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**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**Select Board and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Hadley Senior Center at 46 Middle St., Hadley MA, 01035 at 6:00 pm**

Present were: Amy Parsons, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk;; Jane Nevinsmith, Member; Randy Izer, Member; and Molly Keegan, Member.

Also present were Carolyn Brennan, Town Administrator; Jennifer Sanders-James, Licensing Coordinator; Linda Sanderson, Town Treasurer; Chris Desjardins, School Business Manager; Michelle Morris-Friedman, Resident; Tara Brugger, School Committee; Anne McKenzie, Superintendent of Schools; Troy Brin, HR Director; Police Chief Mike Mason; Susan Glowatsky, Town Collector; Alex LaMarche, Hadley Media Director; Dan Zdonek, Town Assessor; William Dwyer, Planning Board; Jim Maksimoski, Planning Board; Mary Thayer, CPA Committee; Amy Fyden, Finance Committee; Lynne Latham, Resident; and Mike Spanknebel, Fire Chief.

**1. Call to Order**

**1.1 Call to order**

The Select Board and Finance Committee convened a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom Meeting ID: 833 8250 7138  there and then to act on the following agenda.

The public may access the meeting remotely by using a computer or telephone and follow the instructions below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83382507138?pwd=fq41UQ28coAJ5LonhpPoyTjoBnqLaG.1>

Meeting ID: 833 8250 7138

**2. Public Forum**

**2.1 Special Town Meeting Public Forum**

The Select Board and Finance Committee presented the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Amy Parsons announced that this meeting was being recorded by Hadley Media and that no other party indicated that s/he was also recording the meeting.

Carolyn Brennan began by introducing the public forum with a PowerPoint slide deck. Carolyn Brennan that the intent of this public forum was to provide voters with an overview and context of the Special Town meeting to be held on October 26 by hopefully improving the understanding of the individual warrant articles and welcoming questions from the forum participants.

Linda Sanderson followed by stating what the starting Department of Revenue certified balances were as of July 1, 2023:

Free cash $1,369,252

Water Reserves $1,063,173

Sewer Reserves $ 83,422

Hadley Media Reserves $ 149,668

Capital Stabilization $ 51.952

General Stabilization $1,995,424

Water Stabilization $ 232,818

Sewer Impact $ 159,358

CPA Funds $ 2,164,395

Carolyn Brennan then introduced Article 1 which requests the Town to approve an amendment to the approved FY24 Omnibus Budget General Fund in the amount of $290,000 mostly for increases in union and non-union compensation and a new police cruiser. This article was recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0 and by the Finance Committee 5-0-0.

Carolyn Brennan presented Article 2.1 which is asking the Town to transfer $19,131 associated with the approved 2022 purchase of a Highway Mini-Loader back into Free cash, Water Reserves, and Sewer Reserves. Carolyn Brennan also presented Article 2.2 wherein approximately $25,000 in reduced borrowing would result from the purchase of a Fire Department vehicle as well as a Highway Plow Truck/Sander. This article was recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0 and by the Finance Committee 5-0-0.

Linda Sanderson shared the projected fund balances if spending articles are approved at the Special Town Meeting:

Free Cash $ 957,629

Water Reserves $1,079,868

Sewer Reserves $ 89,546

Hadley Media Reserves $ 144,668

Total $2,271,711

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Linda Sanderson and Randy Izer explained Article 3 which includes Capital Projects:

Replace the IT Network Server for the Town $ 20,000 Free Cash

Computer-Aided Emergency Dispatch Protocol $ 60,000 Free Cash

Computers/Cameras/AV Equipment $ 5,000 Hadley Media Reserves

New DPW Building Schematics $225,000 Borrow Within Levy

Select Board recommends these Article 3 projects 5-0-0. Finance Committee recommends these projects 5-0-0. With 2 Committee members absent, Capital Planning Committee recommends these projects 3-0-2.

Chris Desjardins spoke to Article 4 wherein the Town is requested to fund the renovation of the boys’ and girls’ locker rooms at Hopkins Academy for a cost estimated to be $1.1 million.

Joyce Chunglo stated that the estimated increase in property tax rates associated with a tax-rate override to be presented to voters later in calendar year 2023 would be 23 cents/$1000 of assessed valuation over 5 years or 14 cents/$1000 of assessed valuation over 0 years.

Select Board recommends this Article 4 project 5-0-0. Finance Committee recommends this project 5-0-0. With 2 Committee members absent, Capital Planning Committee recommends this project 3-0-2.

Chief Spanknebel presented Article 5 which relates to the projected cost of $2.15 million for a new ladder truck that includes multiple fire-fighting capabilities. Chief Spanknebel explained this “Swiss army knife” of a vehicle as well as the need for longer ladders to fight fire fires in Hadley. Chief Spanknebel also answered questioned relating to the useful life of fire trucks.

Joyce Chunglo stated that the estimated increase in property tax rates associated with a tax-rate override to be presented to voters later in calendar year 2023 would be 46 cents/$1000 of assessed valuation over 5 years or 28 cents/$1000 of assessed valuation over 10 years.

Select Board recommends this Article 5 project 5-0-0. Finance Committee recommends this project 5-0-0. With 2 Committee members absent, Capital Planning Committee recommends this project 2-1-2.

Amy Parsons addressed Article 6 wherein the Town is asked to approve the payment of FY 2023 invoices that were received in FY 2024 totaling approximately $18,000. Both the Select Board and Finance committee recommends this Article 5-0-0.

Before moving forward, Mary Thayer explained the CPA Fund. With a total sum of $3.33 million in the CPA Fund, $1.23 million is already reserved for ongoing projects, leaving an available balance of $2.10 million. Mary Thayer also walked through the sources of funding as well as past projects funded by the CPA.

Mary Thayer outlined the current CPA projects to include the restoration of the Town hall pillars, Hopkins Academy Fields Phase II, the Hockanum cemetery fence, and First Congregational Church steeple repair.

Mary Thayer explained Article 7 wherein the Town is asked to approve the deadline extensions of 2 years for the Town Hall pillar restoration and 1 year for the Hockanum Cemetery fence.

Select Board recommends this Article 7 project 5-0-0. Finance Committee recommends this project 5-0-0. CPA Committee recommends this Article 8-0-0.

Mary Thayer went on to explain Article 8 wherein the use of CPA funds totaling $125,400 would be used to preserve the exterior of 146 Russell Street (formerly St. John’s Church). Jim Maksimoski pointed out that this sum may be short if the steeple is in need of repair. The CPA Committee recommends this Article 7-0-0 while the Finance Committee recommends 3-1-1. The Select Board recommends 4-1-0.

Article 9 is a requested zoning bylaw 28.6 amendment that is recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0. Willaim Dwyer and Jim Maksimoski explained the recommended amendment shortening the time that other Boards or departments to express opposition of a proposed development form 35 days to 21 days..

Article 10 is a requested zoning bylaw 7.5.2 amendment that is recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0. William Dwyer and Jim Maksimoski explained the recommended amendment increasing the maximum allowed signage form 2 square feet to 4 square feet. The Planning Board recommends 5-0.

Molly Keegan and Carolyn Brennan explained Articles 11, 12, and 13 as they related to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund established by the Massachusetts Attorney General. The Articles pertain to how the funds allotted to the Town are accounted for and subsequently spent. The Select Board and Finance Committee both recommend these 3 Articles 5-0-0.

Jane Nevinsmith explained Article 14 wherein the Town is being asked to accept Birch Meadow Drive as a public way. Bothe the Planning Board and Select Board recommend this Article 5-0-0.

**3. Adjournment**

**3.1 Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Chunglo Second: Izer

Roll call vote: Keegan: Aye; Chunglo, Aye; Izer: Aye; Nevinsmith: Aye; Parsons: Aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lore