

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT TOWN OF HUDSON



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

**Finance Committee
Report and Recommendations**

Finance Committee Preamble

To the residents of the Town of Hudson,

Per the authority vested in the Finance Committee according to Massachusetts General Laws (“**M.G.L.**”), Chapter 39, Section 16, the Town of Hudson Municipal Charter, and the Town of Hudson General Bylaws, the Committee makes the following report for the Articles included in the Warrant for the Town of Hudson Special Town Meeting on September 15, 2025 based upon consideration of the Articles at public hearings with the sponsors and/or petitioners. Please note the following.

Article 1 – Prior Year Bills

M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 64, requires that a bill from a prior year, that is, an invoice received after the Town *closes* its books for the fiscal year, must be presented to Town Meeting for authorization to pay with current year funds. Vendors submitted invoices totaling \$1,150.00 after the Town closed its books for FY25. The appropriation will be funded from the Stabilization Fund. A 9/10 vote is required for passage.¹ (This is former Article 1 from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation was to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 2 – Senior Tax Credit Program

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$30,000.00 to fund an increase in the maximum compensation from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00 for 10 seniors in FY26. The appropriation will be funded from the Stabilization Fund. (This is former Article 20 from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation was to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 3 – District Wide Space Utilization Study – Hudson Public Schools

This is a request from the Hudson Public Schools for \$100,000.00 for a District-Wide Space Utilization Study to assess existing space utilization impacted by new residential development and enrollment trends. This study may result in opportunities for budget reductions in subsequent years. The appropriation will be funded from the Stabilization Fund. (This was included in former Article 5 from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation was to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 4 – HVAC Improvements to Town Hall

This Article authorizes the appropriation of \$915,000.00, including 1) \$490,619.76 from unspent balances in the noted capital project appropriations previously voted by the Town but no longer needed, and 2) \$424,380.24 from borrowing, for heating venting and air conditioning improvements to Town Hall. The borrowing is temporary and is being used to initiate the project with the vendor. The Executive Assistant expects to replace the borrowing in the future with an appropriation from Free Cash. Additionally, grants may be

¹ Note, only a 2/3 vote is required to approve appropriations from the Stabilization Fund.

received in the future to offset some of the costs of this project. (This is former Article 7 from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation of \$424,380.24 was to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 5 – Amend Article 29 on 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts

In addition to offsetting the cost of operating and maintaining a joint Police and Fire dispatch system through June 30, 2026, this amendment seeks to use these receipts for the additional purposes noted in bold, including 1) staff the Police Station Lobby upon the commencement of regional dispatching operations through June 30, 2026, 2) procure three (3) police cruisers, 3) fund an Emergency Medical System Study for the Fire Department, and 4) fund corrosion repair to certain Fire Department apparatus. (Additional item 1 is new; additional Items 2, 3 and 4 were included in former Articles 5, 19 and 5, respectively, from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation for these costs were to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 6 – Assabet River Water Quality Monitoring

No comments. (This was included in former Article 30 from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation was to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 7 – Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation

No comments. (This was included in former Article 33 from the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant whereby the appropriation was to be funded from Free Cash.)

Article 8 – Amend General Bylaws

No comments.

The Finance Committee:

Sam Calandra, Chairman

Guy Beaudette, Herman Kabakoff

Steve Forti, Joseph McNealy

Dr. Daniel DuBreuil, Meagan Schermerhorn

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 Fifteenth day of

SEPTEMBER

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 appropriate the sum of \$1,150 for the purpose of paying prior year bills for costs incurred in previous fiscal years per General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 64, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Select Board

Article 1: The Finance Committee has voted 8-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 2 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 the Stabilization Fund; 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 2: The Finance Committee has voted 8-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 3 District Wide Space Utilization Study – Hudson Public Schools

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of hiring a consultant or consultants to perform a district wide space utilization study for the Hudson Public School Department, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from the Stabilization Fund, said sum to be spent under the direction of the Hudson School Committee; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Superintendent of Schools
Select Board

Article 3: The Finance Committee has voted 8-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 4 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 \$490,619.76 from

unspent balances in capital project appropriations previously voted by the Town but no longer needed for its original voted purpose as shown more particularly below; and by borrowing and appropriating pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7, clauses (1) and (7), as amended, or any other enabling authority the sum of \$424,380.24, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue any bonds or notes necessary thereto; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Account Name/TM Date & Article	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 4: The Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 5 Amend Article 29 on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 29 on the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant by inserting the new text shown in **bold** below:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$726,540, said sum to be utilized to offset the cost of operating and maintaining a joint Police and Fire dispatch system, **to staff the Police Station Lobby upon the commencement of regional dispatching operations through June 30, 2026, to procure three (3) police cruisers, to fund an Emergency Medical System Study for the Fire Department, and to fund corrosion repair to certain Fire Department apparatus**, and such sum to be offset, in the aggregate, by the estimated receipts from public safety fees paid by the Highland Commons Shopping Center, all in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E as authorized in Article 14 of the Town Meeting of May 2, 1988; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Select Board

Article 5: The Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 6 Assabet River Water Quality Monitoring

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 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, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission
Executive Assistant

Article 6: The Finance Committee voted 6-2-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 7 Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to the budget of the Lake Boon Commission, said sum to be used for invasive weed control on Lake Boon, and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Lake Boon Commission
Executive Assistant

Article 7: The Finance Committee voted 7-1-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

ARTICLE 8 Amend General Bylaws

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II, Section 1 [Annual Town Meeting Date] of the Town's General Bylaws as shown below:

The town meeting shall meet two times each calendar year on a regular schedule. The annual town meeting for the transaction of business shall be held on the first Monday of May at ~~7:30~~ 6:30 PM and the annual meeting for the election of officers shall commence on the following Monday at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. A second regularly scheduled town meeting for the transaction of business shall be held on the evening of the third Monday in November at ~~7:30~~ 6:30 PM.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

Article 8: The Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend the subject matter of this article.

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 4th day of August in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

Scott R. Duplisea, Chair

Judy Congdon, Vice Chair

Steven C. Sharek, Clerk

Diane G. Bemis

Lauren A. DuBreuil

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 depends 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 it 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".