



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting and Public Forum of the Select Board was held at 7:00 pm at Hopkins Academy, Town of Hadley.

Present were: Molly Keegan, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Gerald Devine, Member;

Donald Pipczynski, Member, - Absent
John Waskiewicz, Member - Absent

1. Call to Order

1.1 Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Molly Keegan, Chair.

2. Pole Hearing

2.1 7:00 p.m. Verizon Pole Hearing- Hockanum Rd.

Molly Keegan states that we have a pole hearing as the first item of business for tonight. At a previous meeting on April 12, 2017 notice was given for a pole hearing.

Notice is given as per the provisions of MGL Chapter 166, Section 22 that the Select Board will hold a public hearing on the petition of Verizon New England, Inc., which requests permission to relocate 4 poles on Hockanum Rd.

David Nixon states that this part of a solar project at Hampshire College. Public Safety and DPW have both been notified and both have stated they are fine with the project. Does anyone in the public have a comment?

The Select Board is asked to take a vote after hearing all testimony from town departments, abutters, and the general public.

Vote: 4-0-0

3. Public Forum

3.1 Public Forum on the Annual Town Meeting

Molly Keegan states that this a preview of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and thank you to all town employees and volunteers who work so hard for Town Meetings.

The Select Board then presents the Annual Town Warrant with a slideshow presentation.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

**TOWN OF HADLEY
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT REVIEW**

Annual Town Meeting
May 4, 2017

Welcome and
Thank you!

- Thank you:
- Municipal employees,
- Volunteers, and
- School maintenance and Hadley Media.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
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Intent of the Forum

- **The Select Board's intention in presenting this forum is to:**
- **Provide voters with an overview and context for the Annual Town Meeting.**
- **Improve voters' understanding of individual warrant articles, and**
- **Offer voters an opportunity to ask questions.**

Intent of the Forum (cont.)

- **The Forum is NOT intended to:**
- **Take any vote (favorable or unfavorable),**
- **Provide any group or individual the opportunity to advocate for a particular article, or**
- **Speak against any article.**

- **Please refer to the public forum handout for rules and procedures.**

- **And please attend the Annual Town Meeting, Thursday May 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Hopkins Academy**



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
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Challenges

- Use of Free Cash to balance the budget,
- Constrained revenue due to the gas moratorium,
- Balancing departmental services needs within the confines of Proposition 2½, yet addressing public safety staffing, IT infrastructure, significant capital needs, lack of human resource department, lack of IT management department.

Consent Agenda

1. The Select Board, Finance Committee, and Moderator identify articles that generate no controversy, need no debate, and can be properly voted by consent.
2. There are 5 consent articles:
 - Article 1: Acceptance of grants.
 - Article 2: Acceptance of roads and bridge money,
 - Article 3: Temporary borrowing by Treasurer,
 - Article 7: Funds for the Water Treatment Plant Membranes, and
 - Article 15: Community Preservation Act housekeeping.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

**Article 4
Revolving Funds**

This article establishes eight revolving funds, and must be voted each year. The revolving funds address:

1. Burial expenses,
2. Electrical Inspections,
3. Tax title administration,
4. Payments for recyclable materials,
5. Dog control expenses,
6. Russell School expenses,
7. Sealer of Weights and Measures expenses, and
8. Park and Recreation program expenses.

Article 5 Fund Balance Transfers

This is a housekeeping article that does three things. Its first purpose is to adjust expenses associated with the Laurana Lane sewer project.

Its second purpose is to clean up old balances left over in a number of articles, where the project is done, and any money remaining is unproductive. Funds are being returned back to the source from which they were appropriated.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Article 5 Fund Balance Transfers

The third purpose is to amend old borrowing authorizations where borrowing was approved, but the amount actually needed was less. Where we have excess borrowing in these old articles we are required to report annually to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue the unproductive balances.

There is no impact on taxes.

Article 6
Omnibus Budget
for FY 2018

This article is still under review by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

The significant features of the budget are:

1. Level services.
2. Enhanced public safety, particularly for the Fire Department.
3. Enhanced building maintenance.
4. Implementation of a new Free Cash policy to reduce reliance on Free Cash for recurring expenses.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Article 8 Capital Projects

- 1. The Town plans to pave the Town Hall parking lot. The Congregational Church will pay for their portion of the pavement. \$26,000 is requested from a prior building maintenance article.**
- 2. Hadley Media requests a transfer of \$69,915 from their own funds to pay for capital upgrades.**

There is no impact on taxes.

Article 9 Long Range Plan Implementation Committee

This article lays down and dissolves the Long Range Plan Implementation Committee, which has been inactive for several years.

Town Meeting voted to create the committee, so a Town Meeting vote is required to disband it.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Article 10
Hampshire Council of Governments

This article proposes that the Town of Hadley should withdraw its membership from the Hampshire Council of Governments, effective July 1, 2018.

Article 11
Senior Tax Work Off Program

This article proposes that the Town should adopt a tax work off program for seniors who qualify under income limits. Qualifying seniors would perform up to 90 hours of work in exchange for a discount on real estate taxes.

The Town receives the help of a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce that can assist with special projects and covering staffing shortages.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Articles 12 and 13 Solar Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes

The next two articles provide for a payment –in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement for two solar developments located near the Hampshire mall and generating 5 Megawatts of electricity.

The effect of the agreements is to provide the Town with more tax money over the long term of the agreement and helps manage cash flow for the developer.

Article 14 Recreational Marijuana Local Sales Tax

Voters approved the sale of recreational marijuana in Massachusetts, and the new law allows cities and towns to impose a local sales tax of 2% on such sales.

A local sales tax would provide much needed funds to cover the anticipated expenses associated with public safety.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Article 16

CPA: Hampshire Council of Governments

The Hampshire Council of Governments requests money to repair and restore the historic court house in Northampton. The Community Preservation Act Committee has authorized \$10,000.

Article 17

CPA: Smith Charities

Smith Charities requests \$500 to conduct a study of the historic Smith Charities Building in Northampton. The Community Preservation Act Committee has authorized the request to be presented to the voters.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Articles 18, 19, 20, & 21 Land Preservation

The next four articles place four parcels of land into permanent agricultural protection.

The first two parcels belong to the West Family and consist of 107 acres off South Maple Street. The request is for a total of \$50,000 as a match of 10% of the total price for the development rights. The Commonwealth provides 90% of the costs.

Articles 18, 19, 20, & 21 Land Preservation

The second two parcels belong to the Haryn Family and consists of 17 acres off Lawrence Plain Road. The request is for \$9,000 of local funds for an adjustment in the appraisal estimates. The Town has previously approved \$90,000 for this project.

The funding for these parcels is from Community Preservation Act funds and Transfer of Development funds. There is no impact on taxes.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria – 7:00 pm

Article 22 Zoning Article

Article 22 addresses a change in state requirements for special permits. The new requirement allows a three-year expiration limit on special permits, instead of two years.

Article 23 Zoning Article

Article 23 imposes a temporary moratorium on the retail sales of recreational marijuana. The Commonwealth is not expected to release regulations until March 1, 2018, and the Town will need time to study the new requirements before adopting new zoning (if needed).



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
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Article 24 Zoning Article

Article 24 deletes a special permit requirement that is no longer compliant with state law.

Annual Town Meeting

**May 4, 2017
at 7 pm
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria**



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Select Board Meeting Minutes
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Molly Keegan asks for anyone with questions and if they do not have any questions tonight, please contact us and we will get answers for you.

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment

5.1 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Chunglo Second: Devine

Vote: 3-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Sanders James

APPROVED