint Police and Fire dispatch system through June 30, 2025, and such sum to be offset, in the aggregate, by the estimated receipts from public safety fees paid by the Highland Commons Shopping Center, all in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E as authorized in Article 14 of the Town Meeting of May 2, 1988; or take any other action relative thereto.

- Executive Assistant
- Finance Director
- Fire Chief
- Police Chief
- Select Board

**Article 25: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 26 Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from previously certified and available Free Cash the sum of \$16,000 to the budget of the Lake Boon Commission, said sum to be used for invasive weed control on Lake Boon; or take any other action relative thereto.

- Lake Boon Commission
- Executive Assistant

**Article 26: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 27 Assabet River Water Quality Monitoring**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from previously certified and available Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended by the Executive Assistant with the approval of the

Conservation Commission to cover the costs of OARS Inc., for the purpose of water quality monitoring of the Assabet River in Hudson and for the control of invasive water chestnut plants in the Assabet River in Hudson, or take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission  
Executive Assistant

**Article 27: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 6-1-0**

**ARTICLE 28 Water Department Vector Truck – Borrowing**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$675,000) for the purpose of the Executive Assistant, with the approval of the Water Department, purchasing a Vector truck for the Water Department, and to see if the town will vote to meet this appropriation, by authorizing the Treasurer of the Town, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow said \$675,000 pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause 1, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Director of Public Works  
Select Board

**Article 28: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 29 Departmental Revolving Funds Annual Spending Limits**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024, for the Revolving Funds established in the Town by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as follows:

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer</b>	<b>FY2025 Spending Limit</b>
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	\$20,000
Fire Alarm	Fire Chief	\$30,000
Infiltration and Inflow	DPW Director	\$400,000
Inspection Fees	Building Commissioner	\$200,000

School Department Professional Development	Superintendent of Schools	\$20,000
Senior Citizens Programs	Council on Aging	\$75,000
Public Health Inspections	Board of Health	\$75,000
Tobacco Control	Board of Health	\$15,000
Curbside Pick-Up	Department of Public Works	\$875,000
Affordable Housing	Community Development Director	\$60,000
Farmers Market	Board of Health and Conservation Agent	\$20,000
Shared Public Health Services	Board of Health	\$20,000
Vaccination Program	Board of Health	\$20,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant, Fire Chief, Finance Director, DPW Director, Building Commissioner, School Committee, Council on Aging, Board of Health, Community Development Director, Select Board

**Article 29: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 30 Light and Power Surplus Account**

To see if the Town will appropriate the receipts of the Light and Power Department for the operation, maintenance, expenses, repairs and construction for the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as defined in Section 57 and 58, Chapter 164 of the General Laws (1921) of Massachusetts, as thereafter amended, and that if there shall be any unexpended balance as of December 31, 2024, an amount not to exceed \$225,000 of the same shall be transferred to the Light and Power Surplus Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Municipal Light Board  
Executive Assistant

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Select Board

**Article 30: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0**

**ARTICLE 31 Annual Town Reports**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town's Annual Report and file same with the permanent records of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Select Board

**Article 31: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 32 Waste Water Plant (Contract Operation) Five Years**

To See if the Town will vote to authorize the Department of Public Works to enter into any contract for Waste Water Plant Operations (Contract Operations) for a term not to exceed five (5) years, or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant  
Director of Public Works  
Select Board

**Article 32: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 33 Acquire Drainage Easement: 106 Park Street**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain a permanent drainage easement over land in the Town of Hudson, Middlesex County Southern District, Massachusetts situated on the easterly side of Park Street, known as 106 Park Street, being described in a deed to BERARDO MACARI and ANTOINETTE MACARI dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 and recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds at Book 78904, Page 558. Said easement is shown as Drainage Easement 106 on a plan by WSP USA Inc, dated December 13, 2023, to be recorded, and being more particularly described as follows.

Beginning at a point on the easterly sideline of Park Street, on a grid bearing of S 86°31'04" East a distance of 40.90 feet easterly, from a concrete bound found on westerly sideline of Park Street which marks the corners of 95 Park Street and 107 Park Street and the northeasterly corner of an existing Drainage Easement owned by the town of Hudson , and being the northwesterly corner of the easement herein described, thence;

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S 55°44' 14" W along the easterly sideline of Park Street a distance of 12.50 feet to the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Beatrice Sims known as 108 Park Street, and of Drainage Easement 108, thence;

S 84°52'46" E along said Sims land, a distance of 120.00 feet to land now or formerly of Antonio M Nogueira known as 27 Brigham Street, thence;

Through land of the grantor the following

two courses N 64°40'57" W a distance of

51.20 feet to a point, and

N 89°00'10" W, a distance of 72.00 feet to the easterly sideline of Park Street and the Point of Beginning.

Said Drainage Easement 106 containing an area of 1,510 square feet, more or less.

Said easement is shown as Drainage Easement 106 on a plan titled "Plan of Easements to be conveyed to the Town of Hudson over land owned by Beatrice Sims and land owned by Macari Family Revocable Trust, 106 Park Street and 108 Park Street, Hudson, Massachusetts" dated December 13, 2023, by WSP USA Inc, to be recorded in the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds.

Public Works Director  
Select Board

***Article 33: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0***

***ARTICLE 34 Acquire Drainage Easements: 108 Park Street***

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain certain permanent and temporary easements over land in the Town of Hudson, Middlesex County Southern District, Massachusetts situated on the northerly side of Bigham Street and the easterly side of Park Street, known as 108 Park Street, being described in a deed to BEATRICE SIMS dated the 9th of April 2021 and recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds at Book 77513, Page 411. Said easements are shown as Permanent Drainage Easement 108 and two Temporary Easements on a plan by WSP USA Inc, dated December 13, 2023, to be recorded, and being more particularly described as follows.

Permanent Drainage Easement 108. Commencing at a point on the southeasterly corner of land of said Sims and the northerly sideline of Brigham Street, said point located on a grid bearing of S 54°14'49" W at a distance of 37.00 feet from a concrete bound found on northerly sideline of Brigham Street which marks the



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corners of 25 Brigham Street and 27 Brigham Street, and also being the southeasterly corner of the easement herein described, thence:

S 54°14'49" W along the northerly sideline of Brigham Street a distance of 18.24 feet to a point, thence;

S 54°14'49" W along the northerly sideline of Brigham Street a distance of 20.14 feet to a point, thence; Through land of the grantor the following three courses

N 42°24'30" W a distance of 29.12 feet to a point,

N 23°08'31" W a distance of 26.47 feet to a point, and

N 89°00'10" W, a distance of 74.22 feet to the easterly sideline of Park Street, thence;

N 55°44'14" E along the easterly sideline of Park Street a distance of 20.00 feet to the northwest corner of said Sims land and the southwest corner of land now or formerly of Berardo and Antoinette Macari known as 106 Park Street, and of Drainage Easement 106, thence;

S 84°52'46" E along said Sims land, a distance of 86.00 feet to a point, thence;

Through land of the grantor the following two courses,

S 23°08'31" E a distance of 35.03 feet to a point, and

S 42°24'30" E, a distance of 28.06 feet to the northerly sideline of Brigham Street and the True Point of Beginning.

Said Drainage Easement 108 containing an area of 2,790 square feet, more or less.

Said easement is shown as Drainage Easement 108 on a plan titled "Plan of Easements to be conveyed to the Town of Hudson over land owned by Beatrice Sims and land owned by Macari Family Revocable Trust, 106 Park Street and 108 Park Street, Hudson, Massachusetts" dated December 13, 2023, by WSP USA Inc, to be recorded in the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds. Also, two Temporary Easements as shown on said WSP Plan containing 583 square feet and 1,372 square feet.

Public Works Director  
Select Board

**Article 34: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 35 Acquire & Extinguish Permanent & Temporary Easements Over Main Street**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to:

(1) acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain permanent and temporary easements over and under the parcel of real property at Main Street, Assessors Map 36, Parcel 73, for the purpose of construction, operation, and maintenance of a storm water drainage system for such water to flow from Lake Boon onto the property identified as Main Street, Assessors Map 36, Parcel 73, and said easement being shown as "Drainage Easement to Town of Hudson 2,602.27 s.f." on a plan entitled "Confirmatory Easement Plan of Land in Hudson, MA, dated November 30, 2023, 1" = 40', drawn by Thomas DiPersio, Jr. & Associates, Inc.," and on file with the Town Engineer;

(2) authorize the Select Board to extinguish any and all of the Town's rights in that easement already owned by the Town and now depicted as "Easement A" on "Easement Plan of Land Main Street in Hudson MA. Scale 1"=40', February 1, 2002 by The BSC Group, Inc." a copy of said plan being on file with the Town Clerk's Office and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds as Plan 1023 of 2002;

(3) to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow pursuant to any applicable statute or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for such purposes; or

(4) to take any other action relative thereto.

Public Works Director  
Select Board

**Article 35: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-0**

**ARTICLE 36 Petitioned Article: Addictions Referral Center**

To see if the Town will vote to take from available funds the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to assist the Addiction Referral Center in Marlborough in its efforts to provide assistance to persons from Hudson and surrounding communities who have problems with alcohol and/or substance use disorder (SUD), said funds to be expended under the direction of the Executive Assistant and the Select Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Tracey Gustafson and Ernie Kapopoulos

**Article 36: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 7-0-1**

**ARTICLE 37 Petitioned Article: Become an MBTA Community**

To see if the Town will vote to place upon the official ballot of a Town of Hudson annual or special town election in 2024 the question "Shall this town be added to the Massachusetts

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Bay Transportation Authority” in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Part I, title XXII, 161A, Section 6; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Brian H. O’Neill, et al.

**Article 37: The Finance Committee does not recommend the subject matter of this article. Vote 0-6-0**

**ARTICLE 38 Petitioned Article: Disposition of Real Property**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale by auction or sealed bids of a parcel of land identified as Parcel 1 on railroad Val plan V5/21 within a section of a railroad right-of-way from station 1053+20 as shown on railroad Val plan V5/21 to station 1106+00 as shown on said plan, described in Section 5 (Central Mass Branch) of an Order of Taking recorded in the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 13156, Page 34; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Brian H. O’Neill, et al.

**Article 38: The Finance Committee does not recommend the subject matter of this article. Vote 0-5-2**

**ARTICLE 39 Petitioned Article: Disposition of Real Property**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale by auction or sealed bids of a parcel of land identified as Parcel 6 on railroad Val plan V5/21 within a section of railroad right-of-way from station 1053+20 as shown on railroad Val plan 5/21 to station 1106+00 as shown on said plan, described in Section 5 (Central Mass Branch) of an Order of Taking recorded in the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 13156, Page 34; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Brian H. O’Neill, et al.

**Article 39: The Finance Committee does not recommend the subject matter of this article. Vote 0-5-2**

**ARTICLE 40 Petitioned Article: Lease of Real Property**

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board as follows: The Select Board are hereby authorized by the inhabitants of the Town of Hudson to lease land on the following municipally owned property: Parcel 1 on railroad Val plan V5/21 within a section of a railroad right-of-way from station 1053+20 as shown on railroad Val plan V5/21 to station 1106+00 as shown on said plan, described in Section 5 (Central Mass Branch) of an Order of Taking recorded in the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 13156, Page 34, and upon such terms and conditions as such Select Board deems advisable in its discretion, as authorized under MGL Chapter 30B Sec. 16; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Brian H. O’Neill, et al.

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**Article 40: The Finance Committee does not recommend the subject matter of this article. Vote 0-5-2**

**ARTICLE 41 Petitioned Article: Lease of Real Property**

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board as follows: The Select Board are hereby authorized by the inhabitants of the Town of Hudson to lease land on the following municipally owned property: Parcel 6 on railroad Val plan V5/21 within a section of a railroad right-of-way from station 1053+20 as shown on railroad Val plan V5/21 to station 1106+00 as shown on said plan, described in Section 5 (Central Mass Branch) of an Order of Talking recorded in the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 13156, Page 34, and upon such terms and conditions as such Select Board deems advisable in its discretion, as authorized under MGL Chapter 30B Sec. 16; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by Brian H. O'Neill, et al.

**Article 41: The Finance Committee does not recommend the subject matter of this article. Vote 0-5-2**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

And you are also directed to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the several designated polling places in their respective precincts in said Hudson, to wit:

- Precinct I & Precinct V Hudson High School, 69 Brigham Street
- Precinct II Glen Road Community Center, 4 Glen Road
- Precinct III & Precinct IV David J. Quinn Middle School, 201 Manning Street
- Precinct VI Auditorium, Town Hall, 78 Main Street

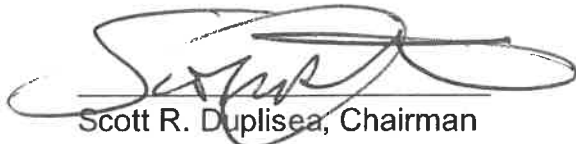
On Monday, May 13, 2024, at seven o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing year:

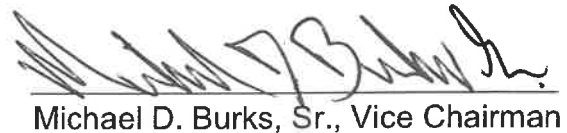
Select Board, two for three years; Moderator, one for one year; School Committee, three for three years;) Trustees of Susan Cox, Joseph S. Bradley, J.J. Angell, Sarah A. Brown, George E.D. and Abigail E. Wilkins, Addie E. Cahill, Helen M. Lewis, Mary E. Tacey, Maude A. Whitney, Clara E. Houghton Funds, and Martin Joseph Moran III, one for three years; Housing Authority one for five years; Municipal Light Board, one for three years; Park Commission, one for three years; Board of Health, one for three years; Library Trustees, one for three years; Planning Board, two for three years; Planning Board, one for one year (to fill a vacancy); Cemetery Commission, one for three years; Constable, one for three years ; Constable, one for two years (to fill a vacancy) and Board of Assessors, one for three years.

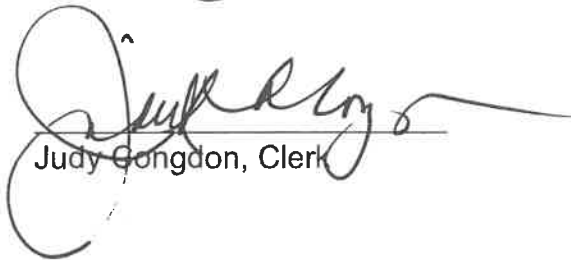
And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up copies attested by you in the following places: one at the Post Office, one at the Town House, one at the Office of the Town Clerk, and in six other public places in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting and by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

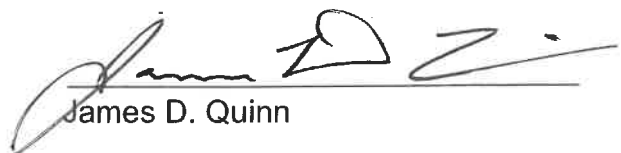
Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

  
Scott R. Duplisea, Chairman

  
Michael D. Burks, Sr., Vice Chairman

  
Judy Gongdon, Clerk

  
James D. Quinn

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**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 150 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, 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 try 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

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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 lay 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 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 Executive Assistant and require the approval of the Finance Committee. The use of the Reserve Fund is restricted to "extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures".