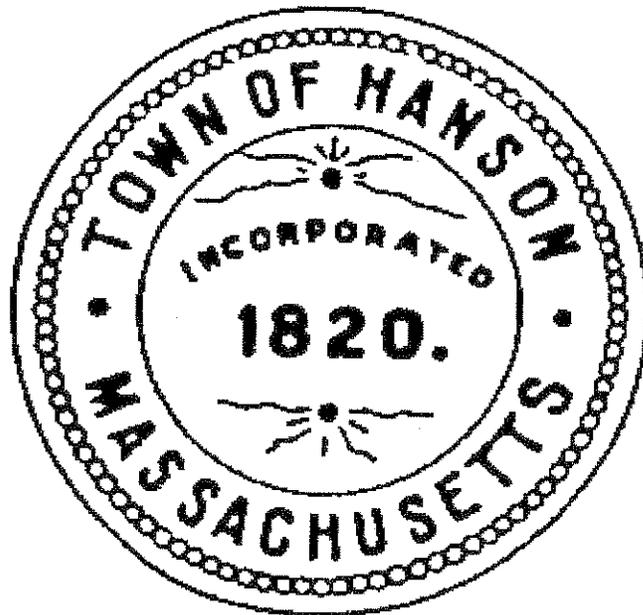


Town Meeting Informational Warrant

MAY 6, 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Hanson Middle School – 7:30 p.m.



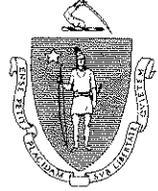
Prepared by the Town Administrator and Executive Assistant

at the direction of the Board of Selectmen



Town of Hanson

Board of Selectmen



542 Liberty Street
Hanson, Massachusetts 02341
(781) 293-2131 FAX (781) 294-0884
www.hanson-ma.gov

April 30, 2013

To the Voters at the Hanson **May ANNUAL** Town Meeting:

The enclosed is an informational copy of the warrant for the May 6, 2013 **ANNUAL** Town Meeting for your convenience during the Town Meeting.

This informational warrant provides you with the most current information on each article, including explanations and recommendations. I hope that this will assist you during the meeting.

The legal warrant was posted on the 18th of April 2013, by the Constables of the Town of Hanson, in accordance with state law.

Cordially,

Rene' J. Read,
Town Administrator

Town Meeting

PLYMOUTH, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Hanson, in the County of Plymouth
GREETINGS,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hanson, qualified to vote in Town affairs, and elections, to meet in the Auditorium of the Middle School (off Liberty Street), in said Hanson on Monday the **Sixth day of May, 2013** at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon to act on the articles in this warrant and furthermore to meet in the Maquan School Auditorium and Cafeteria, on School Street, in said Hanson on Saturday, the **Eighteenth of May, 2013** at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, to bring in their votes for Town Officials as stipulated in **Article 26** of this warrant.

ARTICLE 1: To hear reports of the various Town Officers, Committees, Special Committees, and act thereon.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Reports voted on are those published in the **2012** Town Report. To hear the report of the Maquan School Building Committee

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2014 as permitted by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: Every year this article is voted. It simply allows the Treasurer/Collector to maintain accounts using credits instead of money to pay for banking charges.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000 from overlay surplus for the Treasurer/Collectors tax title account or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: This money will be used to cover the costs incurred for filing and advertising properties with delinquent taxes, and also to pay any legal fees resulting from this process.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the Salary and Compensation of all paid Elected Officers and Committees of the Town as follows:

	FY13	FY14
Town Clerk	\$59,988.00	\$60,888.00
Tree Warden	\$2,687.00	\$2,768.00

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: This article sets the salaries limits for the elected officials. Article 5 funds the salaries.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting*

ARTICLE 5: To determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from free cash, transfer from Town Ambulance Funds, Water Department Revenue, Water Surplus, Title V Special Revenue Fund, MWPAT Loan Repayments Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Conservation Notice of Intent Fund, Overlay Surplus, Stabilization Fund, Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt, and Election Fund Ch. 503, Acts of 1983 to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including Debt and Interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the **2014 Fiscal Year** or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article refers to the FY 2014 Annual Budget Lines

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 4 – 1 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

TOWN OF HANSON

General Fund - Fiscal Year 2014

Line #	FY2013 BUDGET	Fiscal Year 2014			Funding source(s)
		Department Requested	Selectmen Approved	Finance Comm Recommend	
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:					
122 SELECTMEN/ADMINISTRATION					
1	Salaries	141,502	142,873	157,392	157,392 Taxation
2	Expenses	22,085	24,335	24,335	24,335 Taxation
131 FINANCE COMMITTEE					
3	Salaries	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550 Taxation
4	Expenses	447	450	450	450 Taxation
5	Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000 Taxation
135 ACCOUNTANT					
6	Salaries	91,299	94,799	94,799	94,799 Taxation
7	Expenses	2,060	2,100	2,100	2,100 Taxation
8	Audit	36,500	27,000	27,000	27,000 Taxation
141 ASSESSORS					
9	Salaries	126,011	130,502	130,502	130,502 Taxation
10	Expenses	7,150	7,150	7,150	7,150 Taxation
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR					
11	Salaries	162,339	170,700	167,130	167,130 Taxation
12	Expenses	7,512	6,512	6,512	6,512 Taxation
13	MWPAT Admin Expenses	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000 MWPAT Title V Fund
151 LEGAL SERVICES					
14	Expenses	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000 Taxation
155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
15	Expenses	107,000	112,200	114,000	114,000 Taxation
161 TOWN CLERK					
16	Salaries	77,570	79,688	98,488	98,488 Taxation
17	Expenses	3,570	3,570	3,570	3,570 Taxation
162 ELECTIONS					
18	Salaries	9,444	3,253	3,253	3,253 Taxation
19	Expenses	10,670	5,342	5,342	5,342 Taxation
20	Special Election Expenses	-	-	-	-
163 BOARD OF REGISTRARS					
21	Salaries	8,911	7,150	7,150	7,150 Taxation
22	Expenses	1,782	1,782	1,782	1,782 Taxation
171 CONSERVATION COMMISSION					
23	Salaries	75,622	54,893	54,893	54,893 Taxation
24	Expenses	2,700	3,120	3,120	3,120 Taxation
175 PLANNING BOARD					
25	Salaries	35,000	54,893	57,493	57,493 Taxation
26	Expenses	3,254	3,350	3,350	3,350 Taxation
176 APPEALS BOARD					
27	Salaries	30,758	31,333	31,333	31,333 Taxation
28	Expenses	720	720	720	720 Taxation
180 MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES					
29	Expenses	-	-	-	-
190 POSTAGE					
30	Expenses	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000 Taxation
192 MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS					
31	Salaries	46,327	47,187	47,387	47,387 Taxation
32	Expenses	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250 Taxation
196 UTILITIES					
33	Expenses	89,944	89,944	95,250	95,250 Taxation
Subtotal, GENERAL GOVERNMENT		1,340,977	1,345,646	1,385,301	1,385,301

Line #	FY2013 BUDGET	Fiscal Year 2014			Funding source(s)
		Department Requested	Selectmen Approved	Finance Comm Recommend	
PUBLIC SAFETY:					
210 POLICE					
34	Salaries	1,624,717	1,654,340	1,655,209	1,655,209 Taxation
35	Expenses	118,643	121,358	121,358	121,358 Taxation
36	Capital Outlay	48,629	60,761	37,743	37,743 Taxation
215 COMMUNICATIONS					
37	Salaries	281,057	300,113	300,113	300,113 Taxation
38	Expenses	25,540	25,540	25,540	25,540 Taxation
220 FIRE & AMBULANCE					
39	Salaries	1,397,386	1,438,650	1,438,650	1,438,650 \$1,231,150 Taxation \$207,500 Ambulance Fund
40	Expenses	119,300	138,752	138,752	138,752 \$118,752 Taxation \$20,000 Ambulance Fund
41	Capital Outlay	46,891	46,891	46,891	46,891 Ambulance Fund
241 BUILDING INSPECTION					
42	Salaries	72,633	74,329	74,329	74,329 Taxation
43	Expenses	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000 Taxation
242 GAS INSPECTION					
44	Salaries	4,263	4,391	4,391	4,391 Taxation
45	Expenses	-	-	-	-
243 PLUMBING INSPECTION					
46	Salaries	4,060	4,182	4,182	4,182 Taxation
47	Expenses	-	-	-	-
244 WEIGHTS & MEASURES					
48	Salaries	3,000	3,090	3,090	3,090 Taxation
49	Expenses	400	400	400	400 Taxation
245 WIRING INSPECTION					
50	Salaries	16,240	16,727	16,727	16,727 Taxation
51	Expenses	-	-	-	-
292 ANIMAL CONTROL					
52	Salaries	26,717	27,518	27,518	27,518 Taxation
53	Expenses	2,670	2,670	2,670	2,670 Taxation
294 TREE WARDEN					
54	Salaries	2,687	2,768	2,768	2,768 Taxation
55	Expenses	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500 Taxation
Subtotal, PUBLIC SAFETY		3,802,333	3,929,980	3,907,831	3,907,831
EDUCATION:					
300 WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL					
56	Operating Assessment	7,191,329	7,434,498	7,224,087	7,224,087 Taxation
57	Transportation Assessment	97,587	89,377	89,377	89,377 Taxation
58	Debt Assessment	450,227	432,037	432,037	432,037 Taxation
59	330 SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL TECH	667,002	799,881	799,881	799,881 Taxation
60	340 NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL	126,200	199,252	199,252	199,252 Taxation
Subtotal, EDUCATION		8,532,345	8,955,045	8,744,634	8,744,634
PUBLIC WORKS:					
410 ENGINEERING					
61	Expenses	16,000	10,000	10,000	10,000 Taxation
420 HIGHWAY					
62	Salaries	351,855	358,160	409,460	409,460 Taxation
63	Expenses	95,290	95,290	95,290	95,290 Taxation
64	Snow & Ice	120,000	120,000	140,000	140,000 Taxation
65	Street Sweeping	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000 Taxation
424 TOWN-WIDE FUEL					
66	Expenses	126,000	154,535	120,000	120,000 Taxation
430 SOLID WASTE					
67	Salaries	68,899	72,088	88,026	88,026 Taxation
68	Expenses	154,473	160,301	165,884	165,884 Taxation

Subtotal, PUBLIC WORKS 958,517 996,374 1,054,660 1,054,660

Line #	FY2013 BUDGET	Fiscal Year 2014			Funding source(s)
		Department Requested	Selectmen Approved	Finance Comm Recommend	
HUMAN SERVICES:					
511 BOARD OF HEALTH					
69	Salaries	90,634	93,889	88,889	88,889 Taxation
70	Expenses	3,730	4,360	4,360	4,360 Taxation
71	VNA Services	250	1,500	1,500	500 Taxation
541 COUNCIL ON AGING					
72	Salaries	48,182	49,628	49,628	49,628 Taxation
73	Expenses	8,719	8,719	8,719	8,719 Taxation
74	VNA Services	6,400	7,800	7,800	7,800 Taxation
543 VETERANS					
75	Salaries	13,562	13,970	13,970	13,970 Taxation
76	Expenses	500	900	900	900 Taxation
77	Assistance	40,000	42,500	42,500	42,500 Taxation
544 CARE OF SOLDIERS GRAVES					
78	Expenses	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500 Taxation
Subtotal, HUMAN SERVICES		213,477	224,766	219,766	218,766
CULTURE & RECREATION:					
610 LIBRARY					
79	Salaries	200,291	260,806	241,824	241,824 Taxation
80	Expenses	116,898	117,039	118,039	118,039 Taxation
630 RECREATION					
81	Salaries	31,941	32,544	30,000	30,000 Taxation
650 PARK & FIELDS					
82	Expenses	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000 Taxation
83	692 PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCE COMM	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000 Taxation
Subtotal, CULTURE & RECREATION		360,130	422,389	401,863	401,863
FIXED COSTS:					
710 DEBT SERVICE					
84	Principal	489,832	502,717	502,717	502,717 \$395,217 Taxation \$107,500 MWPAT Rcpts Reserved
85	Interest	181,675	166,162	166,162	166,162 \$161,061 Taxation \$5,101 Debt Premium reserved
86	911 PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT	1,065,729	1,109,316	1,109,316	1,109,316 Taxation
87	913 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000 Taxation
88	914 GROUP INSURANCE	1,442,000	1,575,390	1,442,023	1,442,023 Taxation
89	945 RISK MANAGEMENT	252,819	252,819	252,819	252,819 Taxation
Subtotal, FIXED COSTS		3,457,055	3,631,404	3,498,037	3,498,037
SUB TOTAL		\$ 18,664,834	\$ 19,505,604	\$ 19,212,092	\$ 19,211,092
WATER:					
90	Salaries	358,860	368,419	368,419	368,419 Water Revenue
91	Expenses	365,980	345,650	345,650	345,650 Water Revenue
92	Debt Service	211,520	205,021	205,021	205,021 Water Revenue
93	Indirect Costs	140,156	140,000	140,000	140,000 Water Revenue
Subtotal, WATER		1,076,516	1,059,090	1,059,090	1,059,090
TOTAL - ALL BUDGETS		\$ 19,741,350	\$ 20,564,694	\$ 20,271,182	\$ 20,270,182

ARTICLE 6: To determine whether the Town will appropriate and raise by taxation or transfer from other available funds the additional sum of \$210,411.00 for paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget of the Whitman Hanson Regional School District; provided, however, that the amounts raised and appropriated hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a so-called Proposition 2 ½ override question in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) of the General Laws or take any other action in relation thereto

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article also requires the voter approval of the ballot question at the May 18, 2013 Annual Town Election. If so approved, the funds will be added to the Whitman Hanson Regional School budget. Requires 2/3 vote.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 2 – 3 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 5 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund collective bargaining agreements with any one or more of the following employee organizations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013:

1. Hanson Municipal Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700,
Hanson Administrative Professionals Union
2. Hanson Police Dispatchers, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700,
Hanson Police Dispatchers Union
3. Hanson Permanent Firefighter's Association, A.F.L.-C.I.O., Local 2713
4. Hanson Highway Employees, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1700,
Hanson Highway Union
5. Hanson Police Officers, Hanson Police Relief Association/MassCop Local 408

or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article will fund collective bargaining agreements for positions in each of the contracts to be noted in the motion to be made at Town Meeting.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to HOLD*
Finance Committee Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the purpose of making the first annual payment in a three (3) year annual lease payment plan to purchase two (2) police cruisers, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Police Chief

Explanation: This article will fund the purchase of two (2) new Police Department cruisers. The first year lease payment is approximately \$23,000.00. Requires 2/3 vote.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Capital Improvement Program as presented by the Capital Improvement Committee and to see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds \$299,500 to various department Capital Accounts, or take any other action relating thereto.

Submitted by the Capital Improvement Committee
And Board of Selectmen

Line	Dept.	Item	FY14 CIP Report	Town Admin. Recommendation	Funding Source
1	Highway	Dump/Sanding Truck	\$128,500	\$128,500	Free Cash
2	Fire	2 Heart Monitors & 4 AEDs	\$63,000	\$63,000	Ambulance Account
3	Fire	Replace Car #2	\$48,000	\$48,000	Free Cash
4	BOS	Town Hall Restoration/Painting	\$60,000	\$60,000	Free Cash
	TOTAL		\$299,500	\$299,500	

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to appropriate funds for the Fiscal year 2014 capital budget.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 4 – 1 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Hanson will accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, establishing Recreation Programs as an enterprise fund effective fiscal year 2014, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen
and the Recreation Commission

Explanation: The Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Commission are recommending that the Recreation Department budget be established as an enterprise fund. Enterprise fund accounting is recommended by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for those municipal operations that are substantially self-supporting services. Enterprise fund accounting will demonstrate to the voters at Town Meeting and the public the full cost (direct, indirect and capital) of operating the Department. If this Article is approved, the voters at Town Meeting will be asked to approve the Recreation Department budget in Article 11.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to operate the Recreation Department during fiscal year 2014, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ .

Estimated Revenues

Item	Amount
Program Receipts (fees)	\$198,000
Total Budgeted Revenues:	\$198,000

Estimated Expenses

Item	Amount
Salaries	\$111,025
Expenses	\$ 86,975
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$198,000

Net Profit/Loss: **\$0.00**

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen
and the Recreation Commission

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

Explanation: If Article 10 is approved by the voters at Town Meeting, Article 11 will establish the Recreation Enterprise Fund budget for FY14. Recreation program costs, which previously were shown in both the General Fund budget and Revolving Fund budget, will now be shown in this Enterprise Fund budget. With the exception of the Administrative Assistant position, all costs related to the operation of Camp Kiwanee are projected to be offset by the program revenues. All surpluses of this account at the end of the year will remain within the account.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free cash to be added to Stabilization or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: This money will be used to increase the Stabilization Fund. A stabilization fund is a mechanism for setting aside money either for unforeseen needs or for capital projects. Such a fund is intended to equalize the effect of capital expenditures over time and to provide a “rainy day” fund. The dollar amount appropriated under this article will increase the Stabilization Fund to \$934,000 which represents 4.85% of the operating budget. The Town’s target has been to maintain close to 5% which is the industry standard minimum amount for Stabilization Funds as recommended by our auditors and will help to maintain a positive bond rating for future borrowing purposes. Requires 2/3 vote.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from **Fiscal Year 2014 Community Preservation Fund estimated** annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2014, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 10,000

Reserves:

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Historic Resource Reserve	\$20,000
From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$20,000
From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$20,000
From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$130,000

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the
Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This article ensures that Hanson's Community Preservation Accounts are compliant with the Community Preservation Act which requires that a certain portion of the CPA funds be set aside for open space projects, community housing projects, historical projects and recreation projects. In addition, it sets aside money for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,000 from the Historic Resource Reserve Community Preservation Fund balance to be used by the Hanson Historical Society to purchase the components needed to build a digital book scanner. This book scanner will be used by the Hanson Historical Society to digitize the historical books and documents in its collection and will also be available for other town departments to use or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the
Community Preservation Committee

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

Explanation: The majority of the documents and books in the Hanson Historical Society's collection are in a rapid state of deterioration threatening the ability for future generations to enjoy and access them. This book/document scanner, once built, would allow for the easy and reliable conversion of these documents into digital formats. The Town Clerk, Town Assessors, and Library also have historical documents/books that would benefit from digitization. Once converted, rare manuscripts, books, and documents held by the town of Hanson could be easily disseminated and access to these resources increased without subjecting them to constant wear and risk. This technology has been used successfully by museums and libraries. The Hanson Historical Society will pay for the labor required to build this scanner. This Article clarifies the expenditure voted in Article 15 of the October 2012 Special Town Meeting. This Article does not appropriate additional funds.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to be used for the construction of an outdoor recreation area at the Whitman Hanson Regional High School or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the
Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This recreation area will be open to the general public and once completed will include beach volleyball, basketball courts, street hockey, a fitness trail and other park amenities. The money from CPA will fund a portion of this project and the remainder of this project will be completed using goods and services donated in-kind as well as funds that have been privately donated.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 4 - 1 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 3 - 1 to Recommend*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,000 from water surplus to purchase & equip a water truck for Superintendent's use or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This new truck will replace the 2003 Ford which currently has an odometer reading of approximately 120,000 miles.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend*

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from water surplus to purchase and install emergency generators for the water department office at 1073 West Washington Street, and the High Street storage tank or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This will provide emergency power to keep the water department office open during storms. The generator for the office will consist of a pad mount generator with automatic transfer switch capability. The generator for the water storage tank will consist of a trailer-mounted unit.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 1 to Recommend

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$10,000 from Water Surplus to be added to the 1992 Town Meeting Emergency Fund Article 15 or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This is to replenish the Emergency Account which is used for unforeseen expenditures which are not in the general budget.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,000 from Water Surplus for the purpose of buying new water meters and related equipment or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This is the on-going meter replacement program designed to maintain accurate reading records.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Recommend

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into a contract for the expenditure of any allocated or to be allocated funds by the Commonwealth and/or County for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of Town roads. Said sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or to take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article is a requirement of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town of Hanson to accept state funding, including Chapter 90 funding for accepted roadways. This article authorizes use of funds which will be 100% reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The budget approved each fiscal year by the legislature and governor establishes the total funding available for Chapter 90 local transportation aid for that year. These funds are then apportioned to the 351 Massachusetts towns and cities.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, a permanent easement for public way purposes in a certain parcel of land at or near Winter Street and shown as “Easement” on a plan of land entitled: “Easement Plan of Land 948 Winter Street, Hanson, Massachusetts,” dated January 24, 2013, prepared by Land Planning, Inc. (the “Plan”), on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to acquire an easement over property at 948 Winter Street, which was the subject of litigation concerning the Winter Street Bridge Construction Project in 2010. The easement will allow the Town to perform any necessary maintenance and repair work in the easement area as it is described on the Plan. Requires 2/3 vote.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to increase the amount of funding for STAP (Senior Tax Abatement Program) under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law 59, Section 5K or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

Explanation: May 2003 Special Town Meeting accepted MGL. Ch.59, Section K, which provides residents over 60 years of age to volunteer their services to the municipality in exchange for a reduction of up to \$750.00 per fiscal year, based on a rate per hour of services that cannot exceed the commonwealth minimum wage. At the May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting, the amount approved would not exceed \$15,000, which would be paid from the overlay account. The program has grown in popularity and the Board of Assessors recommend increasing the amount to \$22,500. These funds would be paid from the overlay account.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting*

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the following revolving accounts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, which shall be kept separate and apart from other monies by the Treasurer, and which shall be deposited receipts received that may be spent only from those sources identified below under “Source of Funds” without further appropriation during Fiscal Year 2014 and as identified below under “Use of Funds”, and shall be expended under the direction of those so indicated. Said annual amount expended from each revolving account shall not exceed the amount indicated below under “Annual Expenditure”

Source of Funds	Use of Funds	Expended Under Direction of:	FY 14 Limit
<i>Assessors</i> Counter Sales of Maps	Purchase and Maintenance of maps including GIS	Board of Assessors	\$1,500
<i>Parks & Fields</i> Recycling, rental fees Repair reimbursement & Donations	Park & Field Maintenance and equipment	Parks & Fields	\$20,000
<i>Library</i> Fines, Fees and Copier Charges	Library Operations, Copier Purchase, maintenance, Repair & supplies. Printer Supplies. Replacement of Lost or damaged books	Board of Library	\$7,000

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

<i>Senior Center</i> Events, programs and Education Seminars	Senior Center Operations Events, programs, Seminars Training & Reimbursements	Director of Elder Affairs	\$2,500
<i>Senior Center</i> Program Fees	Supportive Day Care Program	Director of Elder Affairs	\$110,000
<i>Conservation Comm.</i> Wetlands Fees	Engineering, Surveying Legal & Environmental Consulting	Conservation Commission	\$7,500

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: There are the annual revolving accounts which have been consolidated into one article to streamline the warrant process.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanson General By-laws, Article 3 – 5 – Farm Animals by adding a new Section 2 as follows:

Section 2 - Right to Farm

Section 1 Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this By-law is to state with emphasis the Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97, of the Constitution, and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9, Chapter 111, Section 125A and Chapter 128 Section 1A. We the citizens of Hanson restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, ("Home Rule Amendment").

This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Hanson ("Town") by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.

Section 2 Definitions

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of agriculture, or accessory thereto. The words "farming" or "agriculture" or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- b) dairying;
- c) production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- d) growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- e) raising of livestock including horses; and
- f) keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals.

"Farming" shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) operation and transportation of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the Town;
- b) control of pests, including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators and disease organisms of plants and animals;
- c) application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- d) conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- e) processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- f) maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment, or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- g) on-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

Section 3 Right To Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist within the Town. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and shall include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protections of this By-law are intended to apply exclusively to those agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right To Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, or local zoning law.

Section 4 Disclosure Notification

Not later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the purchase and sale contract is entered into, or prior to the sale or exchange of real property if no purchase and sale agreement exists, for the purchase or exchange of real property, or prior to the acquisition of a leasehold interest or other possessory interest in real property, located in the Town, the landowner shall present the buyer or occupant with a disclosure notification which states the following notice:

“It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the Town may be impacted by agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for such property under certain circumstances.”

A copy of the disclosure notification shall be given on a form prepared by the Town and shall be signed by the landowner prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. A copy of the disclosure notification must be filed with the Board of Selectmen or its designee prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. In addition to the above, a copy of this disclosure notification shall be provided by the Town to landowners each fiscal year by mail.

A violation of Section 4 shall be subject to a fine of \$300 and shall be enforced by the Board of Selectmen or its designee. The Town is authorized to enforce Section 4 under the non-criminal disposition provision of M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D.

Section 5 Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board, Animal Inspector or the Board of Health (collectively the “Town Departments”), depending upon the nature of the grievance. The filing of the written grievance must be in compliance with the Town grievance procedure; however, filing of such written grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have.

Except in the event the Board of Health determines there is a case of imminent danger or a public health risk, the Town Departments shall forward a copy of any agricultural related grievance to the Hanson Agricultural Commission within seven (7) calendar days of receipt. The Hanson Agricultural Commission shall review and facilitate a recommended resolution of the grievance, and report its recommendations to the referring Town Department within an agreed upon time frame.

Section 6 Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

Proposed by the Agricultural Commission

Explanation: A proposed Hanson Right-to-Farm bylaw (“RTF Bylaws”) is an important tool that can bolster a community’s efforts to protect the viability of farming.

The intent of such the RTF Bylaw is to reiterate the importance of - and support for - farming within the Town of Hanson. It does so in four primary ways: 1) it restates agricultural laws already in place in the Commonwealth; 2) it includes a notification provision that works to ensure that people moving into Hanson are aware that agriculture, and the associated sights, sounds, and smells, is an accepted economic and cultural activity; 3) it seeks to prevent conflicts between farm operations and neighbors by putting in place a dispute resolution process; and 4) it will improve Hanson’s ability to obtain state funding for energy, smart growth, and conservation projects.

The proposed RTF Bylaw is based on a model approved by the Commonwealth’s Attorney General. As of December 31, 2012 there were 124 communities in the Commonwealth that have adopted a similar RTF Bylaw, including Duxbury, Kingston, Middleborough, Plymouth and East Bridgewater.

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 4 - 1 to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 - 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend certain provisions of the Acceptance by the Town of the Community Preservation Act, known as Chapter 44B of Massachusetts General Laws, by reducing the surcharge from 1.5% to .5%, and further to submit such reduction of the surcharge, if approved by the Town meeting, for acceptance by the voters of the Town of Hanson at the next qualifying Town or State Election or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Barbara Murphy and 22 voters

Recommendations: *Board of Selectmen Voted 3 - 2 Not to Recommend*
Finance Committee Voted 4 - 0 to Refer to Town Meeting

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 26: To bring in their votes for the following offices: A Moderator for one year, a Selectmen for three years, an Assessor for three years, a Town Clerk for three years, a Board of Health member for three years, a Cemetery Commissioner for three years, a member of the Planning Board for five years, a member of the Housing Authority for five years, a Tree Warden for three years, two Trustees of Memorial Field for three years, one Trustee of Memorial Field for one year, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, two members of the Whitman- Hanson Regional School District Committee PreK-12 for three years, two Water Commissioners for three years, and one Water Commissioner for two years and one question:

1. Shall the Town of Hanson be allowed to assess an additional \$210,411 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget of the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

Yes _____ No _____

***Recommendations: Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 to Recommend
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting***

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof, at the Town Hall, the Fire Station, the public stores, and Post Offices, seven days at least, before the said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place above-mentioned.

Given under our hands, this 16th day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.

Selectmen of Hanson

A true attest copy

Town Clerk

Date

Constable