

MINUTES
TOWN OF HAMPDEN
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts,
Monday, May 12, 2025, Moderator Richard Green called the meeting to order
at 7:PM
Attendance 207**

Moderator, Richard Green provided introductory remarks on procedural changes related to summarizing the articles and requesting motions. The Moderator provided an explanation of the Consent Agenda process and explained how articles can be placed on “hold” and removed from the Consent Agenda. The Moderator then stated that articles 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 would be included in the Consent Agenda and requested that a motion be made to approve those articles as written.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda articles as written

The Town voted to approve Consent Agenda Articles 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 as written.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator.

Article 1: TOWN REPORTS

The Town voted that the Annual Reports as contained in the Annual Town Report for the year 2024 be accepted as printed.

Approved by Consent Agenda

Article 2: FY 2026 SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

The Town voted to authorize the following total expenditures for each of the following revolving funds, in amounts not to exceed the listed amounts, pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws for fiscal year 2026.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Approved Total Expenditures</u>
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
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Fund	\$ 10,000

Approved by Consent Agenda

Article 3: CHAPTER 90: STATE HIGHWAY AID

The Town voted to accept all monies from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 Section 34 of the Massachusetts General Laws and be allowed to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 4: LIBRARY ADDITIONAL STATE AID

The Town voted if State aid is received for the Hampden Public Library for fiscal year 2026 that this money will be made available to the Library Trustees for use at their discretion.

Approved by Consent Agenda

Article 5: CONSERVATION FUND

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 upon and approved at an Annual or Special Town Meeting prior to such purchase.

Approved by Consent Agenda

Article 6: ASSESSORS' FUNDING FOR STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$16,000** to the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2026 Massachusetts Department of Revenue mandated programs.

Approved by Consent Agenda

TOWN BUDGET AND FINANCES

Article 7: ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

The Town voted that the sums of money shown in the column entitled "2026 Recommended Funds" of the Supplementary Report and Recommendations of the Hampden Advisory Committee 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 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

**2026
Recommended
Funds**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1.0	Accountant	
	1.1 Salary	48,504
	1.2 Assistant	12,680
	1.3 Expenses	20,000
	1.4 Software	7,000
	Total Accountant	88,184
2.0	Advisory Committee	
	2.1 Clerical	6,145
	2.2 Expenses	200
	Total Advisory	6,345
3.0	Appeals, Board of	
	3.1 Clerical	9,334
	3.2 Expenses	300
	Total Appeals	9,634
4.0	Assessors, Board of	
	4.1 Salaries	19,800
	4.2 Principal Assessor	93,229
	4.2.2 Clerical	34,930
	4.3 Expenses	5,000
	4.5 Software Support	15,198
	4.6 Mapping Maintenance	2,300
	4.7 Utility Valuations	8,000
	Total Assessors	178,457
5.0	Building Department Expenses	
	5.1 Code and General Enforcement	25,740
	5.2 Inspector	77,220
	5.3 Clerical	35,927
	5.4 Inspectors Expense	3,500
	5.5 Office Expense	1,860
	Total Building Dept.	144,247
6.0	County Retirement	926,946
7.0	Insurance	
	7.1 Property and Liability	238,000
	7.2 Employee Benefits	782,998
	7.3 Unemployment Compensation	10,000
	7.4 Longevity	
	Total Insurance	1,030,998
8.0	8.1 Law & Claims	75,000
9.0	Moderator	
	9.2 Expenses	100

	Total Moderator	100
10.0	Planning Board	
	10.2 Clerical	41,067
	10.3 Expenses	1,100
	Total Planning Board	42,167
11.0	Registrars, Board of (Voters)	
	11.1 Salaries	955
	11.2 Election Expenses	5,000
	11.3 Street Lists	3,000
	Total Registrars	8,955
12.0	Selectmen	
	12.1 Salaries	11,860
	12.2 Administrative Asst.	69,627
	12.4 Expenses	20,000
	12.5 Legal Advertising	4,000
	12.6 Mapping Maintenance	3,000
	12.7 Temporary Help	15,000
	12.8 Storm Water Management	50,000
	12.9 Town Meeting Support	17,000
	Total Selectman	190,487
13.0	Tax Collector	
	13.1 Salary	48,505
	13.2 Clerical	34,305
	13.3 Expenses	3,500
	13.4 Computer Maintenance	5,000
	13.5 Tax Title Work	2,500
	Total Tax Collector	93,810
14.0	Town Clerk	
	14.1 Salary	48,505
	14.2 Clerical	37,743
	14.3 Record Officer	13,546
	14.3 Expenses	1,750
	14.4 Town Publications	100
	Total Town Clerk	101,644
15.0	Town Report	4,000
16.0	Treasurer	
	16.1 Salary	58,268
	16.2 Clerical	12,700
	16.3 Expenses	1,600
	16.4 Certifying Notes	1,000
	16.6 Tax Title Work	11,000
	16.7 Payroll Service	9,000

	16.10 Records Mgt	3,000
	Total Treasurer	96,568
17.0	Veterans' Benefits	20,000
19.0	Town Administrator	145,000
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		3,162,542

GENERAL TOWN SERVICES

20.0	Academy Hall Maintenance	5,500
21.0	Cemetery Commission	
	21.1 Clerical	16,386
	21.2 Expenses	500
	21.3 Maintenance	32,500
	21.4 Computer Maintenance	1,900
	Total Cemetery Commission	51,286
22.0	Conservation Commission	
	22.1 Clerical	42,266
	22.2 Expenses	1,543
	Total Conservation Commission	43,809
23.0	Transfer Station	
	23.2 Monitoring/Testing	100,000
	Total Transfer Station	100,000
24.0	School Buildings Repairs	-
26.0	Library	
	26.1 Salaries, Materials, Books	210,826
	Total Library	210,826
27.0	Town Events	3,500
29.0	Office Equipment	
	29.1 Acquisition	20,000
	29.2 Maintenance	5,000
	29.3 Supplies	12,500
	29.4 Postage	25,000
	29.5 Information Technology	50,000
	29.6 Website	10,500
	Total Office Equipment	123,000
30.0	Parks and Recreation	
	30.1 Salaries	76,125

	30.2 Operating Expenses	15,000
	30.9 Spray park	15,000
	30.3 Director	53,052
	Total Parks and Recreation	159,177
32.0	Town House Maintenance	
	32.1 Custodial	15,000
	32.2 Maintenance and Repairs	30,000
	32.3 Heat and Utilities	67,000
	32.4 Facilities Manager	40,000
	Total Town House Maintenance	152,000
34.0	Ambulance	340,000
35.0	Gasoline	
	35.1 Purchase	55,000
	36.1 Gasoline Expenses	10,500
	Total Gasoline	65,500
36.0	Street Lighting	30,000
37.0	Council on Aging	
	37.1 Director's Salary	90,945
	37.2 General Salary	121,901
	37.3 Expenses	7,550
	37.4 Senior Ride Service	5,591
	Total Council on Aging	225,987
38.0	Senior Center	
	38.2 Utilities	25,000
	38.3 Building Maintenance	18,250
	Total Senior Center	43,250
39.0	Historical Commission	400
TOTAL GENERAL TOWN SERVICES		1,554,235
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	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	
40.0	Superintendent's Salary	109109
40.1	Departmental Payroll	317728
41.0	Tree Warden	
	41.1 Expenses	53,450
	41.1.2 Salary	7,481
	Total Tree Warden	60,931
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
49.0	Radio Lease Agreement	10,000
TOTAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		1,062,075
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		

50.0	Animal Inspection	
	50.1 Salary	2,947
	50.2 Expenses	1,200
	50.4 Wildlife Control	2,500
	Total Animal Inspection	6,647
51.0	Emergency Management	6,200
51.5	Traffic Control	15,000
52.0	Dog Officer	
	52.1 Animal Control	14,990
	52.2 Dog Damage Fund	500
	Total Dog Officer	15,490
53.0	Fire Department	
	53.1.1 Med Dir Emer Med Services	
	53.1 Fire Chief Salary	33,537
	53.2 Fire Chief Expenses	1,500
	53.3 Operation	70,252
	53.4 Equipment	16,500
	53.5 Training Stipend	32,000
	015540 Fire Officer Stipend	12,053
	015537 Call reimbursement	65,000

	015538 FD Salaries	218,040
	015538.1 Clerical	20,726
	015539 Uniforms	6,464
	53.10 EMS Supplies	3,000
	53.11 Training Reimbursements	2,500
	Total Fire Department	481,572
54.0	Forest Fire Control	1,800
56.0	Health, Board of	
	56.1 Shared Health Services	25,000
	56.2 Coordinator	56,892
	56.3 Expenses	3,000
	56.4 Health Nurse	8,606
	Total Board of Health	93,498
56.5	Water District	
	565.1 Operations	17,500
	565.2 Testing	4,000
	Total Water District	21,500
57.0	Police	
	57.1 Chief's Salary	118,757
	57.2 General Salaries	1,194,901
	57.3 Maintenance of Cruisers	16,795
	57.4 General Expenses	98,982
	57.5 New Cruisers	
	57.6 Training	40,050
	57.7 Equipment	7,000
	57.8 Career Incentive Pay (Quinn Bill)	134,484
	57.9 Building Maintenance & Exp	82,515
		1,693,484
58.0	Other Police Accounts	
	58.1 Election and Town Meetings	1,831
	58.3 WMLEC	375
		2,206
	Total Police	1,695,690
59.0	Police/Fire Communications	30,035
59.1	Regional Dispatch Services	93,750
TOTAL	PROTECTION	2,461,182
SCHOOLS		
69.0	Regional School District	
	69.1 Assessment	8,857,717
	Total Regional School District	8,857,717
LOCAL DEBT		
70.0	Local Government Debt	

70.8 Minnechaug Bond	475,069
70.10 Police Dept	209,250
Total Local Government Debt	684,319

GRAND TOTAL	17,782,070
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Article 8: ENTERPRISE FUND: TRANSFER STATION

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

\$38,000 Salaries

\$80,000 Trash Hauling and Materials Recovery

\$1,400 Miscellaneous Expenses; and

that \$104,400 be raised from the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund and **\$15,000** from the tax levy.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 9: FUNDING FOR HAMPDEN'S 150 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

The Town voted to take no action on this Article.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 10: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER – MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,629** to fund the School Resource Officer for fiscal year 2025 at Minnechaug Regional High School.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 11: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

The Town voted to take no action on this Article.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

**Article 12: LOCAL OPTION: ADDITIONAL VETERANS EXEMPTION
CLAUSE 22J**

The Town voted to accept Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, of the Massachusetts General Laws to enable the Town to increase certain statutory exemption amounts for veterans and also to vote a 100% increase to those statutory amounts to become effective fiscal year 2026.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

FORMER THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL REUSE

**Article 13: FORMER THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHANGE
OF PURPOSE**

The Town voted to change, effective July 1, 2025, the use of the parcel of land owned by the Town of Hampden, located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts (Parcel

ID # 17-048-000) from “school purposes” to “any lawful municipal purpose” subject to the supervision and control of the Selectboard.

A 2/3 vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 14: MOVING COSTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND LIBRARY

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$80,000** to pay for the moving of the Town’s administrative offices and the library currently located in the Hampden Town House at 625 Main Street, Hampden, Massachusetts to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 15: FORMER THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL REPAIRS AND RENOVATION

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$75,000** to pay for repairs and renovations to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

CAPITAL PROJECTS & EXPENDITURES

Article 16: LAWNMOWER FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$20,000** to purchase a new lawnmower for maintaining town-owned properties by the Highway Department.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 17: LAWNMOWER FOR THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$20,000** to purchase a new lawnmower for playing field maintenance by the Parks & Recreation Department.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 18: SENIOR CENTER REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$140,000** to replace and/or repair the roof, windows, bathrooms and septic system at the Senior Center located at 104 Allen Street, Hampden, Massachusetts.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 19: FIRE STATION REPAIRS, RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

The Town voted to appropriate and borrow **\$8,300,000** to repair, renovate and expand the Town's Fire Station located at 19 North Road, including all costs incidental or related thereto and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for the purpose; provided however, that this debt

appropriation and debt authorization be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion question allowing the Town to raise the money needed to repay the borrowing outside the limits established by Proposition 2 ½, M.G.L. c. 59, § 21C.

A 2/3 vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 20: GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL: FLOORING REPLACEMENT

The Town voted to take no action on this article.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 21: GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL: PARKING LOT REPAIRS & FIRE ROAD EXTENSION

The Town defeated a vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000 to repair the parking lot and extend the fire road at Green Meadows Elementary School.

The Moderator declared that the motion FAILED.

Article 22: GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL: IT NETWORK SWITCHES REPLACEMENT

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$92,500** to replace the switches in the IT network at Green Meadows Elementary School.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 23: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: ADD/REPLACE SPLIT AC UNITS

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$6,812** to pay a portion of the cost to add or replace split AC units at Minnechaug Regional High School.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 24: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: UPGRADE INTERNAL 2-WAY RADIO REPEATER

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,141** to pay a portion of the cost to upgrade the internal 2-way radio repeater at Minnechaug Regional High School.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 25: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: UPGRADE CAMERA SYSTEM

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$72,016** to pay a portion of the cost to upgrade the camera system at Minnechaug Regional High School.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 26: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: KUBOTA RTV

The Town defeated a vote to raise and appropriate \$4,700 to pay a portion of the cost to purchase a Kubota RTV for Minnechaug Regional High School.

The motion FAILED by a vote of; In favor 45 / Opposed 78

REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Article 27: LEASE AMENDMENT HAMPDEN LANDFILL SOLAR, LLC

The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to amend the lease agreement between the Town of Hampden and Hampden Landfill Solar LLC, c/o Ameresco, Inc., for 18 Cross Road (Parcel ID #s 19-85-00 and 19-86-00) to expand the leased area by approximately 1.6 acres as shown on Attachment A.

A 2/3 vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 28: PURCHASE OF CONSERVATION PROPERTY – NORTH ROAD

The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase or otherwise using previously appropriated Community Preservation Funds, the approximate 2.32-acre parcel on North Road, Hampden, Massachusetts, that is described in the Article for a purchase price not to exceed \$95,000 said property to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Town of Hampden in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 8C for conservation and passive recreation purposes.

A 2/3 vote was declared by the Moderator

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Article 29: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

A) The Town voted to appropriate \$22,000 from the Community Preservation fund for the purchase of shade structures for the spray park at Memorial Park.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

B) The Town voted to appropriate \$27,500 from the Community Preservation Fund to design, engineer and construct a new trail head and parking area on the approximate 2.32-acre parcel on North Road, Hampden, Massachusetts, identified in Article 28 of this warrant.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Article 30: BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

The Town voted that the Zoning Bylaws be amended to regulate Battery Energy Storage Systems using the changes recommended by the Planning Board after public hearing, where printed copies of those changes have been distributed to this Town Meeting.

A 2/3 vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 31: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

The Town voted that the Zoning Bylaws be amended to change the regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units or “ADUs” using changes recommended by the Planning

Board after public hearing, where printed copies of those changes have been distributed to this Town Meeting.

A 2/3 vote was declared by the Moderator

FINANCIAL TRANSFERS

Article 32: ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

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

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 33: GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND

The Town voted to take no action on this Article.

A unanimous vote was declared by the Moderator

Article 34: REDUCING THE TAX RATE

The Town voted to take no action on this Article.

A majority vote was declared by the Moderator

A motion to adjourn the meeting carried by a declared majority at 9:47pm.