

# 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 at the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School on Franklin Street, in said Hanson on **Monday the Third day of May, 2021** at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon to act on the articles in 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 2020 Town Report.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2022 as permitted by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

**Explanation:** This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to maintain accounts using credits instead of money to pay for banking charges.

**ARTICLE 3:** 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; or take any other action in relation thereto:

	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>
Town Clerk	\$71,297.00	\$73,436.00
Tree Warden	\$3,242.00	\$3,307.00

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; 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 4 funds the salaries.

**ARTICLE 4:** 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, and Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt, to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including Debt and Interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the **2022 Fiscal Year**; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** This article refers to the FY 2022 Annual Budget Lines. These budgets will be funded at this level if the Proposition 2 ½ override fails at the May Annual Town Election.

**ARTICLE 5:** To determine whether the Town will raise and appropriate an additional \$1,850,000 from taxation to fund various Town departments in Fiscal Year 2022; 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 refers to the FY 2022 Annual Budget Lines that would be increased if an operational override is voted at the May Annual Town Election.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Recreation Department during Fiscal Year 2022, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission

**Explanation:** Recreation program costs will be shown in this Enterprise Fund budget. This budget will not receive a General Fund subsidy in FY22.

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**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to operate the Transfer Station during Fiscal Year 2022, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health

**Explanation:** The total cost of operating the Transfer Station for FY22 will be shown in this budget. Salaries, indirect costs, and a portion of expenses will come from program revenues and from other funds.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2022 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 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses: \$10,000

**Reserves:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Historic Resource Reserve: \$30,000

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve: \$30,000

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve: \$30,000

; 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 (CPA) 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.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Capital Improvement Program as presented by the Capital Improvement Committee; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee  
and Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** This is the annual article which approves the Capital Improvement matrix for the next fiscal year.

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**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or transfer from available funds to various department Capital Accounts; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee &  
Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** These articles will be the Town and Hanson School-related capital items that can be funded in the Town's Capital Plan.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to Capital Accounts for Whitman-Hanson Regional High School-related items; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee  
& Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** These articles will be the Regional High School-related capital items that can be funded in the Town's Capital Plan.

**ARTICLE 12:** 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 pursuant to Mass. General Laws Ch. 90 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 take any other 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.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to set the spending limits of the following revolving accounts in accordance with Hanson General By-law Article 2 – 9 Section 3 as follows; or take any other action in relation thereto.

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Spending Limit</i>
Assessors	\$1,500
Parks & Fields	\$10,000
Library	\$7,000
Senior Center Programs	\$2,500

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Senior Center Fees	\$95,000
Conservation Comm.	\$7,500
Nathaniel Thomas Mill	\$1,500

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** This article sets the spending limits for the revolving the annual revolving accounts.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$18,960,537 indebtedness authorized by the Regional District School Committee of the South Shore Regional Vocational School District to pay costs of remodeling and making extraordinary repairs to the South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, as more fully described in the District’s 2018 Facilities Master Plan; provided, however, that upon the completion of the improvements described in the District’s 2018 Facilities Master Plan, the District shall not borrow or expend any balance of this amount without the prior approval of the District’s member towns in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 71 §16(d), or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Explanation:** This article will allow the South Shore Regional School Vocational School District (“District”) to borrow for various capital projects from the District’s Facilities Master Plan. Debt allocation is based on the District regional agreement, which calculates proportional student enrollment from the three fiscal years that precede the year that the debt is authorized. Based on a FY21 authorization, Hanson’s debt share would be 13.65%. This authorization has no impact on the FY22 budget. The District intends to phase in projects from FY23-FY28 and the borrowing costs will be part of the District’s proposed annual assessment starting in FY23.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to revise its approval of Article 25 of the Town of Hanson Annual Town meeting and submit to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature a Home Rule Petition to change the use of an 8.5 acre portion land of a larger 62-acre parcel of land, known as the Webster-Billings Conservation Area, so called “Article 97 Land”, which portion of land is shown on the schematic prepared by CDM Smith entitled “Proposed Waterworks Facilities and Proposed Areas for Land Use Conversion” on file with the Town Clerk and will be described more particularly described on a plan to be placed on file with the Town Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the Town Meeting and which Home Rule Petition will remove the restriction set forth in a certain Order of Taking dated February 25, 1975 and recorded at the Plymouth Registry of Deeds in Book 4050, Page 355, limiting the use of the parcel to conservation purposes and allowing the 8.5 acre parcel to be used as conservation land and well head area purposes and to remove any other encumbrances on the title as may be required;

And further, as consideration for the change in the conservation restriction authorized above, to see if the Town will vote, pursuant to section 3 of chapter 40 of the General Laws, to transfer

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care, custody, and control of a 25.403 acre parcel identified as Assessors Map 49, Parcel 1-1A from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission for the purpose of wildlife, recreation, and forestry.

And further, as consideration for the change in the conservation restriction authorized above, to see if the Town will vote, pursuant to section 3 of chapter 40 of the General Laws, to transfer care, custody, and control of a 21,780 SF parcel identified as Assessors Map 105, Parcel 6 from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission for the purpose of wildlife, recreation, and forestry.

; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** This process is required to change the use of any property which is protected pursuant to Article 97. The earlier vote of the Town Meeting in 2019 was not as precise in locating the exact area of the proposed wellhead. The Town has determined that the property would be suited to serve as a water resource. This additional use will not interfere in its existing use as conservation land in any tangible way. Assessors Map 49, Parcel 1-1A is the northernmost parcel of the Town-owned former Plymouth County Hospital property. Assessors Map 105, Parcel 6 is currently owned by the Town of Hanson and contains about one-half acre with frontage on Brook Street. This property is not a buildable lot as it contains Indian Head Brook and areas of wetlands and is a regulatory floodway. It is adjacent to Parcel 7, which is under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and is a link in the Indian Head Brook Greenway. In addition to replacing the property to be used for wellhead purposes, transferring this property to the control of the Conservation Commission will ensure that the public will have access to the trails, and open space in the area and will also allow for other passive recreational activities as well as allowing the Commission to monitor the site and conduct activities to maintain and support retention of the site in its natural scenic and open condition for wildlife conservation, native habitat protection, protection of scenic views, and other conservation uses.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on terms and conditions they determine to be most beneficial to the Town, to enter into a Community Choice Aggregation Program as per Mass. General Laws Chapter 164 Section 134 and contract for electric supply for Hanson residents and/or businesses, and to execute and enter into any and all documents necessary to effectuate the same; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Green Hanson

**Explanation:** The purpose of this article is to allow the Town to buy electricity in bulk. Community Choice Aggregation is a process by which municipalities can combine and switch electricity used by households and small businesses to cleaner energy. The Energy Committee will advise the Board of Selectmen and work in conjunction with an energy broker to purchase the energy the Town needs. Residents and businesses can opt

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out of the program at any time. The electricity purchased will still be billed through National Grid.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hanson, County of Plymouth, Massachusetts Land Use Regulations Zoning Bylaw Section VI. G.6 by deleting the subsection in its entirety and inserting a new subsection VI. G. 6; said proposed changes being on file with the Town Clerk; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Planning Board

**Explanation:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency has updated and adopted new Flood Insurance Rate Maps that will go into effect on July 6, 2021. In order to maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, the Town of Hanson must adopt these maps into their local bylaws. If these updated maps are not adopted, the Town's residents will not be able to obtain flood insurance and in many cases will be in default with their mortgage lenders.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hanson Land Use Regulations Zoning By-Law by making various changes to said By-Law; said proposed changes being on file with the Town Clerk; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Planning Board

**Explanation:** These errors occurred when the Zoning By-law Book was re-codified in 2014 rendering references to other sections of the book inaccurate. These corrections will be made so that the by-laws will reference the content that was referenced in the original by-laws when they were adopted at Town Meeting.

**ARTICLE 19: Warrant Article Marijuana Zoning**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-law of the Town of Hanson by making the following changes thereto, by deleting the text shown as strikethrough and inserting the *italicized* and underlined text shown Section VI, Use Regulations, subsection M., Special Requirements for Marijuana Establishments, subsection 3. Definitions as follows:

*Marijuana Courier - shall mean an entity licensed to deliver Finished Marijuana Products, Marijuana Accessories and Branded Goods directly to Consumers from a Marijuana Retailer, or directly to Registered Qualifying Patients or Caregivers from a Marijuana Treatment Center, but is not authorized to sell Marijuana or Marijuana Products directly to Consumers, Registered Qualifying Patients or Caregivers and is not authorized or to Wholesale, Warehouse, Process, Repackage, or White Label. A Marijuana Courier is an additional marijuana use that allows for limited delivery of*

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marijuana or marijuana products to consumers; and shall not be considered to be a Marijuana Retailer.

**Marijuana Delivery Licensee** - shall mean an entity that is authorized to deliver Marijuana and Marijuana Products directly to Consumers and as permitted, Marijuana Couriers to Patients and Caregivers.

**Marijuana Delivery Operator** – shall mean an entity licensed to purchase at Wholesale and Warehouse Finished Marijuana Products acquired from a Marijuana Cultivator, Marijuana Product Manufacturer, Microbusiness or Craft Marijuana Cooperative, and White Label, sell and deliver Finished Marijuana Products, Marijuana Accessories and Marijuana Branded Goods directly to Consumers, but is not authorized to Repackage Marijuana or Marijuana Products or operate a storefront under this license. A Delivery Operator is an additional marijuana use that allows for limited delivery of Marijuana or Marijuana Products to Consumers; and shall not be considered to be a Marijuana Retailer.

**Marijuana Establishment** – shall mean an entity licensed to obtain, manufacture, process and package marijuana and marijuana products, to deliver marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana establishment, but not to consumers, as defined the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 94G. and be limited to Marijuana Cultivators, Craft Marijuana Cooperatives, Marijuana Product Manufacturers, Marijuana Microbusinesses, Independent Testing Laboratories, Marijuana Transporters, Marijuana Delivery Licensees (including Marijuana Couriers and Marijuana Delivery Operators) Marijuana Research Facilities, but expressly excluding Social Consumption Establishments and Marijuana Retailers, as each of those terms are defined herein.

; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

**Explanation:** This article will change the Zoning By-laws to allow cannabis delivery establishments to be located in Hanson and to deliver cannabis to consumers not from a fixed location.

And to bring in the votes for the following offices: Two Selectmen for three years, an Assessor 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 Hanson Housing Authority for four years, two Constables for three years, a Tree Warden for one year, two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, a member of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Committee Pre K-12 for three years, two Water Commissioners for three years, and the following two ballot questions at the Annual Town Election to be held on May 15, 2021 at the Hanson Middle School from 10:00AM to 5:00PM.



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***Question 1: Shall the Town of Hanson be allowed to assess an additional one million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,850,000) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding various Town departments and for paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and twenty-one?***

***Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

***Question 2: Shall the Town of Hanson vote to have its elected Tree Warden become an appointed Tree Warden of the Town?***

***Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

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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 thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

**Selectmen of Hanson**

  
Kenneth Mitchell, Chairman

  
Matthew Dyer, Vice-Chairman

  
Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Clerk

  
James Hickey, Member

  
Wesley Blauss, Member

**A true attest copy:**

  
Town Clerk

  
Date

  
Constable

  
Date