

May 13, 2024

# TOWN OF HAMPDEN

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



**MONDAY, May 13, 2024**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
85 Wilbraham Road  
Hampden, Massachusetts**

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**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TOWN OF HAMPDEN**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Hampden, ss.**

**To:** Either of the Constables of the said Town of Hampden in said County:

**Greetings:** In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hampden qualified to vote in Town Affairs, to meet at **Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, on Monday, May 13, 2024, at seven o'clock in the evening**, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1: TOWN REPORTS**

To hear the Annual Town Reports of all officers of the Town and any committee whose duty it may be to report at said meeting, and to act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 2: ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided for by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of Massachusetts General Laws, and to raise and appropriate the necessary sums to cover same, and to raise money and make appropriations to defray the expenses of the Town for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 3: PRIOR YEAR BILLS**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of any departmental bills of Fiscal Year 2023 or previous years and will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money therefor; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 4: FY 2025 SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following total expenditures for each of the

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following revolving funds pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, to be expended in accordance with the bylaws heretofore approved; or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>FUND</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

**ARTICLE 5: ENTERPRISE FUND: TRANSFER STATION**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the operations of the Transfer Station from the estimated income to be derived in Fiscal Year 2025 Transfer Station operations, the tax levy, a transfer from available funds, including the retained earnings of the relevant enterprise fund, or from any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 6: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Act annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2025, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

- A) To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$110,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of an approximately 2.1-acre parcel of land on North Road from the Minnechaug Land Trust for conservation purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 7: CONSERVATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money 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; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 8: CHAPTER 90: STATE HIGHWAY AID**

To see if the Town will vote to accept a sum of money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 Section 34 of the Massachusetts General Laws

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and the Transportation Department's Chapter 90 Guidelines and be allowed to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 9: LIBRARY ADDITIONAL STATE AID**

To see if the Town will vote that in Fiscal Year 2025, if State aid for the Hampden Library is received, this money will be made available for Library Trustees to use at their discretion; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 10: ASSESSORS' FUNDING FOR STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue mandated programs; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 11: SENIOR CENTER EXPANSION**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by borrowing to expand and renovate the Town's Senior Center located at 104 Allen Street, including all costs incidental or related thereto and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for the purpose, and to apply the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, to pay project costs and reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed by the amount of the premium so applied; provided however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion allowing the Town to raise the money needed to repay its share of the borrowing outside the limits established by Proposition 2 ½, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 12: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENT**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 45th, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a payment-in-lieu-of-tax (PILOT) agreement with the lessee/operator of the solar photovoltaic energy generating facility located off Mill Road, Hampden, MA (Parcel ID: 06-005-000) upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town; or to take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 13: SCANTIC VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to make improvements and upgrades to the pump station and to connect additional users to the water system; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 14: SCANTIC VALLEY WATER DISTRICT EXPANSION**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by borrowing to expand the Scantic Valley Water District, including all costs incidental or related thereto and to authorize the

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Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for the purpose, and to apply the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, to pay project costs and reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed by the amount of the premium so applied; provided however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion allowing the Town to raise the money needed to repay its share of the borrowing outside the limits established by Proposition 2 ½, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 15: SCANTIC VALLEY WATER DISTRICT EXTENSION**

To see if the Town will vote to extend the Scantic Valley Water District by extending the existing water main from the intersection of Glendale Road and Scantic Road northeastward approximately 1,900 feet along Glendale Road to the intersection of Cross Road; and further, to extend from the intersection of Glendale Road and Cross Road southward approximately 1,050 feet along Cross Road where it will connect to the existing water main on Cross Road, located approximately 400 feet north of the intersection of Cross Road and Scantic Road; and further, by extending the existing water main from the intersection of Scantic Road and South Monson Road northeastward approximately 800 feet along South Monson Road to the front of Parcel ID # 14-020-004 also known as 27 South Monson Road; and further, by extending the existing water main from the intersection of Scantic Road and South Monson Road southeastward approximately 1,100 feet along Scantic Road to the front of Parcel ID# 14-020-004 also known as 148 Scantic Road (map attached); or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 16: TEMPORARY MORATORIUM – BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town to put in place a one-year moratorium on the construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage Systems with the exception of site specific systems intended to support single residences, commercial buildings, and systems operating in conjunction with previously permitted ground mounted solar facilities in all zoning districts within the Town of Hampden during which time the Town of Hampden shall engage in a bylaw review, examine BESS operations, safety, and technology, with consideration being given to the their impact on the health, safety and welfare of Hampden’s citizenry and the development of appropriate zoning bylaw amendments which reasonably regulate Battery Energy Storage Systems; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 17: LANDFILL TOWER LEASE**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen on terms the Board finds favorable to the Town, to amend and extend for a series of five-year periods not to exceed 20 years, the existing lease of a tower site located on the town landfill, where said lease is from the Town to SBA Towers II, LLC, and where the land at issue is the subject of the Notice of Lease

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recorded in the Hampden Registry of Deeds on April 4, 2005, in Book 14922, Page 181; or take other action relative thereto

**ARTICLE 18: FIRE STATION DESIGN**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for the design of a renovation and/or expansion of the Hampden Fire Station; or take other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 19: FUNDING FOR HAMPDEN'S 150 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to prepare for activities surrounding the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Hampden in 1878; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 20: FIBER OPTIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

To see if the Town will vote to hear the report of the Fiber Optic Committee on the status of the establishment of a municipally owned town wide fiber optic network ; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 21: PICK-UP TRUCK FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a new pick-up truck with plow; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 22: MINNECHAUG HIGH SCHOOL: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to update the wireless access points at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 23: GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT**

To see if the Town will vote to hear the report of the Government Study Committee on its review of all aspects of Hampden Town government; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 24: BOARD OF SELECTMEN: INCREASE FROM 3 TO 5 MEMBERS**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of Selectmen on the Town's Board of Selectmen from three to five; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 25: TOWN CLERK: ELECTED TO APPOINTED**

To see if the Town will vote to change its elected Town Clerk to a Town Clerk appointed by the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action relative thereto.

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**ARTICLE 26: TREASURER & COLLECTOR: COMBINE POSITIONS AND ELECTED TO APPOINTED**

To see if the Town will vote to have its elected Town Treasurer and elected Collector of Taxes be combined as a single Treasurer/Collector to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 27: AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC VOTING AT TOWN MEETINGS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town by deleting the text of subsection d. of Section 1 of "Chapter II. Town Meetings" and replacing that text with the following:

*All votes on motions shall be taken by a show of hands or, subject to the availability of a system to enable electronic voting and at the discretion of the Moderator, by use of such electronic voting system; nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the taking of a vote by ballot if a motion to that effect shall be duly made and carried by a majority of the voters present and voting thereon. When a question is determined by a ballot vote, every person voting shall have his or her name checked by the check list of the Registrars of Voters before depositing the ballot in the receptacle provided.*

or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 28: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to fund the School Resource Officer for FY 2024 at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 29: ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 30: GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for deposit into the General Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 31: REDUCING THE TAX RATE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated available funds or from the General Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.



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## **TOWN ELECTION WARRANT**

And you are further required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hampden qualified to vote in elections of Town Officers to meet at the Hampden Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, on **Monday, May 20, 2024**, AD at seven o' clock in the forenoon, then and there to give in their votes on one ballot to the election officers of said Town for the following officers, to wit:

***To choose for the term of one year the following:***

*Town Moderator (1)*

*Board of Assessors (1)*

*Cemetery Commissioner (1)*

***To choose for the term of two years the following:***

*Cemetery Commissioner (1)*

***To choose for the term of three years the following:***

*Board of Selectmen (1)*

*Board of Assessors (1)*

*Cemetery Commissioner (1)*

*Parks and Recreation Commissioners (2)*

*Hampden Free Library Trustee (1)*

*HWRSD School Committee (1)*

***To choose for the term of five years the following:***

*Planning Board (1)*

*Hampden Housing Authority (1)*

**To choose all other necessary Town Officers.**

### **Question # 1**

Shall the Town of Hampden be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to expand the Town's Senior Center located at 104 Allen Street?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at each of the places designated by the Town. Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

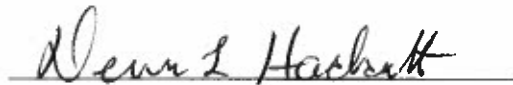
**Board of Selectmen**

  
Donald L. Davenport, Chair

  
John D. Flynn, Member

  
Craig A. Rivest, Member

I, Constable for the Town of Hampden, have on this date posted copies of the warrant for the Town Meeting to be held on May 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm in all places as designated by the Town of Hampden.

  
Constable, Town of Hampden

4-30-24  
Date

**DISTRICT EXTENSION MAP**

Scantic Valley Water District  
Hampton, MA

**NORTH  
EXTENSION**

**EAST  
EXTENSION**

