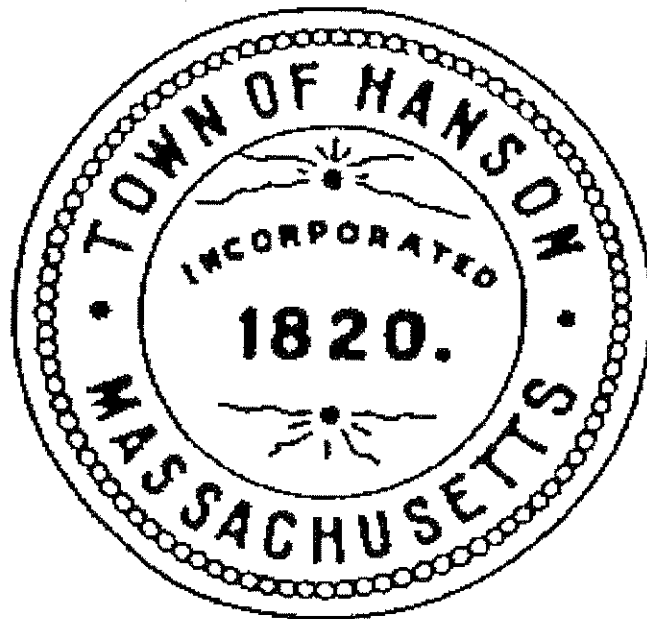


# **Town Meeting Warrant**

*October 3, 2011 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING*

**Hanson Middle School – 7:30 p.m.**

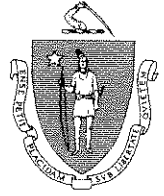


**Prepared by the Town Administrator and Executive Assistant  
at the direction of the Board of Selectmen**



# Town of Hanson

## Board of Selectmen



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

September 28, 2011

To the Voters at the Hanson **OCTOBER SPECIAL** Town Meeting:

The enclosed is an informational copy of the warrant for the October 3, 2011 **SPECIAL** 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 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, by the Constables of the Town of Hanson, in accordance with state law.

Please note that the posted warrant incorrectly references **Article 5** of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting. The June 2011 Special Town Meeting warrant addressed one single article which was **Article 1**. Consequently, the reference used in this October Special Warrant should have been listed as **Article 1**. The correction has been made in the informational warrant.

We apologize for the confusion.

Cordially,

Rene' J. Read,  
*Town Administrator*

SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL

# 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 Hanson Middle School, Liberty Street in said Hanson on Monday the third day of October 2011 at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash and/or Stabilization to pay unpaid bills from Fiscal Year 2011 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 2011. Requires a 9/10 vote.

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

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$46,891 from the ambulance receipts reserved account to be added to the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 108B at the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for lease purchase expenses of or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

**Explanation:** This transfer is necessary to fund an obligated lease payment

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

October 2011 Special Town Meeting

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 71, of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for Tree Department Expenses or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to remove and trim the trees damaged during Hurricane Irene. Approximately \$8,000

**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 transfer the sum of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars from the amounts appropriated under Article 21 of the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting for Highway Drainage Improvements to Article 8 of the May 2002 Annual Town Meeting for Storm Water Management, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

**Explanation:** This article will add funding require for consultant assistance in preparing workshops, storm water plan, regulatory review, financial advocacy (loans/grants) and preliminary culvert mapping to address the Environmental Protection Agency requirements for Phase II Storm Water Management, which is a Federal Mandate.

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

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from any available source of funds and/or confirm a previous appropriation of funding under Article 1 of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting, of an amount sufficient to fund the first year of a two-year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Hanson and the Hanson Police Union covering the term of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 as on file it the Town Clerk, which included, no salary increase in FY 12, a 1.5 % base salary increase effective July 1, 2012 and an additional 1.5 % base salary increase on June 30, 2013 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** The Board has reached a two year agreement with the Police Union with the terms as outlined above. The cost in FY 13 will be approximately \$18,985.00. The incremental cost in FY 14 will be \$19,275.00

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

October 2011 Special Town Meeting

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote transfer from any available source of funds and/or confirm a previous appropriation of funding under Article 1 of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting, of an amount sufficient to fund the first year of a contract between the Town of Hanson and the Hanson Administrative Professionals Union or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** It is anticipated that the Board of Selectmen and the Administrative Professionals Union will reach an agreement relative to the terms of a contract by October Special Town Meeting.

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

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from any available source of funds and/or confirm a previous appropriation of funding under Article 1 of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting, of an amount sufficient to fund the first year of a contract between the Town of Hanson and the Hanson Highway Union or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** It is anticipated that the Board of Selectmen and the Highway Union will reach an agreement relative to the terms of a contract by October Special Town Meeting.

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

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 12 of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for computers to fund the purchase of transfer station sticker software or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

**Explanation:** This software will provide access at several points of distribution for transfer station stickers and trip tickets. Approximately \$7,000

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

October 2011 Special Town Meeting

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$12,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 55, of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for Town Planner Wages and \$8,000 from Free Cash to the amounts appropriated under said Article 1, Line 9 for the Reserve Fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to replenish the Reserve Fund for repairs made to Fire Engine 2 and to fund an operational assessment of the Town of Hanson.

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

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to pay for the temporary fencing and minor repairs to the Indian Head School at 720 Indian Head Street, Hanson, including all expenses incidental or related thereto or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the School Committee

**Explanation:** Temporary safety measures have been installed at the Indian Head School relative to the slate roofing tiles. These funds are needed to pay for the fencing and minor repairs. Approximately \$5,500

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

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to pay for the boiler repairs at the Maquan School located at 38 School Street, Hanson including all costs incidental and related thereto or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the School Committee

**Explanation:** Repairs are necessary for the boiler at Maquan School Approximately \$16,000

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

October 2011 Special Town Meeting

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the replacement of the lift at the Maquan Elementary School located at 38 School Street, Hanson, including all expenses incidental and related thereto or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the School Committee

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to replace the 1992 chair lift at Maquan Elementary School. The current lift will not be certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for use after March 12, 2012. Approx. \$22,000

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

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of money from Free Cash and from the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 84 of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for Veterans Clerical to the amounts appropriated under said Article 1, Line 86, Veterans Benefits or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Veterans Agent

**Explanation:** These funds are necessary to pay for veterans benefits for the current fiscal year. Each year the line is under funded requiring the Veterans Agent to request Reserve Fund transfers at the end of the year. \$20,000 (\$4000.00 Veteran Line & \$16,000 Free Cash)

**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 transfer \$75,000 from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 120 of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for capital improvement for Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Improvement Budget or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

**Explanation:** These funds will set up the budget line for the Capital Improvement Plan from which the following two articles will draw.

**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 transfer \$25,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 120, of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for capital improvement for drainage projects throughout the town under the direction of the Highway Surveyor or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

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

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 120, of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for capital improvements for the purchase of a jet rodder to be operated under direction of the Highway Surveyor or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

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

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Water Department Surplus to supplement the amount appropriated under Article 13 of the May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting for the repair of the roof and section of exterior wall at the Water Department Office located at 1073 West Washington Street, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

**Explanation:** Article 13 (2011 Annual Town Meeting) was intended for repair of the roof and a section of the exterior wall at the Water Department Office located at 1073 West Washington Street. It is anticipated that bid results will exceed the amount in Article 13. Therefore, this article will cover that added cost. Approximate \$16,000

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



October 2011 Special Town Meeting

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the amounts appropriated under Article 1 Line 118A of the June 2011 Special Town Meeting for legal expense to be added to the amounts appropriated under Article 1, Line 116 Water Other Wages for the purpose of funding and implementing the cost item of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Hanson Water Department and the AFSCME Local -1700 Water Union for the period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

**Explanation:** This is to fund the line for the settlement of the Water Department's Union contract. It represents a 3% increase for Fiscal Year 2012. Approximate \$7,537

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

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department Surplus, a sum of money to rehabilitate two wells at the Crystal Spring Well Field located off Main Street or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

**Explanation:** This will cover the necessary rehabilitation work on these wells to keep them functioning properly and supplying water to Hanson water users. Approximate \$14,000

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

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Department Surplus a sum of money to develop a Technology Master Plan/Asset Management program to help improve system maintenance or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

**Explanation:** The Hanson Water Department has approximately 450 hydrants and 900 valves. The initial plan is to develop an Asset Inspection System for these assets which would be in accordance with the American Water Works Assoc. standards. It would also allow us in the future to include future assets such as pipes; meters, backflow devices, etc. Approximate \$32,000

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

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Sections 42G, 42H, and 42I or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

**Explanation:** The acceptance of these General Laws will enable the Town of behalf of its Water Department to:

- A. Levy Special Assessments (Betterments) for the cost of laying pipes in public and private ways for the distribution of water to its inhabitants; and that an owner which receives benefit from the laying of such pipes in those ways in which his/her land abuts; shall pay a proportionate part of the cost of extending such water supply to his/her property.
- B. Base the individual Betterment Assessments according to the frontage at such land on any way in which a water pipe is laid, or according to the area of such land within a fixed depth from such way, or according to valuation for purposes of taxation in the last assessment or according to two or all of such measures; and
- C. Allows the Water Commissioners to record a lien on the effected properties covered under the Betterment Assessments at the Registry of Deeds.

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

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the third sentence of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 2A, effective for Fiscal Year 2013, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

**Explanation:** Acceptance of this **local option statute** will allow the Town to value and assess new growth (new construction or other physical additions to real estate) occurring from January 1 through June 30 for the fiscal year beginning July 1. This local option law, commonly referred to as “Chapter 653”, allows the community to timely assess improved parcels, which in turn ensures the property owner is paying his/her fair share of the cost of government operations for the fiscal year beginning July 1 rather than a year later. Implementation of this statute in conjunction with quarterly tax billing makes good fiscal sense.

**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 accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 37A effective for Fiscal Year 2013 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

**Explanation:** Acceptance of Clause 37A increases the annual exemption amount for a legally blind taxpayer from \$437.50 to \$500.00. Acceptance of Clause 37A will become effective in fiscal 2013. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts currently reimburses the Town \$87.50 for each Clause 37 exemption filed. There is no additional reimbursement from the Commonwealth if Clause 37A is adopted.

**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 authorize the sale of Transfer Station trip tickets at the Town Hall and Transfer Station or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

**Explanation:** Article 9 of the October 2001 Special Town Meeting transferred responsibility for issuing Transfer Station Trip Tickets from the Board of Health to the Treasurer/Collector's Office. With the advent of the New Transfer Station regulations effective September 1, 2011, this article will allow for more flexibility of the point of sale of the Trip Tickets with sales at Town Hall and the Transfer Station.

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

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wage and Personnel By-Laws, Article 2-12, Classification and Compensation Section 8D – Probationary Period by deleting in the first sentence the words, "three months", and inserting in place thereof the words, "six months" or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Personnel Director

**Explanation:** This change will provide the department heads and supervisors more time to accurately evaluate the new employee's performance, ability and aptitude for the position.

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

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will petition the General Court to enact the following special act restoring civil service rules and regulations to the Hanson Police Department, except the rank of Chief.

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any General Law to the contrary, the position of regular or permanent member of the police department in the town of Hanson, except the rank of Chief, shall be exempted from the provision of Chapter 255 of the Acts of 1981 and are hereafter subject to Chapter 31 of the General Laws. The tenure of any incumbent shall be unlimited, subject to said chapter 31.

SECTION 2. The position of Chief of the Hanson Police Department shall continue to be subject to the provision of Chapter 255 of the Acts of 1981.

SECTION 3. Police personnel of the police department of the town of Hanson hired during the 6 month period preceding the effective date of this act shall be included as civil service employees under chapter 31 of the General Laws, subject to any applicable probationary period.

SECTION 4. Incumbents of the police department of the town of Hanson shall not be required to pass a qualifying examination for their current position, but shall be required to pass a competitive examination under chapter 31 of the General Laws to obtain a higher rank.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Proposed by Eugene Andrews

***Recommendations: Board of Selectmen Voted 5 – 0 Not to Recommend  
Finance Committee Voted 4 – 0 to Refer to Town Meeting***