



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Town of Hanson  
Warrant for the October 3, 2022  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

PLYMOUTH, SS.

To any 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, 111 Liberty Street in said Hanson on **Monday the Third day of October, 2022** at 7:30 O'clock in the afternoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay for unpaid bills from the prior fiscal years; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to pay prior fiscal year bills received after the close of the fiscal year. This requires a 9/10 majority vote.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wage and Personnel Bylaws, Article 2-12, Classification and Compensation, to adjust certain wages for certain positions, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board as Wage and Personnel Board

**Explanation:** This Article is put forward to effectuate salary and wage increases to remain competitive in the market and to create new, non-union positions.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to supplement appropriations previously voted at the Annual Town Meeting of May 2022 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022 for various Town Departments, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** The purpose of this article is to supplement a number of line items in the current fiscal year's budget (FY23) in order to fund a number of additional expenses.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 6 of the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting to amend the approved Recreation Enterprise Fund budget for FY22 and to transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the funding of the Recreational Enterprise Fund budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to cover the current fiscal year expenses at Camp Kiwanee.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 7 of the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting to amend the approved Transfer Station Enterprise Fund budget for FY22 and to transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the funding of the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to cover the current fiscal year expenses at the Transfer Station.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds to be expended for capital equipment and capital projects for various Town departments, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board and the Capital Improvement Committee

**Explanation:** These funds are needed to cover the cost of certain capital expenses, many of which were passed over at the May Annual Town Meeting.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to retain the services of a qualified Massachusetts registered engineering firm to conduct a roadway and drainage infrastructure study of Litchfield Lane and Proudfoot Way and prepare a report of the findings for submission to the Hanson Planning Board and Hanson Select Board, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Planning Board

**Explanation:** These streets were accepted as public ways at the 2006 Annual Town Meeting. Quitclaim deeds for the roadways and drainage easements were never obtained within the 120 days after the town meeting as required under Mass General Law Chapter 82, Section 24, thus voiding the approval of town meeting. Therefore, both Litchfield

Lane and Proudfoot Way continue as private ways. Prior to proceeding with roadway acceptance process, the Planning Board is seeking information to determine the existing conditions of the roadway and drainage infrastructure.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the demolition of the building at 1157 Main Street, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

**Explanation:** These funds will be utilized to demolish a town-owned building at 1157 Main Street. The building has reached the end of its useful life and has been deemed uninhabitable.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hanson Land Use Regulations Zoning By-laws by amending Section VI, subsection L, SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES AND MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS, to allow for delivery in industrial zones, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** The Select Board believes that there was significant confusion at the last Town Meeting given the number of warrant articles related to cannabis. This article will allow the siting of a delivery operation in the Town and thereby generate income for the Town. Delivery Operators are subject to the 3% local sales tax and are NOT permitted under this license to operate a brick and mortar retail store.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum of money to replenish the Conservation Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** The Conservation Fund supports the Commission's efforts to carry out its care and custody responsibilities for open space and recreation areas. These efforts include trail building and maintenance; provision of signage, notices, and other information; property enhancements, such as mowing, invasive vegetation removal, and site cleanup; wildlife habitat and stream improvements; removal of encroachments; establishment of bounds and survey recordings; and equipment rental as necessary to support these activities.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to place the properties identified as Assessors Map 106, Lots 7 and 10-1, and Assessors Map 98, Lots 10, 11, 12, and 15 into the care and custody of the Conservation Commission for open space protection under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** The Little Cedar Swamp is an important wetland resource that provides stormwater storage, treatment, and aquifer recharge, as well as wildlife habitat. It is one of the headwaters of Indian Head Brook and River, and as such is part of a cold water fishery, one of the few in Southeastern Massachusetts. The parcels identified in the article are currently Town owned and not developable. Together with adjacent parcels already under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, they make up approximately 75 percent of the Little Cedar Swamp. Article 97 protection will ensure that this resource is protected for the foreseeable future.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to add 16 hours per week to fund full-time status, 35 hours per week, for the Conservation Agent, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** The Conservation Agent is currently authorized for 19 hours per week and is the only Department Head with part-time status. The Agent's workload warrants full time.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from available funds to be added to the Selectmen's budget to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant in the Selectmen's office for 15 hours per week, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** The funds will help secure a part-time clerical position for the Selectmen's office to assist with the daily operations of the office.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money from available funds to the Town-wide Fuel account which covers all town vehicles (including police and fire) gas and oil, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Director

**Explanation:** Due to the present drastic increase in fuel costs and equipment parts relative to gas and oil, this account is underfunded. There is also a State Mandate for Vapor Recovery Fuel System Upgrade Requirements that need to be completed by January, 2023 of approximately \$6,000.00.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from available funds for Town-wide Stormwater Management and MS4 Permit related items, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Director

**Explanation:** This money will be used for engineering, mapping, inspections, testing, screening, and surveying required for compliance with the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from available sources to the Town-wide retention pond cleaning fund on public owned property, in conjunction and adhering to the Town's stormwater and drainage MS4 compliance, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Director

**Explanation:** Due to the condition of the retention ponds they must be professionally cleaned and cleared of debris to help restore their functionality. The scope of this work would include the clearing of three (3) retention ponds located on town drainage easements.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Recreation Commission to the Camp Kiwanee Commission, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission

**Explanation:** The Commission believes this name change will better reflect the tasks, duties, and responsibilities of the Commission.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Hanson with gender neutral wording. Specifically, by deleting the words "Board of Selectmen" and inserting in its place the words "Select Board" wherever those words appear; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** "Select Board" is a term that simply and fully represents the people and the world that we live in today.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the town will vote to amend Article 2-11 Section 1 of the Capital Improvement Committee General Bylaw's of Hanson by changing the committee size from 7 citizens at large to 5 citizens at large with two non-voting alternates. The strikethrough would be removed and the underlined italics would replace the strikethrough.

"The Select Board shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the Capital Improvement Committee composed of ~~seven~~ five citizens at large, and two alternate citizens at large, three to serve 1 year, two to serve 2 years and two to serve 3 years and each thereafter for three years. The Town Administrator, Assessor/Appraiser, Town Accountant and the Treasurer/Collector shall serve as non-voting members. The committee shall choose its own officers. (10/07)"

**Explanation:** Changing the committee size would make it easier for this important committee to achieve a quorum.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the town will vote to amend Article 2-11 Section 2 of the Capital Improvement Committee General Bylaw's of Hanson by changing the limit for capital improvement expenses to have a useful life of five years instead of the ten years listed. The strikethrough would be removed and the underlined italics would replace the strikethrough.

**"Sec. 2.**

The Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which 1) are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than five years; 2) have a useful life at least ~~ten~~ five years; and, 3) cost over \$35,000. In order that the Town 1) coordinate development of a capital improvement budget with the operating budget of the current year, and 2) develop a capital program including the subsequent 5 years, all officers, boards, and committees including the Selectmen and the Regional School Committee shall, by a date specified annually by the Capital Improvement Committee, prepare for the committee information concerning all anticipated capital improvement projects requiring Town Meeting action for the period specified. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital improvement requested by a department, board, or commission unless the proposed capital improvement is considered in the committee report. However, in order to allow consideration of a project reflecting an extraordinary circumstance which must be addressed before the formulation of the next year's capital program, a department, board or committee may submit a proposal to the Capital Improvement Committee for consideration. The Committee must then submit a report to the Finance Committee and the Select Board with a satisfactory explanation why the proposal was not considered by the Capital Improvement Committee at a time when it could be included in the committee's report. Each of the boards and committees must vote that the proposed project meets the extraordinary circumstance issue. (5/2015)"

**Explanation:** Changing the time threshold would give more transparency of capital expenses to the citizens of Hanson.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the town will vote to amend Article 1-1 of the General Bylaw's of Hanson by allowing Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting to begin at 6:30PM EST. The strikethrough would be removed and the underlined italics would replace the strikethrough.

**"Sec. 1 A.** The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first Monday in May at ~~7:30~~ 6:30 o'clock in the afternoon. The primary purpose of this meeting shall be to deal with all financial matters of the Town including revisions of the Classification and Compensation By-Law, if necessary. The election of Town Officers and the voting upon questions as required by General or Special Law shall be held on the third Saturday in May. The hours for the opening and the closing of the polls shall be left to the discretion of the Select Board. (07/2020)

**Sec. 1 B.** The Select Board shall call one Special Town Meeting annually on the first Monday in October at ~~7:30~~ 6:30 o'clock in the afternoon for the primary purpose of considering

General By-Law and Zoning By-Law changes and other matters where financial considerations are not involved.”

**Explanation:** Changing the meeting time would allow for residents of Hanson to have better access to the Town Meeting. Many of our elderly residents do not feel comfortable driving late into the evening, and many of our younger residents have a difficult time securing accommodations for their children.

Proposed by the Select Board

**ARTICLE 22** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the purposes of purchasing and installing street signs for private ways, said installation to take place on the public way where it meets with the private way, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Explanation:** There are a number of private ways that do not possess sufficient street signs denoting the location.

Proposed by the Planning Board

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** These funds 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 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.

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash to be added to the Regional Schools Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** This Stabilization Fund sets aside funds for the exclusive use of paying for capital improvements to the Hanson School Buildings and the Whitman Hanson Regional High School.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of money to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (“OPEB”) Trust, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Select Board

**Explanation:** The Town is liable for an employee's postemployment benefits, other than pensions (referred to as other postemployment benefits or OPEB), such as retiree health insurance. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) recommends that the funds accrue in the period of an active employee rather than the future cash flow/liability at retirement.

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, fifteen days at least, before the said meeting.

Here of 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand Twenty-Two.

**Select Board of Hanson**

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Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Chair

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Joseph Weeks, Vice Chair

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Ann Rein, Clerk

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James Hickey, Member

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Edwin Heal, Member

**A TRUE COPY**

**ATTEST:**

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CONSTABLE