

Annual Town Meeting

WARRANT

TOWN OF HUDSON



MONDAY, MAY 5, 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 Fifth day of

MAY

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 \$1,150.00 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 2 Year-End Transfer of Funds

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money 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 3 Approve Fiscal Year 2026 General Operating Budget Without a Proposition Two and One-Half General Operating Budget Override – Budget “A”

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination thereof, for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and that such sums be expended for such purposes under the direction of the respective Town Officers, Boards, and Committees; provided that this vote shall not take effect and be deemed null and void if the vote taken pursuant to Article 4 on the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting and the associated override ballot question vote are both approved; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

Department		FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 – Executive Asst. Request	FY26 – Select Board Recommend	FY26- Fin Com Recommend
1 Select Board	Personnel	9,000	11,021	13,000	13,000	13,000	
2 Select Board	Expenses	4,563	4,469	4,850	4,850	4,850	
Select Board Total		13,563	15,490	17,850	17,850	17,850	
3 Executive Assistant	Personnel	344,811	354,485	365,777	372,802	372,802	
4 Executive Assistant	Expenses	5,552	6,731	5,863	11,863	11,863	
5 Election & Town Meeting	Personnel	40,790	32,115	53,339	16,227	16,227	
6 Election & Town Meeting	Expenses	23,039	21,033	20,225	19,425	19,425	
7 Community Development	Personnel	231,367	272,810	296,691	260,836	260,836	
8 Community Development	Expenses	19,294	16,062	21,200	16,450	16,450	
9 Legal Services	Expenses	270,000	196,457	250,000	250,000	250,000	
10 Building Maintenance	Personnel	91,786	0	0	0	0	
11 Town Hall Expenses	Expenses	202,479	70,956	73,481	76,179	76,179	
12 Personnel Expense	Expenses	14,959	27,328	16,260	16,260	16,260	
Exe. Assistant Total		1,244,079	997,979	1,102,836	1,040,042	1,040,042	
13 Finance Department	Personnel	720,498	787,329	697,864	693,751	693,751	
14 Finance Department	Expenses	155,074	317,726	157,075	169,075	169,075	
Finance Dept. Total		875,572	1,105,054	854,939	862,826	862,826	
15 IT Department	Personnel	0	0	261,244	264,306	264,306	
16 IT Department	Expenses	0	0	358,281	525,148	525,148	
IT Total		0	0	619,526	789,454	789,454	
17 Clerk/Registrar	Personnel	158,563	159,897	183,730	192,060	192,060	
18 Town Clerk	Expenses	14,553	14,354	16,525	16,853	16,853	
Town Clerk Total		173,116	174,251	200,255	208,913	208,913	
19 Moderator	Expenses	110	110	110	110	110	
20 Finance Committee	Expenses	0	388	603	100,600	100,600	
21 Board of Assessors	Personnel	30,904	31,522	32,152	32,152	32,152	
22 Board of Assessors	Expenses	59,275	46,909	119,350	94,350	94,350	
23 Municipal Light Board	Personnel	3,900	3,300	3,900	3,900	3,900	
24 Fort Meadow Comm.	Expenses	4,678	3,300	8,200	8,200	8,200	
25 Lake Boon Comm.	Expenses	3,692	0	3,200	3,200	3,200	
26 Historical District Comm.	Expenses	750	750	784	784	784	
Board & Com Total		102,815	86,279	168,299	243,296	243,296	
27 Police Department	Personnel	3,736,680	3,945,976	4,397,149	4,507,713	4,507,713	
28 Police Department	Expenses	575,757	553,145	611,072	690,025	690,025	
Police Dept. Total		4,312,437	4,499,121	5,008,221	5,197,738	5,197,738	

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 - Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 – Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 - Fin Com Recommend</u>
29 Fire Department	Personnel	3,528,756	3,706,578	3,921,482	3,973,380	3,973,380	
30 Fire Department	Expenses	389,248	454,339	463,210	542,848	542,848	
Fire Dept. Total		3,918,004	4,160,916	4,384,692	4,516,228	4,516,228	
31 Inspections Dept.	Personnel	207,755	299,044	314,685	313,077	313,077	
32 Inspections Dept.	Expenses	17,436	13,918	16,336	18,880	18,880	
Insp. Dept. Total		225,191	312,962	331,021	331,957	331,957	
33 DPW Snow & Ice	Personnel	81,853	89,420	141,795	144,550	144,550	
34 DPW Snow & Ice	Expenses	360,395	285,918	212,700	212,700	212,700	
35 Public Works	Personnel	1,317,535	1,878,316	2,416,451	2,399,414	2,399,414	
36 Public Works	Expenses	553,625	831,433	1,313,750	1,372,600	1,372,600	
DPW Total		2,313,408	3,085,087	4,084,696	4,129,264	4,129,264	
37 Board of Health	Personnel	142,612	160,119	229,141	240,328	240,328	
38 Board of Health	Expenses	23,828	29,434	16,470	14,970	14,970	
BOH Total		166,440	189,553	245,611	255,298	255,298	
39 Council on Aging	Personnel	282,617	300,683	314,126	295,961	295,961	
40 Council on Aging	Expenses	34,554	38,447	35,800	40,752	40,752	
COA Total		317,171	339,130	349,926	336,713	336,713	
41 Veterans' Services	Personnel	74,469	76,992	82,422	86,562	86,562	
42 Veterans' Services	Expenses	55,099	48,957	68,000	68,000	68,000	
Veterans' Total		129,568	125,949	150,422	154,562	154,562	
43 Library	Personnel	605,167	606,716	706,730	688,151	688,151	
44 Library	Expenses	230,995	232,036	243,884	259,100	259,100	
Library Dept. Total		836,162	838,752	945,614	947,251	947,251	
45 Recreation	Personnel	316,312	332,089	397,402	411,867	411,867	
46 Recreation	Expenses	64,186	69,350	74,054	74,795	74,795	
Recreation Dept. Total		380,498	401,439	471,456	486,662	486,662	
47 Debt Service	Expenses	7,097,897	4,529,940	4,711,906	4,491,216	4,491,216	
Debt Total		7,097,897	4,529,940	4,711,906	4,491,216	4,491,216	
48 Pensions	Expenses	6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,938,868	7,938,868	
Pension Total		6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,938,868	7,938,868	¹
49 Group Health Ins.	Expenses	4,655,827	5,655,280	6,336,512	7,373,842	7,373,842	
50 General Insurance	Expenses	580,184	748,076	594,457	1,191,287	1,191,287	
Insurance Total		5,236,012	6,403,355	6,930,969	8,565,129	8,565,129	

¹ Recommend that \$225,000 be taken from Light & Power Surplus Account and be applied to Line 48, Contributory Retirement and Pensions.

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 Exec. Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 FinCom Recommend</u>
51 Assabet Valley	Expenses	3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,539,141	3,539,141	
Assabet Valley Total		3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,539,141	3,539,141	
52 Hudson Schools	Personnel	33,524,361	35,055,340	35,864,710	34,088,637	34,088,637	
53 Hudson Schools	Expenses	7,202,731	6,000,000	6,120,000	7,783,436	7,783,436	
Schools Total		40,727,091	41,005,340	41,984,710	41,872,073	41,872,073	
54 Schools Transportation	Expenses	1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	3,514,630	3,514,630	
Transportation Total		1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	3,514,630	3,514,630	
Hudson Schools Total		42,577,737	43,305,340	44,279,710	45,386,703	45,386,703	
Total Operations		79,893,088	81,341,836	86,110,392	89,439,111	89,439,111	

ARTICLE 4 Approve Fiscal Year 2026 General Operating Budget Funding School and Municipal Operations Contingent Upon Passage by Ballot of a Proposition Two and One-Half General Operating Budget Override – Budget “B”

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination thereof, for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and that such sums be expended for such purposes under the direction of the respective Town Officers, Boards, and Committees; provided that such appropriation shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition Two and One-Half general operating override by ballot pursuant to Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) of the General Laws for the purpose of funding school and municipal operations; or take any other action relative thereto.

Department		FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 – Executive Asst. Request	FY26 – Select Board Recommend	FY26- Fin Com Recommend
1 Select Board	Personnel	9,000	11,021	13,000	13,000	13,000	
2 Select Board	Expenses	4,563	4,469	4,850	4,850	4,850	
Select Board Total		13,563	15,490	17,850	17,850	17,850	
3 Executive Assistant	Personnel	344,811	354,485	365,777	372,802	372,802	
4 Executive Assistant	Expenses	5,552	6,731	5,863	11,863	11,863	
5 Election & Town Meeting	Personnel	40,790	32,115	53,339	16,227	16,227	
6 Election & Town Meeting	Expenses	23,039	21,033	20,225	19,425	19,425	
7 Community Development	Personnel	231,367	272,810	296,691	305,757	305,757	
8 Community Development	Expenses	19,294	16,062	21,200	16,450	16,450	
9 Legal Services	Expenses	270,000	196,457	250,000	250,000	250,000	
10 Building Maintenance	Personnel	91,786	0	0	0	0	
11 Town Hall Expenses	Expenses	202,479	70,956	73,481	76,179	76,179	
12 Personnel Expense	Expenses	14,959	27,328	16,260	16,260	16,260	
Exe. Assistant Total		1,244,079	997,979	1,102,836	1,084,963	1,084,963	
13 Finance Department	Personnel	720,498	787,329	697,864	740,912	740,912	
14 Finance Department	Expenses	155,074	317,726	157,075	169,075	169,075	
Finance Dept. Total		875,572	1,105,054	854,939	909,987	909,987	
15 IT Department	Personnel	0	0	261,244	264,306	264,306	
16 IT Department	Expenses	0	0	358,281	525,148	525,148	
IT Total		0	0	619,526	789,454	789,454	
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18 Town Clerk	Expenses	14,553	14,354	16,525	16,853	16,853	
Town Clerk Total		173,116	174,251	200,255	208,913	208,913	
19 Moderator	Expenses	110	110	110	110	110	
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22 Board of Assessors	Expenses	59,275	46,909	119,350	119,350	119,350	
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24 Fort Meadow Comm.	Expenses	4,678	3,300	8,200	8,200	8,200	
25 Lake Boon Comm.	Expenses	3,692	0	3,200	3,200	3,200	
26 Historical District Comm.	Expenses	750	750	784	784	784	
Board & Com Total		102,815	86,279	168,299	268,296	268,296	
27 Police Department	Personnel	3,736,680	3,945,976	4,397,149	4,507,713	4,507,713	
28 Police Department	Expenses	575,757	553,145	611,072	690,025	690,025	
Police Dept. Total		4,312,437	4,499,121	5,008,221	5,197,738	5,197,738	

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Actual</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 - Executive Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 – Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 - Fin Com Recommend</u>
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30 Fire Department	Expenses	389,248	454,339	463,210	542,848	542,848	
Fire Dept. Total		3,918,004	4,160,916	4,384,692	4,516,228	4,516,228	
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32 Inspections Dept.	Expenses	17,436	13,918	16,336	18,880	18,880	
Insp. Dept. Total		225,191	312,962	331,021	365,271	365,271	
33 DPW Snow & Ice	Personnel	81,853	89,420	141,795	144,550	144,550	
34 DPW Snow & Ice	Expenses	360,395	285,918	212,700	212,700	212,700	
35 Public Works	Personnel	1,317,535	1,878,316	2,416,451	2,515,626	2,515,626	
36 Public Works	Expenses	553,625	831,433	1,313,750	1,372,600	1,372,600	
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37 Board of Health	Personnel	142,612	160,119	229,141	240,328	240,328	
38 Board of Health	Expenses	23,828	29,434	16,470	14,970	14,970	
BOH Total		166,440	189,553	245,611	255,298	255,298	
39 Council on Aging	Personnel	282,617	300,683	314,126	319,369	319,369	
40 Council on Aging	Expenses	34,554	38,447	35,800	40,752	40,752	
COA Total		317,171	339,130	349,926	360,121	360,121	
41 Veterans' Services	Personnel	74,469	76,992	82,422	86,562	86,562	
42 Veterans' Services	Expenses	55,099	48,957	68,000	68,000	68,000	
Veterans' Total		129,568	125,949	150,422	154,562	154,562	
43 Library	Personnel	605,167	606,716	706,730	721,310	721,310	
44 Library	Expenses	230,995	232,036	243,884	259,100	259,100	
Library Dept. Total		836,162	838,752	945,614	980,410	980,410	
45 Recreation	Personnel	316,312	332,089	397,402	411,867	411,867	
46 Recreation	Expenses	64,186	69,350	74,054	74,795	74,795	
Recreation Dept. Total		380,498	401,439	471,456	486,662	486,662	
47 Debt Service	Expenses	7,097,897	4,529,940	4,711,906	4,491,216	4,491,216	
Debt Total		7,097,897	4,529,940	4,711,906	4,491,216	4,491,216	
48 Pensions	Expenses	6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,938,868	7,938,868	
Pension Total		6,794,331	7,443,000	7,920,764	7,938,868	7,938,868	²
49 Group Health Ins.	Expenses	4,655,827	5,655,280	6,336,512	7,373,842	7,373,842	
50 General Insurance	Expenses	580,184	748,076	594,457	1,191,287	1,191,287	
Insurance Total		5,236,012	6,403,355	6,930,969	8,565,129	8,565,129	

² Recommend that \$225,000 be taken from Light & Power Surplus Account and be applied to Line 48, Contributory Retirement and Pensions.

<u>Department</u>		<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY25 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY26 Exec. Asst. Request</u>	<u>FY26 Select Board Recommend</u>	<u>FY26 Fin Com Recommend</u>
51 Assabet Valley	Expenses	3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,539,141	3,539,141	
Assabet Valley Total		3,178,596	3,301,238	3,331,679	3,539,141	3,539,141	
52 Hudson Schools	Personnel	33,524,361	35,055,340	35,864,710	37,388,637	37,388,637	
53 Hudson Schools	Expenses	7,202,731	6,000,000	6,120,000	7,783,436	7,783,436	
Schools Total		40,727,091	41,005,340	41,984,710	45,172,073	45,172,073	
54 Schools Transportation	Expenses	1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	3,514,630	3,514,630	
Transportation Total		1,850,645	2,250,000	2,295,000	3,514,630	3,514,630	
Hudson Schools Total		42,577,737	43,305,340	44,279,710	48,686,703	48,686,703	
Total Operations		79,893,088	81,341,836	86,110,392	93,062,286	93,062,286	

Executive Assistant
Select Board

ARTICLE 5 Capital Plan – General Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$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 6 DPW Salt Storage Shed – Transfer from Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money 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 7 HVAC Improvements to Town Hall

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money 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 a sum of money from previously certified and available Free Cash, and/or by transferring an additional sum or sums of money from any unspent balances in any capital project appropriations previously voted by the Town but no longer needed for its original voted purpose, or from any available funds in the Treasury of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

ARTICLE 8 Fire Department Aerial Ladder Truck Acquisition - Borrowing

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing an aerial ladder truck and related equipment for the Fire Department; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Fire Chief
Select Board

ARTICLE 9 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 10 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 11 Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$4,701,737 for use of the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Water Enterprise Fund collected by the Water Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$981,728
Expenses	\$1,897,550
Indirect Costs	\$921,802
Debt Service Costs	\$900,658
TOTAL	\$4,701,737

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2026 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$921,802; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2026 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
DPW Director
Select Board

ARTICLE 12 Sewer Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$6,233,612 for use of the Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Sewer Enterprise Fund collected by the Sewer Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$502,172
Expenses	\$2,590,800
Indirect Costs	\$848,234
Debt Service Costs	\$2,292,406
TOTAL	\$6,233,612

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2026 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$848,234; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2026 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
DPW Director
Select Board

ARTICLE 13 Storm Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote:

1. to appropriate the sum of \$1,278,500 for use of the Stormwater Department for Fiscal Year 2026, as shown more particularly below, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund collected by the Stormwater Department for said Fiscal Year;

Salaries & Wages	\$134,747
Expenses	\$563,000
Indirect Costs	\$180,753
Capital Outlay	\$400,000
TOTAL	\$1,278,500

2. to authorize Indirect Costs, from FY2026 revenues, for Fiscal Year 2026 at \$180,753; and,
3. to have the Select Board set the Fiscal Year 2026 fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director

DPW Director
Select Board

ARTICLE 14 Fund Assessor's FY2026 Year Certification of Values

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$210,000 from the Overlay Surplus to be expended by the Board of Assessors for the revaluation of properties in the Town of Hudson in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, Chapter 58, Sections 1 and 1A, and the regulations of the Department of Revenue; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Board of Assessors

ARTICLE 15 Establish and Appropriate to a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reducing health insurance premium costs to the Town, under General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, and, further to vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, a sum or sums of money to be deposited into said fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Select Board

ARTICLE 16 Transfer From Health Insurance Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund the sum of \$400,000, said sum to be transferred to the Health Insurance line in the Town's operating budget (line #49 – Group Health Insurance) for the purpose of reducing the Town's FY2026 appropriation for health insurance; or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Finance Director
Select Board

ARTICLE 17 PEG Access and Cable Related Budget

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following expenditures from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F $\frac{3}{4}$:

HUD Access Television Studio

HUD-TV Salaries	\$228,478
HUD-TV Operational Expenses	\$72,647

Town Internet Networking (INET)

INET Salaries	\$0
INET Operational Expenses	\$131,000
<hr/>	
	\$432,125

or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
 Finance Director
 School Director of Technology
 Select Board

ARTICLE 18 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 19 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 20 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 21 Transfer to Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money 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 22 Amend Town Charter: Change Executive Assistant to Town Manager by Special Act

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to submit a proposed Special Act to the General Court of the Commonwealth to amend the charter of the Town of Hudson, which is on file in the office of the Archivist of the Commonwealth, as follows, or to take any other action relative thereto:

An Act amending the charter of the Town of Hudson.

SECTION 1. Section 1-2 of Article 1 of the charter of the Town of Hudson, which is on file in the office of the Archivist of the Commonwealth, is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 2. Section 3-4(d) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 3. Section 3-4(e) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 4. Section 3-4(g) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 5. Section 3-4(h) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 6. Section 3-7(a) of Article 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 7. The heading ARTICLE 4-EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT" and inserting in place thereof the following words: TOWN MANAGER.

SECTION 8. Section 4-1(a) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 9. Section 4-1(b) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 10. Section 4-2 of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 11. Section 4-3(a) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 12. Section 4-3(c) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 13. The heading SECTION 4-4: ACTING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT" and inserting in place thereof the following words: TOWN MANAGER.

SECTION 14. Section 4-4 of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 15. The heading SECTION 4-5: REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT" and inserting in place thereof the following words: TOWN MANAGER.

SECTION 16. Section 4-5(b) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 17. Section 4-5(c) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 18. Section 4-5(d) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 19. Section 4-5(e) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 20. Section 4-5(h) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 21. Section 4-5(i) of Article 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 22. Section 5-1-2, first unnumbered paragraph, of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 23. Section 5-2 of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 24. Section 5-4, Step 2, of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 25. Section 5-4, Step 3, of Article 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 26. Section 6-2 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 27. Section 6-3 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 28. Section 6-4 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 29. Section 6-5(a) of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 30. Section 6-6(b) of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 31. Section 6-7 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 32. Section 6-8 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" each time they appear and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 33. Section 6-9 of Article 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words "executive assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 34. Section 8-7(a) of Article 8 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word "Executive Assistant" and inserting in place thereof the following words: town manager.

SECTION 35. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

ARTICLE 23 Amend General By-Laws: Change Executive Assistant to Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to amend all applicable provisions of the Town of Hudson General By-laws thereby changing all references from "Office of the Executive Assistant" to "Office of the Town Manager" and all references from "Executive Assistant" to "Town Manager" or to take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

ARTICLE 24 Amend General By-Laws: Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-Laws as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

1. By establishing a new Article XIII, entitled "Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction By-Law," to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XIII
NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTIC REDUCTION BY-LAW**

Section 1. Statement of Purpose

1.1 For purposes of this By-Law, certain words and phrases appear in capitalized form. These capitalized words and phrases are defined in Section 2. Unless the context indicates otherwise, each capitalized term shall have the meaning set forth therein.

1.2 Disposable Food Service Ware – such as takeout containers, Utensils, straws, and trays – made of Foam Polystyrene, solid polystyrene, and black solid plastics can have a detrimental effect on the environment and pose potential health hazards;

1.3 Foam Polystyrene, black solid polystyrene, and disposable Black Plastic Utensils are not Biodegradable, Compostable, or recyclable in the Town of Hudson;

1.4 It is the intent of the Town of Hudson, acting through its Board of Health, to eliminate the use of foam polystyrene, black solid polystyrene, and Black Plastic in Food Service Ware and packaging by all Food and retail Establishments within the Town by January 1, 2026. This By-Law further seeks to promote the use of less toxic, more durable, reusable, recyclable, Biodegradable, and/or Compostable alternatives.

Section 2. Definitions

For the purpose of this By-Law, the following words shall have the following meanings:

2.1 **Black Plastic:** Food Service Ware that is primarily black in color (i.e. having a reflectance value of less than 6% in the visible spectrum (400-700 nm)) that is typically used by food service establishments for takeout food orders and for consumers to take home food left over when dining in.

2.2 Compostable and Biodegradable: Any product that is not made from synthetic polymers, but solely from plant-based materials such as wood, bamboo, paper, or other plant products.

2.3 Disposable Food Service Ware: Includes: a) Food Service Ware made from Foam Polystyrene or black plastic that is primarily for single-use and is not meant to be adequately and repeatedly cleaned and sanitized for reuse. This includes any polystyrene or Black Plastic containers used by Food Establishments to heat, cook, or store food or beverages prior to serving, regardless of whether such containers are used to serve such food or beverages; and b) Disposable Plastic Utensils.

2.4 Disposable Plastic Utensil: Any Utensil that is made predominantly from synthetic polymers and is not a Reusable Utensil.

2.5 Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) or Extruded Polystyrene (XPS): Forms of polystyrene. Extruded polystyrene is also referred to as "rigid polystyrene." "Styrofoam" is a Dow Chemical Co. trademarked form of extruded polystyrene and is commonly used to refer to Foam Polystyrene. These are generally used to make insulated cups, bowls, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays, foam Packing Materials and egg cartons. The products are sometimes identified by a #6 resin code on the bottom. Polystyrene may be dyed with black carbon or other coloration.

2.6 Foam Polystyrene: A non-biodegradable petrochemical thermoplastic made from aerated forms of polystyrene and includes several methods of manufacture.

2.7 Food Establishment: An operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, and vends food directly to the consumer, or otherwise provides food for human consumption and/or use on or off the premises, whether or not a fee is charged, but not including the service of food within a home or other private setting. Any facility requiring a food permit in accordance with the Massachusetts State Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq. and/or regulations of the Hudson Board of Health shall be considered a "food establishment" for purposes of this By-Law.

2.8 Food Service Ware: Includes a) products for heating, storing, packaging, serving, consuming or transporting prepared or ready-to-consume food or beverages including, but not limited to, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, and hinged or lidded containers. This includes any containers used by Food Establishments to heat, cook, or store food or beverages prior to serving, regardless of whether such containers are used to serve such food or beverages; and (b) Utensils.

2.9 Health Agent: A Hudson Board of Health member or their designee(s).

2.10 Packing Material: Material used to hold, cushion or protect items packed in a container for shipping transport or storage.

2.11 Prepared Food: Food or beverages, which are serviced, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed or otherwise prepared (collectively

“prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or raw, butchered meats, fish, seafood and/or poultry.

2.12 **Retail Establishment:** Any business facility that sells goods directly to the consumer, whether or not for profit.

2.13 **Reusable Utensil:** A Utensil that is: (a) manufactured from durable materials; (b) is not Disposable Food Service Ware; and (c) is designed to be adequately and repeatedly cleaned and sanitized for reuse.

2.14 **Utensil:** Any implement, tool, product, object, container, or device, whether reusable or disposable, designed, used, or intended for preparing, handling, serving, or consuming food or beverages, regardless of material composition.

Section 3. Regulated Conduct

3.1. After January 1, 2026, Food Establishments in the Town of Hudson may **not**:

- a. use, sell, or otherwise distribute Disposable Food Service Ware; or
- b. provide a Disposable Plastic Utensil or single-use condiment container to a customer, except upon that customer’s specific request for such items or if the item is selected by a customer from a self-service dispenser.

3.2. After January 1, 2026, Retail Establishments in the Town of Hudson may **not** sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute:

- a. Disposable Food Service Ware made from Foam Polystyrene or Black Plastic; or
- b. meat trays, fish trays, seafood trays, vegetable trays, or egg cartons made in whole or in any part with Foam Polystyrene or solid Black Plastic.

3.3. After January 1, 2026, Retail Establishments in the Town of Hudson greater than 10,000 square feet may **not** sell Disposable Plastic Utensils unless equivalent non-plastic or reusable Utensils are available for sale and are clearly labeled such that any customer can easily distinguish among the single-use plastic, disposable non-plastic, and reusable items.

3.4. After January 1, 2026, Retail Establishments in the Town of Hudson may **not** sell or offer for sale Packing Materials, including packing peanuts, made from Foam Polystyrene. However, this does not preclude or prevent:

- a. reusing Packing Materials for shipping, transport or storage within the same business or distribution system as long as those Packing Materials are only sent to customers or end users as dunnage and not as a product for sale; or

- b. receiving shipments within the Town of Hudson that include Foam Polystyrene used as a Packing Material, provided that the goods were not packaged or repackaged within the Town of Hudson.

Section 4. Exemptions

4.1. Nothing in this By-Law shall prohibit individuals from using Disposable Food Service Ware that has been purchased outside the Town of Hudson for personal use.

4.2. Nothing in this By-Law shall prohibit individuals from bringing and using their own personal Utensils of any type for personal use in a Food Establishment.

4.3. Prepared food packaged outside the Town of Hudson is exempt from the provisions of this By-Law, provided that it is sold or otherwise provided to the consumer in the same Disposable Food Service Ware in which it was originally packaged, and that the Prepared Food has not been altered or repackaged.

4.4 The Board of Health or Health Agent may exempt a Food Establishment or retail establishment from any provision of this By-Law for a period of up to six months upon written application by the owner or operator of that establishment. No exemption will be granted unless the Board of Health or Health Agent finds that (1) strict enforcement of the provision for which the exemption is sought would cause undue hardship*; or (2) the Food Establishment or Retail Establishment requires additional time to draw down an existing inventory of a specific item regulated by this By-Law.

4.5. Medical facilities, nursing homes, assisted living, and residential care facilities are **exempt** from this prohibition regarding plastic straws.

*For purposes of this By-Law, “undue hardship” shall mean a situation unique to a food establishment or retail establishment in which there are no reasonable alternatives to the use of materials prohibited by this By-Law, and that compliance with this By-Law would create significant economic hardship for the establishment.

Section 5. Enforcement and Penalties

5.1 Authority

The Town of Hudson Board of Health, and/or its designee, shall have the authority to enforce this By-Law and any regulations promulgated hereunder. The Town of Hudson may also enforce this By-Law and enjoin violations through any lawful process or combination of processes. The election of one remedy shall not preclude the Town or the Board of Health from pursuing any other lawful means of enforcement.

5.2 Penalties

- a. **Criminal Penalties.** Violations of this By-Law are punishable by a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300) per violation. Each successive fifteen (15) day period of non-compliance shall constitute a separate violation.
- b. **Non-Criminal Disposition.** As an alternative to criminal prosecution, violators of this By-Law may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided by M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D and the Town's By-Law for Non-Criminal Disposition of Violations. In such instances, the Board of Health or its agent shall be the enforcing person, and any food or Retail Establishment found to be in violation of this By-Law shall be subject to the following penalties:

First Offense: Written Warning

Second Offense: Fifty-dollar (\$50) penalty

Third and Subsequent Offenses: Three hundred-dollar (\$300) penalty

Not more than one (1) fine shall be assessed within a fifteen (15) day period per Retail Establishment.

5.3 Regulations

The Board of Health may adopt, amend, or rescind rules and regulations as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this By-Law.

Section 6. Interaction with Other Laws

In the case of a conflict between the requirements of this By-Law and any other federal, state, or local law concerning the materials regulated herein, the more stringent requirements shall apply.

Section 7. Severability

If any provision of this By-Law is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 8. Effective Date

This By-Law shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

- 2. By renumbering the existing "Article XIII," titled "Application and Penalties," as "Article XIV" (retaining the same title), and updating all references to such numbering wherever they appear- including, but not limited to, any Town regulations referencing Article XIII- to reflect its new number; and

Adding the following immediately following the last line of said renumbered Article XIV:

"Article XIII

Section 5.2 Non-Recyclable Plastic Reduction By-law	written warning 1 st offense \$50 2 nd offense \$300 3 rd offense and all subsequent offenses	Duly authorized agents of the Board of Health
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Executive Assistant
Board of Health

ARTICLE 25 Community Preservation Reservation of Funds

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses	\$14,710
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Reserves:

From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$73,548.20
From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$73,548.20
From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$73,548.20
From FY 2026 estimated revenues for Budgeted/General Reserve	\$500,127.40

Or take any action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 26 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Community Preservation** available funds the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for community preservation projects in fiscal year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

\$ 3,800	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Hudson Land Trust and Conservation Commission for Old North Road Signage;
\$ 10,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Park Commission/Recreation for Lamson Park (Tripp's Pond) Survey Work;
\$ 25,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Hudson Land Trust and Conservation Commission for Design Services for Trail Improvements at Danforth Falls Conservation Land;
\$280,000	From Undesignated Fund Balance to the Park Commission/Recreation for Construction of a Dog Park.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 27 Community Preservation Transfer to Affordable Housing

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$73,548.20 from the Community Preservation Reserve for Community Housing fund balance to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 28 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds – Centennial Beach Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of \$98,500 to pay the annual Centennial Beach Bond debt service recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the beach renovation project; or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 29 Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts

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 through June 30, 2026, 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 30 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 31 Departmental Revolving Funds Annual Spending Limits

To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2026 beginning on July 1, 2025, for the Revolving Funds established in the Town by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as follows:

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer	FY2026 Spending Limit
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	\$20,000
Fire Alarm	Fire Chief	\$30,000
Infiltration and Inflow	DPW Director	\$400,000
Inspection Fees	Building Commissioner	\$200,000
School Department Professional Development	Superintendent of Schools	\$20,000
Senior Citizens Programs	Council on Aging	\$75,000
Public Health Inspections	Board of Health	\$75,000
Tobacco Control	Board of Health	\$15,000
Curbside Pick-Up	Department of Public Works	\$875,000
Affordable Housing	Community Development Director	\$60,000
Farmers Market	Board of Health and Conservation Agent	\$20,000
Shared Public Health Services	Board of Health	\$20,000

Vaccination Program	Board of Health	\$20,000
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or take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant, Fire Chief, Finance Director, DPW Director, Building Commissioner, School Committee, Council on Aging, Board of Health, Community Development Director, Select Board

ARTICLE 32 Light and Power Surplus Account

To see if the Town will appropriate the receipts of the Light and Power Department for the operation, maintenance, expenses, repairs and construction for the Department for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026, as defined in Section 57 and 58, Chapter 164 of the General Laws (1921) of Massachusetts, as thereafter amended, and that if there shall be any unexpended balance as of December 31, 2025, an amount not to exceed \$225,000 of the same shall be transferred to the Light and Power Surplus Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Municipal Light Board
Executive Assistant
Select Board

ARTICLE 33 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 34 Adoption of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23D - Mullin Rule

To see if the Town will vote to accept, for the following boards, committees, or commissions holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions as established by said statute are met, such as certifying that examination of all evidence received at the missed session including an audio or video recording of the missed session or a transcript thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Affected Boards and Commissions: Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Planning Board, Select Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals
Conservation Commission
Select Board

ARTICLE 35 Annual Town Reports

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town's Annual Report and file same with the permanent records of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Executive Assistant
Select Board

ARTICLE 36 Amend General By-Laws: Finance Committee Term of Office

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Section 6.0, "Administrative Service Group," subsection 6.3, "Finance Committee," item "(a)", "Term of Office," by inserting the line in bold below:

Term of Office. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of nine citizens of the town other than town officers and members of committees. Three members of said committee shall be appointed on July first of each year to serve for three years from date. Such committee shall be appointed by an appointing committee as set forth in Section 3.7(b) of the Home Rule Charter. Any member of said committee who shall be elected by ballot to any (other) town office shall forthwith upon his qualification to such office, and any member who shall remove from the town shall upon such removal, cease to be a member of said committee. **Members absent from three consecutive meetings may be deemed to have resigned and may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the other members present and voting.** Said committee shall choose its own officers.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

ARTICLE 37 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.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

And you are also directed to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the several designated polling places in their respective precincts in said Hudson, to wit:

Precinct I & Precinct V	Hudson High School, 69 Brigham Street
Precinct II	Glen Road Community Center, 4 Glen Road
Precinct III & Precinct IV	David J. Quinn Middle School, 201 Manning Street
Precinct VI	Auditorium, Town Hall, 78 Main Street

On Monday, May 12, 2025, at seven o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing year:

Select Board, two for three years; Moderator, one for one year; School Committee, two for three years; School Committee, one for one year (to fill a vacancy) Trustees of Susan Cox, Joseph S. Bradley, J.J. Angell, Sarah A. Brown, George E.D. and Abigail E. Wilkins, Addie E. Cahill, Helen M. Lewis, Mary E. Tacey, Maude A. Whitney, Clara E. Houghton Funds and Martin Joseph Moran III, one for three years; Trustees of Susan Cox, Joseph S. Bradley, J.J. Angell, Sarah A. Brown, George E.D. and Abigail E. Wilkins, Addie E. Cahill, Helen M. Lewis, Mary E. Tacey, Maude A. Whitney, Clara E. Houghton Funds and Martin Joseph Moran III, one for one year (to fill a vacancy); Housing Authority, one for four years (to fill a vacancy) Municipal Light Board, one for three years; Park Commission, one for three years; Board of Health, one for three years; Library Trustees, one for three years; Planning Board, two for three years; Cemetery Commission, one for three years; Constable, one for three years; and Board of Assessors, one for three years; Vocational Regional School Committee One to for two years (to fill a vacancy).

BALLOT QUESTION (May 12, 2025)

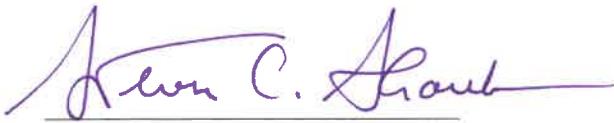
Shall the Town of Hudson be allowed to assess an additional \$3,950,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding school and municipal operations for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand twenty five? Yes _____ No _____

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, seven 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 24th day of March in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

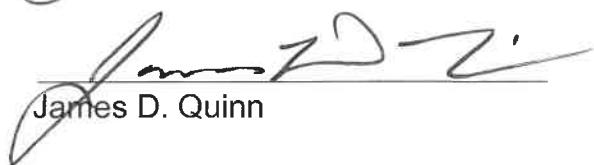
Scott R. Duplisea, Chair



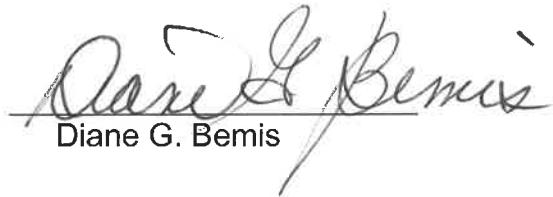
Steven C. Sharek, Clerk



Judy Congdon, Vice Chair



James D. Quinn



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".