

MINUTES - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HAMPDEN
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Thornton W Burgess School, 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden
Monday, May 8, 2023 at seven o'clock in the evening
Moderator Richard Green opened the meeting at 7:07pm – attendance 117

ARTICLE 1 TOWN REPORTS (C. Rivest)

The Town voted that the Annual Reports, as contained in the Annual Town Report for the year 2022, be accepted as printed.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 2 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET (Advisory)

The Town voted that the sums of money shown in the column entitled “Fiscal 2024 Draft Recommendations” of the Supplementary Report and Recommendations of the Advisory Committee, with a noted reduction as listed to the Schools budget, be raised and appropriated for the specific purposes designated and that the same be expended only for such purposes, each number being considered a separate appropriation and that the Town raise and appropriate such sums as may be required to defray said charges for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

Fiscal 2024 Draft
Recommendations

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1.0	Accountant	
	1.1 Salary	45,717
	1.2 Assistant	7,300
	1.3 Expenses	18,000
	1.4 Software	7,900
	Total Accountant	78,917
2.0	Advisory Committee	
	2.1 Clerical	5,791
	2.2 Expenses	200
	Total Advisory	5,991
3.0	Appeals, Board of	
	3.1 Clerical	8,626
	3.2 Expenses	300
	Total Appeals	8,926
4.0	Assessors, Board of	
	4.1 Salaries	18,663
	4.2 Principal Assessor	76,744

	4.2.2 Clerical	27,220
	4.3 Expenses	4,500
	4.5 Software Support	10,749
	4.6 Mapping Maintenance	2,300
	4.7 Utility Valuations	8,000
	Total Assessors	148,176
5.0	Building Department Expenses	
	5.1 Code and General Enforcement	24,263
	5.2 Inspector	72,788
	5.3 Clerical	33,200
	5.4 Inspectors Expense	3,500
	5.5 Office Expense	1,860
	Total Building Dept.	135,611
6.0	County Retirement	709,255
7.0	Insurance	
	7.1 Property and Liability	166,500
	7.2 Employee Benefits	574,217
	7.3 Unemployment Compensation	10,000
	7.4 Longevity	300
	Total Insurance	751,017
8.0	8.1 Law & Claims	95,000
9.0	Moderator	
	9.1 Salary	0
	9.2 Expenses	100
	Total Moderator	100
10.0	Planning Board	
	10.2 Clerical	37,965
	10.3 Expenses	1,100
	Total Planning Board	39,065
11.0	Registrars, Board of (Voters)	
	11.1 Salaries	900
	11.2 Election Expenses	10,000
	11.3 Street Lists	3,000
	Total Registrars	13,900
12.0	Selectmen	
	12.1 Salaries	11,179
	12.2 Administrative Asst.	55,926
	12.4 Expenses	20,000
	12.5 Legal Advertising	3,000
	12.6 Mapping Maintenance	3,000
	12.7 Temporary Help	15,000

	12.8 Storm Water Management	50,000
	Total Selectman	158,105
13.0	Tax Collector	
	13.1 Salary	45,717
	13.2 Clerical	31,270
	13.3 Expenses	3,500
	13.4 Computer Maintenance	5,000
	13.5 Tax Title Work	2,500
	Total Tax Collector	87,987
14.0	Town Clerk	
	14.1 Salary	45,717
	14.2 Clerical	35,638
	14.3 Record Officer	12,768
	14.3 Expenses	1,750
	14.4 Town Publications	100
	Total Town Clerk	95,973
15.0	Town Report	3,600
16.0	Treasurer	
	16.1 Salary	53,844
	16.2 Clerical	11,717
	16.3 Expenses	1,200
	16.4 Certifying Notes	1,000
	16.5 Interest on Loans (short term)	0
	16.6 Tax Title Work	11,000
	16.7 Payroll Service	8,000
	16.10 Records Mgt	1,000
	Total Treasurer	87,761
17.0	Veterans' Benefits	20,000
19.0	Town Administrator	100,000
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		2,539,384
GENERAL TOWN SERVICES		
20.0	Academy Hall Maintenance	4,500
21.0	Cemetery Commission	
	21.1 Clerical	17,322
	21.2 Expenses	500
	21.3 Maintenance	20,500
	21.4 Computer Maintenance	1,800
	Total Cemetery Commission	40,122

22.0	Conservation Commission	
	22.1 Clerical	39,056
	22.2 Expenses	1,543
	Total Conservation Commission	40,599
23.0	Transfer Station	
	23.2 Monitoring/Testing	100,000
	Total Transfer Station	100,000
24.0	School Buildings Repairs	15,000
26.0	Library	
	26.1 Salaries, Materials, Books	196,669
	Total Library	196,669
27.0	Town Events	4,500
29.0	Office Equipment	
	29.1 Acquisition	20,000
	29.2 Maintenance	5,000
	29.3 Supplies	12,500
	29.4 Postage	18,500
	29.5 Information Technology	30,000
	29.6 Website	4,000
	Total Office Equipment	90,000
30.0	Parks and Recreation	
	30.1 Department Salaries	59,552
	30.15 Director Salary	48,838
	30.2 Operating Expenses	8,900
	30.9 Spray park	15,000
	Total Parks and Recreation	132,290
32.0	Town House Maintenance	
	32.1 Custodial	12,000
	32.2 Maintenance and Repairs	30,000
	32.3 Heat and Utilities	45,000
	Total Town House Maintenance	87,000
34.0	Ambulance	363,878
35.0	Gasoline	
	35.1 Purchase	50,000
	36.1 Gasoline Expenses	10,000
	Total Gasoline	60,000
36.0	Street Lighting	30,000
37.0	Council on Aging	
	37.1 Director's Salary	83,944

	37.2 General Salary	108,155
	37.3 Expenses	7,000
	Total Council on Aging	199,099
38.0	Senior Center	
	38.2 Utilities	23,220
	38.3 Building Maintenance	16,961
	Total Senior Center	40,181
39.0	Historical Commission	400
<hr/> Total General Town Services <hr/>		1,404,238

1HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

40.0	Superintendent's Salary	101,379
40.1	Departmental Payroll	289,736
41.0	Tree Warden	
	41.1 Expenses	53250
	41.1.2 Salary	7,020
	Total Tree Warden	60,270
42.0	Public Grounds	4,385
43.0	Highway Maintenance	
	43.0 Expenses	65,672
	43.1 Paving	250,000
	Total Highway Maintenance	315,672
44.0	General Highway Expense	18,300
45.0	Snow and Ice Removal	125,000
46.0	Contract Services	
	46.1 Street Sweeping	22,800
	46.2 Catch Basin Cleaning	40,900
	Total Contract Services	63,700
47.0	Other Highway Accounts	
	47.1 Road Machinery Maintenance	21,000
48.0	Building Expenses	
	48.1 Expenses and Utilities	16,250
<hr/> TOTAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT <hr/>		1,015,692

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

50.0	Animal Inspection	
	50.1 Salary	2,777
	50.2 Expenses	600

	50.4 Wildlife Control	2,500
	Total Animal Inspection	5,877
51.0	Emergency Management	4,900
51.5	Traffic Control	15,000
52.0	Dog Officer	
	52.1 Animal Control	14,129
	52.2 Dog Damage Fund	500
	Total Dog Officer	14,629
53.0	Fire Department	
	53.1.1 Med Dir Emer Med Svcs	0
	53.1 Fire Chief Salary	31,612
	53.2 Fire Chief Expenses	1,500
	53.3 Operation	53,760
	53.4 Equipment	16,500
	53.5 Training Stipend	32,000
	015540 Fire Officer Stipend	11,361
	53.6 Radio Service Agreement	0
	015537 Call reimbursement	50,000
	015538 FD Salaries	181,435
	015538.1 Clerical	16,686
	015539 Uniforms	3,500
	53.10 EMS Supplies	3,000
	Training Expense/Reimbursement	2500
	Total Fire Department	403,854
54.0	Forest Fire Control	1,800
56.0	Health, Board of	
	56.1 Salary	0
	56.2 Coordinator	65,101
	56.3 Expenses	3,000
	56.4 Health Nurse	8,112
	56.5 Shared Services	25,000
	Total Board of Health	101,213
56.5	Water District	
	565.1 Operations	10,000
	565.2 Testing	4,000
	Total Water District	14,000
57.0	Police	
	57.1 Chief's Salary	105,575
	*Additional Salary for Career Incentive, 57.2 General Salaries	1,076,541
	57.3 Maintenance of Cruisers	14,985

	57.4 General Expenses	91,265
	57.5 New Cruisers	0
	57.6 Training	37,684
	57.7 Equipment	7,000
	57.8 Career Incentive Pay (Quinn Bill)	82,509
	57.9 Building Maintenance & Exp	79,408
		1,494,967
58.0	Other Police Accounts	
	58.1 Election and Town Meetings	1,523
	58.2 Towing Clerk	0
	58.3 WMLEC	300
		1,823
	Total Police	1,496,790
59.0	Police/Fire Communications	27,245
<hr/> TOTAL PROTECTION <hr/>		2,085,308 <hr/>
SCHOOLS		
	Regional School District	
69.0	69.1 Assessment	
69.1	Assessment	8,093,356
	Total Regional School District	8,093,356 <hr/>
LOCAL DEBT		
70.0	Local Government Debt	
70.4	Green Meadow Bond	0
70.8	Minnechaug Bond	474,838
70.1	Police Dept	216,750
	Total Local Government Debt	691,588 <hr/>
<hr/> GRAND TOTAL <hr/>		15,829.566 <hr/>

ARTICLE 3 PRIOR YEAR BILLS (D. Davenport)

The Town voted to take no action on this article.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 4 FY'24 SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

The Town voted to authorize the following total expenditures for the following revolving funds, in amounts not to exceed the listed amounts, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for the Fiscal Year 2024: (Davenport)

Building Department Fund	\$ 85,000
Cemetery Commission Fund	\$ 30,000
Council on Aging Fund	\$ 21,000
Library Fund	\$ 3,000

Conservation Commission Fund	\$ 25,000
Planning Board Fund	\$ 10,000
Board of Health Fund	\$ 20,000

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 5 ENTERPRISE FUND: TRANSFER STATION (C. Rivest)

The Town voted to appropriate the following amounts for the Transfer Station:

\$34,740.67 for Salaries

\$64,194.54 for Trash Hauling & Materials Recovery Facility Contract

\$1,650 for Miscellaneous Expenses; and that \$100,585.21 be raised from Transfer Station Enterprise Fund receipts.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 6 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (D. Boyd)

The Town voted to appropriate \$63,300 from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of a 13.7-acre parcel at 0 Walnut Road for conservation purposes by the Minnechaug Land Trust; or take any other action relative thereto.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

The Town voted to appropriate \$45,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of adaptive playground equipment at the Green Meadow School by the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District; or take any other action relative thereto.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 7 CONSERVATION FUND (T. Zebert)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Conservation Fund, said fund to be used for the purpose of acquiring available land for the Town for conservation purposes, if said purchase is voted and approved at an Annual or Special Town Meeting prior to such purchase.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 8 CHAPTER 90 - STATE HIGHWAY AID (J. Flynn)

The Town voted to accept \$251,969.39 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 34, and be allowed to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement.

A 2/3rds Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 9 LIBRARY ADDITIONAL STATE AID (Library)

The Town voted that, in fiscal year 2024, if state aid is received for the Hampden Public Library, this money will be made available to Library Trustees for use at their discretion.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 10 TREE STUMP REMOVAL (Jennifer Bagge)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$3,200 to fund removal of tree stumps at the South Road entrance to the Minnechaug Mountain Conservation Land.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 11 FIRE TRUCK RENOVATION (Fire Chief)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Fire Department for the renovation of Fire Engine #2.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 12 FUNDING TO MAINTAIN THE TOWN'S DEFIBRILLATORS

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$5,820 for required maintenance of the Town's twelve defibrillators.

(J. Flynn)

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 13 LOCAL MATCH FOR A FEMA GRANT FOR A FIRE DEPARTMENT FORESTRY TRUCK (Fire Chief)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$10,952.39 to provide local match for a FEMA grant to replace the Fire Department's 1953 forestry truck.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 14 NEW DUMP TRUCK FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$222,465 for the Highway Department to replace a 1993 Mack dump truck.

(D. Davenport)

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 15 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MASTER PLAN (Planning)

The Town voted to hear a report from the Planning Board but take no action on this article.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 16 CITIZEN'S PETITION (Jim Smith)

The Town voted to create a "Receipts Reserved for Ambulance Fund" to receive funds collected from ambulance transports by the Hampden Fire Department.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 17 FIBER OPTIC PROGRAM BORROWING (C. Rivest)

The Town voted to take no action on this article.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 18 SENIOR CENTER DESIGN FUNDING (D. Collins)

The Town voted to take no action on this article.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 19 ACCESSORY APARTMENT ZONING (Planning)

The Town voted to amend the Hampden Zoning Code by first adding subsection 3, the text of which is set out in the warrant, to Subsection 6.11 of Section 6.1, and then adding to Section 2 “Definitions” a new Definition 2.1, the text of which is set out in the warrant and then renumbering Section 2 as required.

A 2/3rds Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 20 EASEMENT FOR NATIONAL GRID (J. Flynn)

The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement to the Massachusetts Electric Company, known as National Grid, to construct and maintain an overhead system of poles and lines in conjunction with a ground mounted solar project east of Cross Road and adjacent to the Town transfer station.

A 2/3rds Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 21 FUNDING FOR HAMPDEN’S 150th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

The Town voted pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53I to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to the fund for the celebration in 2028 of Hampden’s 150th anniversary as an independent town.

(J. Flynn)

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 22 ASSESSOR’S FUNDING FOR STATE MANDATES (Assessors)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$16,000 to the Assessor’s Department for Fiscal 2024 Massachusetts Department of Revenue mandated requirements.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 23 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (C. Rivest)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$11,650 to fund the School Resource Officer for fiscal year 2023 at Minnechaug Regional High School.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 24 ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND (Advisory)

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 25 GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND (Advisory)

The Town voted to take no action on this article.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

ARTICLE 26 REDUCING THE TAX RATE

(Advisory)

The Town voted to take no action on this article.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator

A motion to close the meeting at 9:43pm was made and seconded.

A Majority Vote was declared by the Moderator