

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



Town of Hudson
78 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
Tel: 978-562-9963
Fax: 978-568-9641
tgregory@townofhudson.org

Town of Hudson

MASSACHUSETTS 01749-2134

To: Select Board
Finance Committee

From: Thomas Gregory

Date: January 13, 2023

Re: Recommendation to Adjust FY2024 Budget Schedule

In a typical year, the Governor releases local aid estimates for the ensuing fiscal year in the third or fourth week in January as part of a recommended state budget. The House and Senate then issue their local aid estimates in April and May, respectively, and in June a Conference Committee composed of three (3) members from each legislative body reconciles differences between the proposals and reports a final compromise bill.

With Governor Healey's inauguration on January 5, 2023, the new administration will need additional time to prepare local aid estimates for FY2024. It has been communicated that the Governor will release her local aid estimates on March 1, 2023. It is unknown at this time whether the delayed issuance of the Governor's estimates will also delay the House and Senate estimates.

Section 6-2 of the Hudson Town Charter requires the Executive Assistant to file with the Select Board and Finance Committee a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year at least one-hundred twenty (120) days prior to the Annual Town Meeting in May. This requirement means a budget must be filed in December each year which is earlier than the traditional date the Governor's local aid estimates are released.

In a typical year, estimating local aid revenue to balance an operating budget is a challenge given the timeline required in the Charter. This situation will be made even more difficult with the delay associated with the release of the Governor's local aid estimates. Additionally, there is the potential that Chapter 70 education aid may increase significantly with the passage last November of Question 1 which will raise at least \$1.2B in new state tax revenues to be spent exclusively on education and transportation services.

I am recommending that the Select Board extend from February 27, 2023 to March 27, 2023 the date the Board signs the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. This will allow additional time for the Governor's local aid estimates to be released which, in turn, will allow a potential opportunity to amend the Town's operating budget to reflect any additional local aid made available. Attached is a calendar showing the revisions in red.

I am available to answer any questions.

cc: Joan Wordell, Town Clerk
Fernanda Santos, HR & Licensing Manager
Marco Rodrigues, Superintendent – Hudson Public Schools
Daniel Gale, Director of Finance & Operations – Hudson Public Schools

Memo Executive Assistant's Office



To: Department Heads, Board & Committee Chairs, Town Counsel
From: Fernanda B. Santos
Date: **January 6, 2023 REVISED (revisions in red)**
Re: **Select Board & Town Meeting Schedule 2023**

January & February 2023	Select Board hold budget hearings (see separate schedule)
January 30, 2023	May Annual Town Meeting Warrant Closes at 4:00 PM
February 13, 2023	Budget packages to be sent to Finance Committee
March 27, 2023	Select Board sign May Warrant
March 28, 2023	Warrant to be sent to Finance Committee
April 12, 2023	Finance Committee returns Budget & Warrant
April 27, 2023	Pre-Town Meeting at 7:00
May 1, 2023	Annual Town Meeting 7:30 PM, HHS Auditorium
May 8, 2023	Town Elections
August 31, 2023	November Special Town Meeting Warrant closes at 4:00 PM
September 25, 2023	Select Board sign November Warrant
September 26, 2023	Finance Committee receives November Warrant
October 20, 2023	Finance Committee returns November Warrant
November 16, 2023	Pre-Town Meeting at 7:00 in Selectmen's Office
November 20, 2023	November Special Town Meeting, 7:30 PM, HHS Auditorium
December 4, 2023	Tax Classification Hearing

Select Board Regular 2023 Monday Evening Meeting Schedule at 7:00 PM:

January	9, 23
February	6, 27
March	13, 27
April	10, 24
May	1*, 15
June	5, 26
July	10, 31
August	21
September	11, 25
October	16, 30
November	6, 20*
December	4, 18

* Meeting to be held in advance of Town Meeting only if needed

IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING WARRANT ARTICLES FOR EITHER TOWN MEETING PLEASE SIGN & DATE YOUR PAPER SUBMISSION, AND PROVIDE COPY ELECTRONICALLY TO FSANTOS@TOWNOFHUDSON.ORG.