

**Special Town Meeting
May 1, 2023**

Moderator Sean J. Kealy called the meeting to order at 6:50PM in the auditorium of the Hanson Middle School with Robert Hayes, Franklin Milisi and Matthew Dyer appointed and sworn in to serve as tellers.

Town Counsel was Katherine M. Feodoroff from the firm of Blatman, Bobrowski & Mead.

A quorum was present with 278 voters in attendance.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **2,190.13** from Free Cash to pay for unpaid bills from prior fiscal years; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Unpaid Bill #	Department	Vendor	Amount	Funding Source
1	Select Board	First Student, Inc.	\$ 559.39	Free Cash
2	Select Board	MA Municipal HR	\$ 75.00	Free Cash
3	Finance Committee	MA Municipal HR	\$ 25.00	Free Cash
4	Camp Kiwanee	Morrell Associates	\$ 50.00	Free Cash
5	Select Board	Express Newspapers	\$ 90.00	Free Cash
6	Conservation	Gatehouse Media	\$ 415.74	Free Cash
7	Fire	Scope Medical	\$ 975.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL		\$ 2,190.13	

Proposed by the Select Board

Explanation: These funds are needed to pay for prior years' bills received after the close of the fiscal year.

Requires a 9/10 majority vote

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Robert Hayes

VOTED Aye, voice declared 9/10 by Moderator to transfer \$2,190.13 from free cash to pay unpaid bills from FY22 as printed in the informational warrant.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$24,800 from free cash to fund the purchase of protective clothing or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Deputy Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds are being requested to cover the cost of purchasing all required protective clothing for firefighter/paramedics that have been hired to fill vacancies.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Robert Hayes

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$24,800 from free cash to fund the purchase of protective clothing.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from free cash to article 5 line 40 Fire & Ambulance Salaries of the May 2022 Annual Town meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds are being requested to supplement the Fire Department's original budget after expending funds for an unplanned retirement buyout.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Robert Hayes

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from free cash to article 5 line 40 Fire & Ambulance Salaries of the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from free cash for improvements of Private Gravel Roads, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Department

Explanation: This will provide funding and authorize the annual grading of all private gravel roads in the Town of Hanson up to two times per year. These funds would be used to provide for purchasing any material and to properly pitch and grade and the roads to the proper elevations and compact the material which should help to stabilize these roads. These funds are required for this purpose as well as to fill potholes with suitable material between the grading cycles as necessary for public safety and emergency access.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Robert Hayes

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$15,000.00 from free cash for improvements of Private Gravel Roads.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$73,560 from free cash to fund the Fire Department overtime costs to maintain adequate staffing levels or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds are being requested to cover the overtime costs of maintaining four firefighter/paramedics on duty while our new hire attends recruit training at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy
Second: Robert Hayes

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$73,560 from free cash to fund the Fire Department overtime costs for FY23.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the following sums of money from the sources as more specifically identified below to fund and/or reimburse for the following capital items, or take any other action relative thereto:

Line	Department	Item	Amount	Funding Source
1	WHRSD Hanson Middle School	Elevator repairs	\$11,870	Free Cash
2	WHRSD Hanson Middle School	Septic System repairs	\$9,970	Free Cash
3	Police Station	Cruiser	\$62,000	ARPA
4	Information Technology	Website module and template development	\$18,900	ARPA
5	Information Technology	DUO multifactor authentication	\$5,250	ARPA
6	Information Technology	Time and Attendance software	\$5,554	ARPA
7	Select Board/Town Administrator	Updating Town Policies, Procedures and Employee Handbook	\$20,000	ARPA
8	Select Board/Town Administrator	Financial Analysis and Plan Development	\$10,000	ARPA
9	Water Department	Town Truck	\$85,000	Water Retained Earnings
10	Select Board/Town Administrator	Update Town Master Plan	\$10,000	ARPA

	Total Allocation		\$238,544	
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Proposed by the Select Board

Explanations:

Line 1 – Repairs to the Hanson Middle School elevator;

Line 2 – Repairs to the Hanson Middle School septic system repairs;

Line 3 – To repair and/or replace the HVAC system at the Police Station as the current HVAC system experiences continued system failures and is inadequate to properly cool and heat the building. **(Correction: To purchase a new hybrid marked cruiser to replace an older gas fueled cruiser)**

Line 4 – The funding is to replace the current Town website carrier with a more efficient, user-friendly website carrier.

Line 5 – The Town’s insurance carrier is requiring all of its clients to enforce 2FA (Two-factor authentication). Having 2FA will add an additional layer of protection in securing our network. 2FA (two-factor authentication) is a type of multi-factor authentication (MFA) that increases account security by using two methods to verify your identity. 2FA usually refers to a second layer of security on top of a password.

Line 6 – The software will enable the Town to move from paper to an electronic format for efficient management of employee time off and attendance.

Line 7 – The funding will be used for reviewing and updating the Town policies and procedures and Employee Handbook.

Line 8 – The funding will be used to hire a financial consultant to conduct a municipal financial analysis of Town finances and develop a financial plan that will provide guidance to the Town in future budgeting.

Line 9 – The Water Department needs to replace its current vehicle as the cost of maintenance is excessive.

Line 10 – The funding will be used to update the Master Plan. The balance remaining that the Town is responsible for is \$10,000.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Robert Hayes

Bruce Young asked if on Line 7 this was being done in house or by a consultant and the Town Administrator, Lisa Green said the updating of Town policies, procedures and Employee Handbook will be done by a consultant.

On Line 3 Gary Johnson questioned how old the cruiser was that the Town was looking to replace, Police Chief Michael Misch explained that it is a 2017 with 67,000 miles on it. Which is a lot for a police car, if we trade it in now the Town will get money to go towards its replacement.

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the following sums of money from Free Cash, ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and Water Retained Earning to be reimbursed or expanded for the following capital equipment and capital projects for various Town Departments as printed in the Informational Warrant.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Fund \$20, 852 from the Open Space/Recreation Reserve fund and \$194,148 from the Undesignated Reserve fund balances to equal a sum of \$215,000 to fund the construction of a new soccer field and football field at the Hanson Middle School; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: These funds are requested by the Hanson Parks & Fields Commission to create new playing fields for use by Hanson Middle School students, Hanson youth soccer and football programs, and the public. The field space at Hanson Middle School is currently in poor condition and needs major rehabilitation. Additional funding to be used for this project includes an earmark from the State of Massachusetts for \$200,000, as well as contributions of \$7,500 each from Whitman-Hanson Youth Soccer and Hanson Youth Football (for a total of \$15,000).

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Robert Hayes

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$20,852 from Community Preservation Committee's Open Space/Recreation Reserve fund and \$194,148 from the Community Preservation Committee's Undesignated Reserve fund to pay for the construction of a new soccer field and football field at the Hanson Middle School.

Voted Aye, voice to dissolve the meeting at 7:07PM.

A true copy of the vote, Attest:

Elizabeth Sloan, CMC, CMMC

Town Clerk