

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

October 2008 Special Town Meeting

Special Town Meeting
October 6, 2008

Moderator Charles W. Mann called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. in the auditorium of the Middle School with Patty Norton, Sharon Jaspersen and Robert Hayes appointed and sworn in as tellers.

Town Counsel was Richard Bowen from the firm of Kopelman and Paige.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Town Meeting.

A quorum was declared present with 105 voters in attendance.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to pay unpaid bills from fiscal year 2008 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: There are a few unpaid bills from various departments, which were received after the end of fiscal year 2008. Requires a 9/10 vote.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye unanimous to transfer \$838.81 from Free Cash to pay unpaid bills for fiscal year 2008.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the Stabilization Account or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: This transfer is to increase to the Stabilization fund

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye unanimous to transfer \$75,000.00 from Free Cash to be added to the Stabilization Account.

ARTICLE 2 WAS RECONSIDERED AFTER ARTICLE 34 AS FOLLOWS:

VOTED Aye, voice to add an additional \$3,850.00 from Free Cash and \$3,487.00 from Article 10 of the October 2006 Special Town Meeting for a total of \$78,850.00 from Free Cash and \$3,487.00 from Article 10 of the October 2006 Special Town Meeting to the Stabilization Account.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 18 Utilities or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The increase in fuel and energy costs have diminished the Utility Line.

Finance Committee recommends

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$28,000.00 from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 18 Utilities.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of \$10,678.09 from the Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt – General Fund and Water Department to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting , Article 5, Line 4 interest debt exclusion, for the purpose of making interest payments on debt excluded issues for the Police Station which debt was authorized by Article 9 of the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting and Article 18 of the May 2007 Annual Town Meeting with subsequent debt exclusion vote on May 21, 2005, or take any action thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: This account is used to pay the borrowing for the new Police Station.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer a sum of \$10,678.09 from the Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt – General Fund and Water Department to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting , Article 5, Line 4 interest debt exclusion, as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of \$1,907.47 money from the Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt – General Fund and Water Department to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting , Article 5, Line 4 interest debt exclusion, for the purpose of making interest payments on debt excluded issues for Water Department or take any action thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: This account is used to pay the borrowing for the Water Department water mains.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer a sum of \$1,907.47 from the Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt – General Fund and Water Department to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting , Article 5, Line 4 interest debt exclusion as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5, line 30, Selectmen Clerical Wages of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Town and the Clerical Union have negotiated a three year contract. These funds are needed to cover the salary increases through June 30, 2009.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$27,130.00 from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5, line 30, Selectmen Clerical Wages of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5, line 103 Emergency Communication Center Wages of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Town and the Dispatchers Union have negotiated a three year contract. These funds are needed to cover the salary increases through June 30, 2009.

Finance Committee recommends to Pass Over.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5, line 93, Highway Wages of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Town and the Highway Union have negotiated a three year contract. These funds are needed to cover the salary increases through June 30, 2009.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$12,533.00 from Free Cash to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5, line 93, Highway Wages of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the amount appropriated in Article 5, line 106, Firefighter F/T Wages of the May 2008, Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Town and the Fire Union have negotiated a three-year contract. These funds are needed to cover the salary increases through June 30, 2009.

Finance Committee recommends to Pass Over.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the amount appropriated in Article 5, line 101, Police-Other Wages of the May 2008, Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends to Pass Over.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash and/or to fund the Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment of the former landfill site located at the Transfer Station or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health

Explanation: The Town has been ordered by the Department of Environmental Protection cap the former landfill area located at the Transfer Station.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer a sum \$25,000.00 from Free Cash to fund the Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment of

the former landfill site located at the Transfer Station.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,000.00 from the Ambulance Fund Account, Free Cash, or Stabilization to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 106, Firefighter Full-time Wages or take any other action relative thereto

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation: *These funds are requested to pay a contractual paramedic stipend.*

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice transfer the sum of \$4,000.00 from the Ambulance Fund Account to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 106, Firefighter Full-time Wages.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the ambulance fund account to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 106 Firefighter Full-time wages.

Or take any other action relative thereto

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds are requested to increase staffing levels and comply with the requirements of our Paramedic license.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 from the ambulance fund account to be added to the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 106 Firefighter Full-time wages.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from available Free Cash and/or from the Stabilization Fund to the amounts appropriated to Article 5, Line 98, Lines & Signs of the May 5, 2008 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

Explanation: Due to the increase in asphalt based traffic paint and the increase in aluminum and steel, the budget funds have been depleted with nine months remaining in the fiscal year.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from available Free Cash to the amounts appropriated in Article 5, Line 98, Lines & Signs of the May 5, 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the amount appropriated in Article 5, Line 57 Building Inspector Wages or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The increase for the Building Inspector was calculated from the amounts appropriated in FY 07 not FY 08.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$1,176.00 from Free Cash to the amount appropriated in Article 5, Line 57 Building Inspector Wages.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to reduce the appropriations of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting as listed below:

	From	To	
Line 119 Water Debt & Interest	\$362,845		0

Total amount cut \$362,845.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Water Department

Explanation: To pay for the water debt out of surplus rather than through raise and appropriate.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to reduce the appropriations of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting as listed below:

	From	To	
Line 119 Water Debt & Interest	\$362,845		\$0

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Water Surplus account to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5 of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting Line 119 Water Debt & Interest or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Water Department

Explanation: To pay for Water Debt out of surplus - \$362,845 is needed to pay off the debt.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$362,845.00 from the Water Surplus account to be added to the amount appropriated to Article 5 of the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting Line 119 Water Debt & Interest.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from Water Surplus to fund meter replacements and related meter equipment for the Water Department or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This article is to replace, update; and in all ways improve the operation of our meter reading program.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$50,000 from Water Surplus to fund meter replacements and related meter equipment for the Water Department.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,500 from free cash and/or stabilization to the Recreation Revolving Account to compensate for the utilities and upkeep of the caretakers home located on the property of Camp Kiwanee or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Hanson Recreation Commission

Finance Committee does not recommend.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$10,500 from Free Cash to the Recreation Revolving Account to compensate for the utilities and upkeep of the caretakers home located on the property of Camp Kiwanee.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$28,850 from free cash, stabilization and/or the Fields

Pond Grant Article10, of the October 2006 Special Town Meeting to the Recreation Revolving Account or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Hanson Recreation Commission

Explanation: This funding is for two assistant caretakers for a 19.5hour work week for \$14.00 per hour for a total of 52 weeks.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$21,513.00 from the Fields Pond Grant Article10, of the October 2006 Special Town Meeting to the Recreation Revolving Account

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote transfer a sum of money from Free Cash and/or the Stabilization Fund and from the following articles:

October 2007 STM – Article 14 – Ball Fields - \$25,000
May 2006 ATM – Article 17 – Police Ballistic armor - \$12,600
May 2004 ATM – Article 22 – Police Leather Duty Gear - \$2,712.00

to be added to the Capital Improvement Fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: This article sets up the funding source for the following capital improvement articles

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$7,000.00 from Free Cash and from the following articles:

October 2007 STM – Article 14 – Ball Fields - \$25,000
May 2006 ATM – Article 17 – Police Ballistic armor - \$12,600
May 2004 ATM – Article 22 – Police Leather Duty Gear - \$2,712.00

to be added to the Capital Improvement Fund.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Capital Improvement Fund to replace the apparatus bay roof at the Fire Station or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: This roof is in need of replacement.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$29,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund to replace the apparatus bay roof at the Fire Station.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Capital Improvement Fund to renovate the front facade at the Indian Head School or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: The columns in front have rotted and need attention

Finance Committee holds

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$25,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund to renovate the front facade at the Indian Head School.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Improvement Fund a sum of money to replace a 1990 dump truck with a new one at the Highway Dept. or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: It is time to retire this 18 year old truck.

Finance Committee does not recommend.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Capital Improvement Fund to purchase a Drain Jet Rodder for the Highway Dept or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: The Highway Surveyor considers the ancient one they now own to be dangerous to use.

Finance Committee does not recommend.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Improvement Fund a sum of money to continue upgrades to the town drainage system or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: We try to fund this item every year.

Finance Committee does not recommend.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Capital Improvement Fund to repave the driveway at the fire station or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: The Fire Chief feels that the pavement needs correction.

Finance Committee does not recommend.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Improvement Fund a sum of money to purchase a dump body for the Highway Dept. or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

Explanation: The Highway Surveyor thinks this would make his vehicles more efficient.

Finance Committee does not recommend.

VOTED Aye, voice to Pass Over.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of money from available free cash and/or transfer from the Stabilization Fund to fund the repair of the lift at the Maquan Elementary School or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The School Department paid for the replacement of the lift in 2007. These funds are necessary to reimburse the school department.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$18,864.00 from available free cash to fund the replacement of the lift at the Maquan Elementary School.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-laws Article 2-1, General Provisions Governing all Departments, Section 5 by inserting a new Section 5C as follows:

Section 5C: The remaining balance in any money article shall be closed to surplus by the Town Accountant if:

- **the monies have yet to be expended by the close of the second full fiscal year following its appropriation.**

- **the funds are not committed by contract.**

The Board of Selectmen may extend the expiration date upon written request of the articles proponent on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed a total of five years from the original appropriation date. These provisions shall apply to all accounts on the books of the Town except those subject to the provisions of state statute.

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee

Explanation: This will allow the Town to utilize older funds that are currently tied up in the Town's books.

Finance Committee recommends.

VOTED Aye, voice to amend the General By-laws Article 2-1, General Provisions Governing all Departments, Section 5 by inserting a new Section 5C as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, to lease an additional 3 +/- acres portion of the Plymouth County Hospital property Parcel 49-1 to the Hanson Housing Authority for the term of 99 years at \$1.00 per annum to develop an Aging in Place Facility or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Plymouth County Hospital Re-Utilization Committee

Explanation: The October Town Meeting approved the lease of 5.41 acres to the Hanson Housing Authority. After more thorough investigation it was determined that an additional 3 +/- acres are necessary in order to accommodate a septic system.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

VOTED Aye unanimous to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease an additional 3 +/- acres of the Plymouth County

Hospital as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote transfer to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission a parcel of land located at the Plymouth County Hospital property more specifically described as “Lot 3” on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Hanson, Massachusetts, owned by the Town of Hanson Dated June 12, 2008 prepared by Land Planning, Inc.” and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds as Plan #376 of 08 for the purpose of open space, passive recreation, wildlife habitat protection or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee and the Conservation Commission

Explanation: The Committee recommends this transfer as the property described is located behind the residential houses on High Street and the accessibility is limited. This parcel will provide excellent passive recreation opportunities.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

VOTED Nay, voice to transfer to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission a parcel of land located at the Plymouth County Hospital property more specifically described as “Lot 3” as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way Captain Nathaniel Drive and to see if the Town will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said street for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Hanson:

Captain Nathaniel Drive is shown on a plan entitled “As-Built Plan of Land of Captain Nathaniel Drive Hanson, Massachusetts prepared for Environmental Construction Co owned by William D. Konish, Trustee” dated October 22, 1999 and revised November 29, 1999.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Captain Nathaniel Drive has been constructed in accordance with Town standards and the Planning Board and Highway Surveyor have recommended acceptance. The subdivision control law contemplates that towns will accept as public ways all such roads, which are constructed in conformance with local standards while they are still in good condition.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

VOTED Aye, voice to accept as a Town way Captain Nathaniel Drive as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way Ransom Road and to see if the Town will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said street for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Hanson:

Ransom Road is shown on a plan entitled “Roadway Asbuilt Plan Ransom Road in Hanson Massachusetts prepared for Jon Ridder 45 Country Farm Road, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts” dated November 12, 2007

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Ransom Road has been constructed in accordance with Town standards and the Planning Board and Highway Surveyor have recommended acceptance. The subdivision control law contemplates that towns will accept as public ways all such roads, which are constructed in conformance with local standards while they are still in good condition.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

VOTED Aye, voice to accept as a Town way Ransom Road as printed in the warrant.

VOTED Aye, voice to reconsider Article 2. SEE: Article 2 for the vote on the amendment to Article 2.

VOTED Aye, voice to dissolve the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

A true copy of the vote, Attest:

**Sandra E. Harris, CMC, CMMC
Town Clerk**