

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT TOWN OF HUDSON



MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

**Finance Committee
Report and Recommendations**

Finance Committee Preamble

To the residents of the Town of Hudson,

The Finance Committee:

Sam Calandra, Chairman

Eugenia Vineyard, Vice Chair

Guy Beaudette, Robert Clark

Herman Kabakoff, Steve Forti

Jillian Jagling, Joseph McNealy

Claudinor Salomão

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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 Sixteenth day of

JUNE

in the year 2025

at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. Then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1 Prior Years Bills

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,150 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 9-0-0

ARTICLE 2 Year-End Transfer of Funds

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$545,299 from previously certified and available Free Cash and appropriate said sum to various departmental appropriations for Fiscal 2025, 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 8-0-0

ARTICLE 3 Capital Plan – General Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,269,889 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.

Department:	Project:	Amount:	Source of Funds:
Public Works	Wheeled Excavator	\$306,000	Free Cash
	International Dump Sander & Plow	\$190,000	Free Cash
	Public Works Total:	\$496,000	
Fire Dept.	Replacement of Tower 1	\$500,000	Free Cash
	Corrosion Repair: Eng. 4, Eng. 5, Rescue 1	\$77,500	Free Cash
	Fire Dept. Total:	\$577,500	
IT	Microsoft Office Prof Plus – 150 Licenses	\$89,964	Free Cash
	IT Total:	\$89,964	
Police	Cruiser Replacements	\$233,000	Free Cash
	Mobile Computers	\$110,000	Free Cash
	Police Total:	\$343,000	
Recreation	Riverside Tennis Court Improvements	\$87,000	Free Cash
	Recreation Total:	\$87,000	
School	Replace (2) Boilers at Forest Ave School	\$410,000	Free Cash
	Bus Parking Lot Site Work	\$166,425	Free Cash
	District Wide Space Utilization Study	\$100,000	Free Cash
	School Total:	\$676,425	
	Grant Total Capital Plan:	\$2,269,889	

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

Article 3: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 4 DPW Salt Storage Shed – Transfer from Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$662,000 for the purpose of designing, permitting, and constructing a salt storage shed to be sited at 1 Municipal Drive, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Director of Public Works
Select Board

Article 4: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 5 HVAC Improvements to Town Hall

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$915,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of improvements to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in Town Hall, and to meet said appropriation by transferring the sum of \$424,380.24 from previously certified and available Free Cash, and by transferring the sum of \$490,619.76 from unspent balances in capital project appropriations previously voted by the Town but no longer needed for the original voted purposes as shown more particularly below; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Account Name/TM Date & Art	Account Number	Original Appropriation	Unspent Balance	Original Purpose
TH Air Handler - Art 6 5/19	3713-100-1230-5890-049	\$39,000.00	\$33,987.50	Replace Town Hall Air Handler (basement)
TH Renovations - Art 5 6/20	3800-100-1232-5890-049	\$297,556.00	\$124,021.00	Town Hall Renovation
TH Renov - Art 18 5/18 (CPA)	3333-284-1984-5790-411	\$212,130.00	\$117,463.31	Rehabilitation and renovation of Town Hall
Energy Use Reduction - Art 17 5/13	2970-100-1232-5513-049	\$30,000.00	\$15,147.95	Town's portion of costs associated with reducing energy consumption and/or advancing renewable energy projects at municipally owned properties; to study or implement energy conservation measures at any or all of the following buildings: Hudson Public Library, Town Hall, Police Station
HVAC Improv TH - Art 5 5/23	4126-100-1236-5790-049	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	HVAC Improvements to Town Hall
Total			\$490,619.76	

Executive Assistant
Select Board

Article 5: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 6 Transfer from Water Retained Earnings

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$950,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of Treatment Plant Upgrades and Well Replacement, as shown more particularly below, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$200,000
Well Replacement	\$750,000

Executive Assistant
Public Works Director
Select Board

Article 6: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 7 Transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Pump Station upgrades, as shown more particularly below, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$100,000
Pump Station Engineering	\$300,000

Executive Assistant
Public Works Director
Select Board

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

ARTICLE 8 Transfer to Stabilization

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

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Select Board

Article 8: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-1-0

ARTICLE 9 Emergency Medical Services Study

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) study said sum to be spent under the direction of the Fire Chief, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

Article 9: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 10 Senior Tax Credit Program

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of compensating senior citizens for services rendered to the Town pursuant to an agreement for service to be formulated and approved by the Select Board, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; said sum to be spent under the direction of the Director of the Hudson Senior Center and the Select Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Senior Center Director
Select Board

Article 10: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. 9-0-0

ARTICLE 11 Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits (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; and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Free Cash; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Select Board

Article 11: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 12 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 associated with 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 12: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 9-0-0

ARTICLE 13 Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from previously certified and available Free Cash 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 13: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 5-1-1

ARTICLE 14 Sewer Main Repairs

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$600,000 for the design, permitting, and construction of extraordinary repairs to the 14-inch sewer force main in the vicinity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, including repairs to all related connections and appurtenances; said sum to be expended by the Director of the Department of Public Works; and, to meet this appropriation that a sum of money be transferred from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund; and that a sum of money be transferred from the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Director of Public Works
Select Board

Article 14: The Finance Committee unanimously recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-0-0

ARTICLE 15 Petitioned Article: Addiction 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.

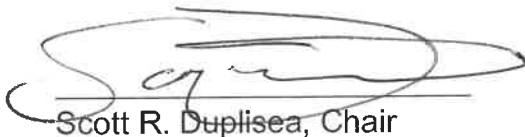
Petitioned by Tracey Gustafson and Ernie Kapopoulos, et al.

Article 15: The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the subject matter of this article. Vote 8-1-0

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, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting and by publication in a newspaper published in said Town.

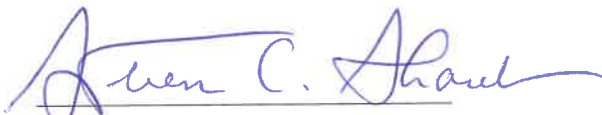
Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 6th day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Duplisea", written over a horizontal line.

Scott R. Duplisea, Chair

Judy Congdon, Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Sharek", written over a horizontal line.

Steven C. Sharek, Clerk

James D. Quinn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane G. Bemis", written over a horizontal line.

Diane G. Bemis

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

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".