



## **TOWN OF HINSDALE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS**

BERKSHIRE, SS:

To One of the Members of the Police Department of the Town of Hinsdale:

### **GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required and directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Hinsdale qualified by law to vote, to meet in Kittredge School, at 80 Maple Street, on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose a moderator to preside over the meeting if the elected Moderator is not present.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the town will vote to accept the sum of **\$156,233.00**, and any other funding that may become available, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, and appropriate funds as needed, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges; or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 3A:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt a “Watershed Protection District” Zoning Bylaw, as provided, that regulates activities in areas located on or near Belmont Reservoir and its associated water source bodies to protect public and environmental health. (two-thirds majority vote required to pass)

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Planning Board*

**ARTICLE 3B:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt a “Floodplain District” Zoning Bylaw, as provided, that creates district floodplain boundaries based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Base Elevation and Floodway data as required under the National Flood Insurance Program for the Town to qualify for flood insurance programs and certain grant funding, and for the purpose of promoting public safety, reducing flood damage, and preventing emergencies resulting from floods and flood damage. (two-thirds majority vote required to pass)

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Planning Board*

**ARTICLE 3C:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt a “Solar Photovoltaic Installations” Zoning Bylaw, as provided, that provides for the construction and operation of solar photovoltaic installations and to establish standards for the placement, design, construction, monitoring, modification and/or repair and removal of solar photovoltaic installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources of the Town, and

provide adequate financial assurance for decommissioning. (two-thirds majority vote required to pass)

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Planning Board*

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 57, and to amend the Town Bylaws to add a new Chapter/Section 55 that enables the Town to deny permits to landowners who are delinquent in local taxes, fees, and assessments, in the form set forth below, or take any other action thereon.

#### **Chapter/Section 55: Grant or Renewal of License/Permit for Non-Payment of Taxes/Fees**

The Town may, as authorized under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 57 and this By-Law, deny any application for, or revoke or suspend a building permit, or any local permit including renewals and transfers issued by any board, officer, department for any person, corporation or business enterprise, who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges, including amounts assessed under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges.

- (a) The tax collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually furnish to each department, board, commission, or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges for not less than a twelve month period, and that has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.
- (b) The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate owned by any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and to the tax collector, as required by the applicable provisions of law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. Said list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this section shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as of the date of the issuance of said certificate.



- (c) Any party shall be given an opportunity to enter into a payment agreement, thereby allowing the licensing authority to issue a certificate indicating said limitations to the license or permit and the validity of said license or permit shall be conditioned upon the satisfactory compliance with said agreement. Failure to comply with said agreement shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of said license or permit; provided, however, that the holder be given notice and a hearing as required by applicable provisions of law.
- (d) The Select Board may waive such denial, suspension or revocation if it finds that there is no direct or indirect business interest by the property owner, its officers or stockholders, if any, or members of their immediate family, as defined in MGL Chapter 268A, Section 1 in the business or activity conducted in or on said property

This By-Law shall not apply to the following licenses: open burning (c.48 s.13); bicycle permits (c.85 s.11A); sales or articles for charitable purposes (c.101 s.33); children's work permits (c.149 s.69); clubs, associations dispensing food or beverage licenses (c.140 s.21E); dog licenses (c.140s.137); fishing, hunting, or trapping (c.131 s.12); marriage licenses (c.207 s.28); and theatrical events, public exhibitions (c.140 s.181).

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws to set up the following revolving accounts for the specific purposes outlined below for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, or take any other action thereon:

- A. A Grave Openings revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from funeral homes for grave digging services and stone settings and to expend payments to gravediggers as approved by the Cemetery Commission; with expenditures from this account not to exceed **\$10,000.00** during Fiscal Year 2017.
- B. A Plumbing Inspector's Fees revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from plumbing permit applicants, and to expend payments to the Plumbing Inspector to pay for inspection services as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures from this account not to exceed **\$3,000.00** during Fiscal Year 2017.
- C. An Electrical Inspector's Fees revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from electrical permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Electrical Inspector for inspection services, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures from this account not to exceed **\$3,000.00** during Fiscal Year 2017.
- D. A Dog Officer's Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees; and to expend payments to the Dog Officer for reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed **\$2,000.00** during the Fiscal Year 2017.
- E. A Planning Board Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees from permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Planning Board for legal ads and other expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed **\$3,000.00** during the Fiscal Year 2017.
- F. A Zoning Board of Appeals Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees from permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Zoning Board of Appeals for legal ads and

other expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed **\$6,000.00** during the Fiscal Year 2017.

G. A Library revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from overdue books to be used for book replacement; with expenditures from this account not to exceed **\$500.00** during the Fiscal Year 2017.

H. A Fire Department revolving account; This account to be credited with fees from Fire Department permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Fire Chief for inspection services, as approved by the Town Accountant; from this account not to exceed **\$3,000.00** during the Fiscal Year 2017.

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the town will vote to set the salaries of all elected officials of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended, or take any other action thereon.

<b>ELECTED OFFICIAL'S SALARY</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Assessor Chairman Salary	2,285.00	2,285.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Assessor Member Salary	1,665.00	1,665.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Moderator Salary	50.00	50.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Select Board Chairman Salary	2,000.00	2,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Select Board Member Salary	1,800.00	1,800.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Town Clerk's Salary	6,500.00	6,500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Tree Warden Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury, the sum of **\$1,931,498.18** for the operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017 as follows, or any other sum; or take any other action thereon.

<b>DEPARTMENT/ ACCOUNT</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Legal Counsel	20,000.00	20,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Moderator	50.00	50.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Office of the Select Board	96,000.00	111,456.50	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Board of Assessors	63,286.00	64,075.28	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Treasurer	56,920.00	52,800.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Tax Collector	27,374.05	24,698.20	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Town Clerk & Elections	16,195.00	16,250.50	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Accounting & Auditing	56,507.34	57,207.86	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Finance Committee	300.00	300.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>



Planning Board	500.00	500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Conservation Commission	3,253.00	3,381.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Town Insurances	63,000.00	70,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Health & Dental Insurance	114,067.00	155,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
County Retirement	68,702.00	73,742.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Medicare	10,200.00	10,200.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Reserve Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Gas/Diesel (Town Vehicles)	37,000.00	25,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Unemployment	22,500.00	22,500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Town Buildings-General Operations	76,482.32	70,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>General Government Subtotal</b>	752,336.71	797,161.34	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Highway Department	391,000.00	475,429.49	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Cemeteries	2,500.00	2,500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Street Lights	18,500.00	17,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Town-wide Mowing	15,805.00	15,805.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>Public Works Subtotal</b>	427,805.00	510,734.49	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Police Department	239,312.86	250,453.28	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Fire Department	84,200.00	80,700.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Emergency Management	2,700.00	3,900.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Building Inspector	13,900.00	16,473.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Gas Inspector	200.00	200.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Tree Warden	11,500.00	11,500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>Public Safety Subtotal</b>	351,712.86	363,226.28	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Board of Health	10,720.00	10,720.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Veterans Services	44,100.00	34,050.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Lake Management	28,250.00	17,650.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Animal Inspector / Dog Officer	2,780.00	2,780.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Transfer Station / Waste Disposal	86,159.00	100,808.64	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Landfill Monitoring	15,000.00	5,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Council on Aging	4,500.00	4,500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Visiting Nurse Association	2,361.41	2,364.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>

<b>Health, Sanitation, &amp; Human Services Subtotal</b>	193,870.41	177,872.64	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Public Library	66,800.00	67,700.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Beautification Committee	1,000.00	1,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
CSX Land Rental	900.00	800.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Berkshire County Reg. Planning	1,467.00	1,503.43	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Sports/Recreation Comm.	500.00	500.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
OTHCC (Youth Center)	16,600.00	11,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Historical Commission	400.00	0.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>Cultural &amp; Recreational Subtotal</b>	87,667.00	82,503.43	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,813,391.98	1,931,498.18	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will appropriate and/or borrow the sum of **\$250,000.00** for the purpose of financing the purchase and installation of a new gate valve and associated construction and improvements on the Plunkett Reservoir dam, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and to meet this appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow up to **\$250,000.00** pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(25) of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes in connection therewith, or take any other action thereon.  
(two-thirds majority vote required to pass)

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 9 (By Citizen Petition):** To see if the Town of Hinsdale will raise and appropriate **\$150,000.00** for the repair and reconstruction of East Washington and Fassel Roads, and to accept any and all funds and donations towards this account.

*Not Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Not Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017, and raise and appropriate the amount of **\$2,448,230.00** for said budget, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and raise and appropriate the amount of **\$48,508.00**



for said budget, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$379,295.00** as follows for the purpose of Vocational Education, or take any other action thereon.

<b>VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Vocational Education Tuition	263,340.00	306,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Vocational Transportation	61,708.50	73,295.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL VOCATIONAL</b>	<b>325,048.50</b>	<b>379,295.00</b>		

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,176.00** as follows for the purpose of Debt and Interest, or take any other action thereon.

<b>DEBT &amp; INTEREST</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Town Hall Loan, Principal	6,260.00	6,557.35	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Interest-Long Term Debt	11,916.00	11,618.65	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Interest-Short Term Debt	2,000.00	2,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL DEBT &amp; INTEREST</b>	<b>20,176.00</b>	<b>20,176.00</b>		

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,282.00** as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer I Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Sewer I users, or take any other action thereon.

<b>Hinsdale Sewer Commission Operating Expenses</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Sewer I Salaries	13,920.00	9,322.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Sewer I Expenses	44,100.00	45,960.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,920.00</b>	<b>55,282.00</b>		

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$10,000.00** from available funds, "Sewer Receipts Reserved for Appropriation" (Sewer III Surplus), to establish a new Sewer II (Beechwood) Surplus, and subsequently appropriate **\$7,840.00** from this newly established surplus as follows for the Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses, or take any other action thereon.

<b>Hinsdale Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Sewer II Expenses	0.00	7,840.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,840.00</b>		

**ARTICLE 16a:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$137,359.00** as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer III Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Sewer III users, or take any other action thereon.

<b>Hinsdale Sewer III Operating Expenses</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Sewer III Salaries	26,430.00	21,394.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Sewer III Expenses	73,000.00	87,965.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Flow Meter	0.00	5,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Truck-Mounted Vacuum Unit	0.00	23,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,430.00</b>	<b>137,359.00</b>		

**ARTICLE 16b:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, "Sewer Receipts Reserved for Appropriation", the sum of **\$20,000** to the Sewer III – General Expenses account for the purpose of paying the Fiscal Year 2015 sewer bill received from the Town of Dalton in Fiscal Year 2016.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds Sewer Betterment Reserved, the sum of **\$148,937.51** for Sewer Phase III Loan payments; or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$289,883.12** as follows for the Hinsdale Water Department Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Water users, or take any other action thereon.

<b>Hinsdale Water Department Operating Expenses</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>Proposed FY2017</b>	<b>Select Board Action</b>	<b>Finance Action</b>
Water Department Salaries	65,910.00	63,800.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Water Department Expenses	47,331.70	56,040.04	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Water Bond Payments	118,445.00	160,043.08	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Raw Water Pumps	0.00	10,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>231,686.70</b>	<b>289,883.12</b>		

**ARTICLE 19a:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$25,000.00** from Free Cash for Town Hall upgrades, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 19b:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$10,000.00** from Overlay Surplus for Town Hall upgrades, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Not Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$16,000.00** from Free Cash for Long-term/Master Planning and Economic Development Consulting Services, or other purposes, or take any other action thereon.



*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$4,000.00** from Free Cash for the Transfer Station to procure a storage unit, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$21,719.77** from Free Cash for the Town to make lease payments on a One Ton pickup truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$7,585.12** from Free Cash for the Town to make lease payments on a cruiser for the Police Department, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$5,000.00** from Free Cash for the Police Department to procure tasors and obtain related training, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$3,500.00** from Free Cash for the Maple Street Cemetery repairs, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$10,000.00** from Free Cash for ongoing repairs at Old Town Hall, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$10,000.00** from Free Cash for Landfill Monitoring, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$43,600.00** from Capital Stabilization for the purchase of Extrication Equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action thereon. (two-thirds majority vote required to pass)

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$23,000.00** from Capital Stabilization for the Town to make lease payments on a Mack Truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action thereon. (two-thirds majority vote required to pass)

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will transfer **\$23,414.16** from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2016 Winter Road Maintenance Account, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the fee simple by deed in lieu of foreclosure from Graziosi Family Trust of the property situated on 0 East Washington Road, identified as Lot 11 on the Assessors Map 409, which is subject to an instrument of taking by the Collector recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4146, Page 334 for unpaid Fiscal Year 2006, 2007 and 2008 real estate taxes, as provided under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 77C, said parcel to be acquired for general municipal purposes and to be held in the care, custody, control and management of the Select Board, and further to authorize the Select Board to record the deed, provided the Select Board determines that at the time of recording, the property is subject to no liens or encumbrances other than the liens of the town, or take any other action thereon.

*Recommended by the Select Board*

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**ARTICLE 32:** To choose and elect the following Town Officers:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Assessor                  | for a 3-year term |
| (3) Finance Committee members | for a 3-year term |
| (1) Select Board member       | for a 3-year term |
| (1) Planning Board member     | for a 5-year term |
| (1) Tree Warden               | for a 1-year term |

NOTE: All votes are by a simple majority rule unless otherwise noted.



And you are further required and directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Hinsdale, qualified by law to vote in the Elections, to meet in the Hinsdale Town Hall, 39 South Street on Saturday, May 21, 2016 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. to bring in their votes for Town Officers per **Article 32** and the determination of such other matters as are by law required to be determined by ballot.

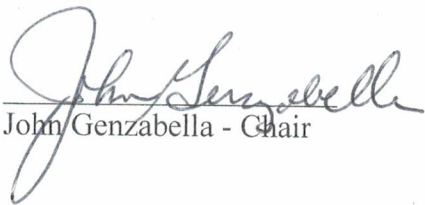
AND YOU ARE HEREBY directed to serve the Warrant by posting up three (3) attested copies thereof, as required by the By-Laws of said Town of Hinsdale, at least seven (7) days before holding said meetings. Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of holding said meetings.

Given under our hands

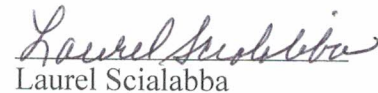
Respectfully Submitted,

HINSDALE SELECT BOARD

Date: May 10, 2016

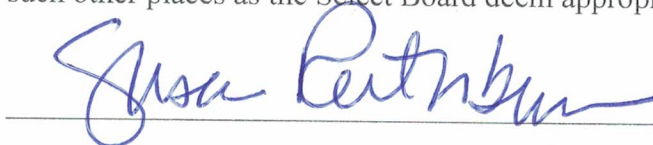
  
John Genzabella - Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Marshall

  
Laurel Scialabba

RETURN OF SERVICE  
TOWN OF HINSDALE  
BERKSHIRE COUNTY, SS:

On the date above written, I have served this warrant posting attested copies thereof at the Town Hall and such other places as the Select Board deem appropriate, but not less than three (3) in the Town.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Hinsdale Police Officer



## TOWN OF HINSDALE 2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE EXPLANATIONS

*Prepared by the Town Administrator*

### SUMMARY:

- Aggregate spending (including the school budget) as proposed by the Select Board and Finance Committee for Fiscal Year 2017 would be approximately \$5.7 million. This represents a roughly 3.44% increase over the approximately \$5.51 million budgeted for in Fiscal Year 2016.
- The projected tax rate in Fiscal Year 2017 is approximately \$14.15 per \$1,000 in assessed value, which is a \$0.75 increase above the \$13.40 in Fiscal Year 2016. This translates into a roughly \$176 tax increase for a Hinsdale home of “average” value (average home value in 2016 is \$234,700).
- It is estimated that the total tax levy in Fiscal Year 2017 will be approximately \$4.17 million (\$1.53 million of the \$5.7 million overall budget will be funded from a combination of state aid, local receipts, Free Cash, Stabilization, and Overlay Surplus), which keeps the town roughly \$260,000 below its estimated \$4.43 million levy limit. Put another way, we have a roughly 6% “cushion” between projected actual levy and the levy limit. This difference is known as “excess levy capacity” or “soft reserve.” The tax levy in most Berkshire communities (and most communities across the Commonwealth for that matter) is often within 1%-2% of its levy limit. Proposition 2 ½ prohibits a municipality from taxing above its levy limit unless it obtains authorization at Town Meeting to enter into a debt exclusion or an override.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the town will vote to accept the sum of \$156,233.00, and any other funding that may become available, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, and appropriate funds as needed, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges; or take any other action thereon.

**Explanation:** This article will allow the Town of Hinsdale, acting through its Select Board and Highway Department, to accept the Chapter 90 funds (\$156,233.00) that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is expected to award the town in Fiscal Year 2017 for qualifying projects. The article will also permit the town to appropriate available funds from its existing Chapter 90 account (which includes funds that have not yet been spent from apportionments made in past years) for the purpose of completing qualifying projects.

<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</b>	<b>YES</b>

**ARTICLE 3A:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt a “Watershed Protection District” Zoning Bylaw, as provided, that regulates activities in areas located on or near Belmont Reservoir and its associated water source bodies to protect public and environmental health.



<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> See complete Watershed Protection District Zoning Bylaw for detailed explanation of intended purpose.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Planning Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 3B:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt a “Floodplain District” Zoning Bylaw, as provided, that creates district floodplain boundaries based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Base Elevation and Floodway data as required under the National Flood Insurance Program for the Town to qualify for flood insurance programs and certain grant funding, and for the purpose of promoting public safety, reducing flood damage, and preventing emergencies resulting from floods and flood damage.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> See complete Floodplain District Zoning Bylaw for detailed explanation of intended purpose.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Planning Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 3C:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt a “Solar Photovoltaic Installations” Zoning Bylaw, as provided, that provides for the construction and operation of solar photovoltaic installations and to establish standards for the placement, design, construction, monitoring, modification and/or repair and removal of solar photovoltaic installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources of the Town, and provide adequate financial assurance for decommissioning.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> See complete Solar Photovoltaic Installations Zoning Bylaw for detailed explanation of intended purpose.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Planning Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 57, and to amend the Town Bylaws to add a new Chapter/Section 55 that enables the Town to deny permits to landowners who are delinquent in local taxes, fees, and assessments, in the form set forth below, or take any other action thereon.

*Chapter/Section 55: Grant or Renewal of License/Permit for Non-Payment of Taxes/Fees*

*The Town may, as authorized under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 57 and this By-Law, deny any application for, or revoke or suspend a building permit, or any local permit including renewals and transfers issued by any board, officer, department for any person, corporation or business enterprise, who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges, including amounts assessed under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges.*

*The tax collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually furnish to each department, board, commission, or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges for not less than a twelve month period, and that has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.*

*The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate owned by any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and to the tax collector, as required by the applicable provisions of law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. Said list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this section shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as of the date of the issuance of said certificate.*

*Any party shall be given an opportunity to enter into a payment agreement, thereby allowing the licensing authority to issue a certificate indicating said limitations to the license or permit and the validity of said license or permit shall be conditioned upon the satisfactory compliance with said agreement. Failure to comply with said agreement shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of said license or permit; provided, however, that the holder be given notice and a hearing as required by applicable provisions of law.*

*The Select Board may waive such denial, suspension or revocation if it finds that there is no direct or indirect business interest by the property owner, its officers or stockholders, if any, or members of their immediate family, as defined in MGL Chapter 268A, Section 1 in the business or activity conducted in or on said property*



*This By-Law shall not apply to the following licenses: open burning (c.48 s.13); bicycle permits (c.85 s.11A); sales or articles for charitable purposes (c.101 s.33); children's work permits (c.149 s.69); clubs, associations dispensing food or beverage licenses (c.140 s.21E); dog licenses (c.140s.137); fishing, hunting, or trapping (c.131 s.12); marriage licenses (c.207 s.28); and theatrical events, public exhibitions (c.140 s.181).*

**Explanation:** This amendment is being advanced by the Select Board and Finance Committee to decrease the incidence of tax and user fee delinquency by ensuring that various town-issued permits/licenses pertaining to real estate are not awarded to parties that have neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges for a period of 12 months or more.

<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</b>	<b>YES</b>

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws to set up the following revolving accounts for the specific purposes outlined below for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, or take any other action thereon:

- A. A Grave Openings revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from funeral homes for grave digging services and stone settings and to expend payments to gravediggers as approved by the Cemetery Commission; with expenditures from this account not to exceed \$10,000.00 during Fiscal Year 2017.
- B. A Plumbing Inspector's Fees revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from plumbing permit applicants, and to expend payments to the Plumbing Inspector to pay for inspection services as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures from this account not to exceed \$3,000.00 during Fiscal Year 2017.
- C. An Electrical Inspector's Fees revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from electrical permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Electrical Inspector for inspection services, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures from this account not to exceed \$3,000.00 during Fiscal Year 2017.
- D. A Dog Officer's Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees; and to expend payments to the Dog Officer for reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00 during the Fiscal Year 2017.
- E. A Planning Board Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees from permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Planning Board for legal ads and other expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed \$3,000.00 during the Fiscal Year 2017.
- F. A Zoning Board of Appeals Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees from permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Zoning Board of Appeals for legal ads and other expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed \$6,000.00 during the Fiscal Year 2017.
- G. A Library revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from overdue books to be used for book replacement; with expenditures from this account not to exceed \$500.00 during the Fiscal Year 2017.

- H. A Fire Department revolving account; This account to be credited with fees from Fire Department permit applicants; and to expend payments to the Fire Chief for inspection services, as approved by the Town Accountant; from this account not to exceed \$3,000.00 during the Fiscal Year 2017.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> Per the Massachusetts General Laws, these revolving accounts and their stated purposes have to be reauthorized each year. The expenditure levels listed for each of revolving accounts are the same as they were in Fiscal Year 2016.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the town will vote to set the salaries of all elected officials of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> There are no proposed changes to elected official salaries in Fiscal Year 2017.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury, the sum of \$1,931,498.18 for the operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017 as follows, or any other sum; or take any other action thereon.

The *anticipated* allocations of funds for each municipal department, committee, and activity area are as follows:

Department/Committee		FY2016 Budgeted	FY2017 Budgeted	% Change
Moderator		\$50.00	\$50.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$50.00	\$50.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Town Administrator		\$65,000.00	\$66,200.00	1.85%
	Salaries	\$60,000.00	\$61,800.00	3.00%
	Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$4,400.00	-12.00%
Select Board & Admin. Assistant		\$31,000.00	\$45,256.50	45.99%
	Salaries	\$25,600.00	\$37,806.50	47.68%
	Expenses	\$5,400.00	\$7,450.00	37.96%
	NOTES: The salaries and expense lines for the Select Board/Administrative Assistant budget are increasing primarily as a result of increasing the Administrative Assistant's hours from 19 to 30 hours/week and increasing the budget for Select Board members to attend pertinent regional and state-level conferences/trainings.			



Board of Assessors		\$63,286.00	\$64,075.28	1.25%
	Salaries	\$50,086.00	\$50,975.28	1.78%
	Expenses	\$13,200.00	\$13,100.00	-0.76%
Treasurer		\$56,920.00	\$52,800.00	-7.24%
	Salaries	\$21,120.00	\$25,500.00	20.74%
	Expenses	\$35,800.00	\$27,300.00	-23.74%
	NOTES: The salary of the Treasurer is increasing primarily as a result of adding an additional four hours to her weekly work schedule.			
Town Collector		\$27,374.05	\$24,698.20	-9.78%
	Salaries	\$16,390.39	\$16,718.20	2.00%
	Expenses	\$10,983.66	\$7,980.00	-27.35%
Town Clerk		\$16,195.00	\$16,250.50	0.34%
	Salaries	\$13,395.00	\$10,900.50	-18.62%
	Expenses	\$2,800.00	\$5,350.00	91.07%
Town Accountant		\$38,007.34	\$38,457.86	1.19%
	Salaries	\$20,743.00	\$21,157.86	2.00%
	Expenses	\$17,264.34	\$17,300.00	0.21%
Finance Committee		\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
Planning Board		\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
Conservation Commission		\$3,253.00	\$3,381.00	3.93%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Expenses	\$3,253.00	\$3,381.00	3.93%
Town Hall Custodian		\$8,482.32	\$8,000.00	-5.69%
	Salaries	\$8,482.32	\$8,000.00	-5.69%
	Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Highway-DPW		\$391,000.00	\$475,429.49	21.59%
	Salaries (including	\$187,200.00	\$220,500.00	17.79%

	Winter Wages)			
	Summer Road Maintenance	\$80,000.00	\$85,000.00	6.25%
	Winter Road Maintenance	\$62,300.00	\$80,000.00	28.41%
	General Expenses	\$61,500.00	\$57,600.00	-6.34%
	Vehicle Payments	\$0.00	\$32,329.49	NA
	NOTES: The salary component of the Highway Department budget is increasing primarily as a result of adding a third full-time laborer (not including the Superintendent) at a projected cost of roughly \$37,000. The Summer Road Maintenance budget is increasing by \$5,000 to allow for police details while appropriate road projects are being completed. The Winter Road Maintenance budget, which can lawfully be overspent in a given year (with the permission of the Select Board and Finance Committee), is being increased to more accurately reflect the true cost of treating/maintaining roads during the winter season.			
Cemeteries		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
Police Department		\$239,312.86	\$250,453.28	4.66%
	Salaries	\$182,681.80	\$200,407.82	9.70%
	Expenses	\$56,631.06	\$50,045.46	-11.63%
	NOTES: The salary component of the Police Department budget is increasing as a result of providing all officers a 2% increase in their base pay, adding a second full-time officer, and allotting for additional shifts that will need to be covered by part-time officers during the 20-week period that a second full-time officer completes training at an MPTC-approved academy.			
Fire Department		\$84,200.00	\$80,700.00	-4.16%
	Salaries	\$32,200.00	\$32,200.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$52,000.00	\$48,500.00	-6.73%
Emergency Management		\$2,700.00	\$3,900.00	44.44%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$2,700.00	\$3,900.00	44.44%

	NOTES: The Emergency Management budget is increasing \$1,200 to cover the annual cost of the CodeRED emergency notification system, which was covered by a one-time grant in Fiscal Year 2016.			
Building Inspector		\$13,900.00	\$16,473.00	18.51%
	Salaries	\$13,800.00	\$13,333.00	-3.38%
	Expenses	\$100.00	\$3,140.00	3040.00%
	NOTES: The Building Inspector's Expense budget is increasing by over \$3,000 in Fiscal Year 2017 to cover costs associated with implementation and training for the online permitting software "PermitEyes," and the first year of the software license agreement.			
Gas Inspector		\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Tree Warden		\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
Board of Health		\$10,720.00	\$10,720.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$8,320.00	\$8,320.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	0.00%
Transfer Station		\$86,159.00	\$100,808.64	17.00%
	Salaries	\$10,400.00	\$12,480.00	20.00%
	Expenses	\$75,759.00	\$88,328.64	16.59%
	NOTES: The Transfer Station Attendant Salary is reflective of an increase in wage rate from \$10.00/hr (began FY16 at \$9.00/hr) to \$12.00/hr. It should be noted that, as of January 1, 2017, the state minimum wage will be \$11.00/hr. Transfer Station Expenses are increasing primarily as a result of the rising costs of solid waste disposal/hauling (per the existing contract with Republic Services) stemming from greater amounts of non-recyclable waste being disposed, and an estimated \$2,000 needed to replace the dilapidated main entrance gate.			
Veterans Services		\$44,100.00	\$34,050.00	-22.79%
	Salaries	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$42,800.00	\$32,750.00	-23.48%



Lake Management		\$28,250.00	\$17,650.00	-37.52%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Expenses	\$28,250.00	\$17,650.00	-37.52%
Animal Inspector		\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Dog Officer		\$2,580.00	\$2,580.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$2,080.00	\$2,080.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
Council on Aging		\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
Public Library		\$66,800.00	\$67,700.00	1.35%
	Salaries	\$36,300.00	\$37,000.00	1.93%
	Expenses	\$30,500.00	\$30,700.00	0.66%
Old Town Hall CC		\$16,600.00	\$11,000.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Expenses	\$16,600.00	\$11,000.00	-33.73%
Beautification Committee		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
Sports & Rec. Committee		\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
Historical Commission		\$400.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
	Salaries	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Expenses	\$400.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
<b>Other Items</b>		<b>FY2016 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY2017 Budgeted</b>	<b>% Change</b>
County Retirement		\$68,702.00	\$73,742.00	7.34%
Health & Dental Insurance		\$114,067.00	\$155,000.00	35.89%
Medicare		\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00	0.00%

Unemployment	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	0.00%
Town Insurances	\$63,000.00	\$70,000.00	11.11%
Reserve Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
Street Lights	\$18,500.00	\$17,000.00	-8.11%
Audit	\$18,500.00	\$18,750.00	1.35%
Legal Services	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
Landfill Monitoring	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	-66.67%
Berkshire Regional Planning	\$1,467.00	\$1,503.43	2.48%
Pipeline Working Group	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
CSX Property Lease	\$900.00	\$800.00	-11.11%
Visiting Nurse Association	\$2,361.41	\$2,364.00	0.11%
Town-wide Mowing	\$15,805.00	\$15,805.00	0.00%
Gas/Diesel (PD, FD, DPW)	\$37,000.00	\$25,000.00	-32.43%
Heating (Garage, Fire Station)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
Town Hall General Expense	\$18,000.00	\$16,000.00	-11.11%
IT Service/Maintenance	\$19,000.00	\$15,000.00	-21.05%
Fuel-Pump Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
Centrex/Telephone Service	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	0.00%
Office Machine Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
Plunkett/Belmont Dam Insp.	\$10,400.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
Plunkett Dam Valve Repair	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
Plunkett Dam Renovation	\$4,986.53	\$0.00	-100.00%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,840,878.51</b>	<b>\$1,931,498.18</b>	<b>4.92%</b>

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> See anticipated budget allocations detailed in the above table.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 8:** Too see if the Town will appropriate and/or borrow the sum of \$250,000.00 for the purpose of financing the purchase and installation of a new gate valve and associated construction and improvements on the Plunkett Reservoir dam, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and to meet this appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow up to \$250,000.00 pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes in connection therewith, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> The existing gate valve at Plunkett Reservoir is over 100 years old and is no longer functioning properly. A fully-functional gate valve is essential in order to ensure that water levels can be manually adjusted as needed (i.e., in anticipation of spring runoff and during significant rain events) to prevent undue stress from being placed on the batter boards on the dam's spillway. In the spring of 2016, the roughly 40-foot shaft extending from the top of the dam to the gate valve was drained so that the condition of the valve and the dam itself could be assessed and a plan could be developed for replacing the valve as needed. During this inspection
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it was discovered that the existing gate valve was installed in a way that effectively prohibits its extraction. As such, it will be necessary to develop an alternative option for providing flow control. A grant application has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for design and construction funds to install a new valve. The article as prepared assumes that no FEMA/MEMA funding will be awarded. However, if the town is successful in obtaining these grant funds, then the actual amount needed for borrowing would be substantially less.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 9 (By Citizen Petition):** To see if the Town of Hinsdale will raise and appropriate \$150,000.00 for the repair and reconstruction of East Washington and Fassel Roads, and to accept any and all funds and donations towards this account.

***Explanation:*** This article had been placed on the warrant by citizen petition. The residents requesting the article will have an opportunity to speak to the matter at Town Meeting. If Article 9 were approved, it is estimated that the tax rate would rise to \$14.64 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>NO</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>NO</i></b>

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017, and raise and appropriate the amount of \$2,448,230.00 for said budget, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** The amount of Hinsdale's assessment toward the CBRSD Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 decreased by 1.23% from Fiscal Year 2016. Ms. Laurie Casna, Superintendent of CBRSD, will be attending the Annual Town Meeting to speak to this funding article in detail.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and raise and appropriate the amount of \$48,508.00 for said budget, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** The amount of Hinsdale's assessment toward the CBRSD Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 decreased by 25.13% from Fiscal Year 2016. Ms. Laurie Casna, Superintendent of CBRSD, will be attending the Annual Town Meeting to speak to this funding article in detail.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$379,295.00 as follows for the purpose of Vocational Education, or take any other action thereon.



VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS	FY2016	Proposed FY 2017
Vocational Education Tuition	263,340.00	306,000.00
Vocational Transportation	61,708.50	73,295.00
<b>TOTAL VOCATIONAL</b>	<b>325,048.50</b>	<b>379,295.00</b>

**Explanation:** It is anticipated that a total of 18 high-school age students in Hinsdale will be enrolled in a vocational education program during the 2016-2017 school year. This represents an increase of three students when compared to the number of students (15) that were anticipated for the current school year (2015-2016). Although the per pupil annual tuition rate decreased roughly \$1,000 from Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2017 (\$17,556 vs. \$16,464), the larger head count means that the town will be responsible for a substantially larger sum of tuition and transportation payments in Fiscal Year 2017. Hinsdale does not as a town set restrictions on which vocational schools a student may attend, and they have the option of attending PHS/Taconic High School (Pittsfield), McCann Technical School (North Adams) or Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (Northampton). When a student applies to a vocational school, Central Berkshire Regional School District informs the town. Chapter 74 tuition forms are submitted directly to the Superintendent's Office. These forms must be signed by the Superintendent by April 1 for the student to be able to apply for the upcoming year. After acceptance tuition and transportation are direct costs to the town. It should also be noted that the town will be responsible for additional vocational education tuition and transportation costs on a prorated basis if additional high school age students in Hinsdale elect to transfer into a vocational education program during the year.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,176.00 as follows for the purpose of Debt and Interest, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>DEBT &amp; INTEREST</i></b>	<b><i>FY2016</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed FY2017</i></b>
Town Hall Loan, Principal	6,260.00	6,557.35
Interest-Long Term Debt	11,916.00	11,618.65
Interest-Short Term Debt	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b><i>TOTAL DEBT &amp; INTEREST</i></b>	<b><i>20,176.00</i></b>	<b><i>20,176.00</i></b>

**Explanation:** These amounts reflect principal and interest payments (debt service) that will be made toward the outstanding balance of the Town Hall loan. Payments made in Fiscal Year 2017 represent the 18<sup>th</sup> year of payments on a 39-year loan.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,282.00 as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer I Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Sewer I users, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer Commission Operating Expenses	FY2016	Proposed FY2017
Sewer I Salaries	13,920.00	9,322.00
Sewer I Expenses	44,100.00	45,960.00
TOTAL	60,920.00	55,282.00

**Explanation:** Salary payments from Sewer I are expected to decrease substantially as a result of 18 weeks' worth of a part-time laborer's (Dalton Noel) salary now being appropriately billed to the Highway Department during the winter months. Sewer I expenses are expected to increase only slightly. Although the Town is confronting higher fees being imposed by the Town of Dalton due to increases in the sewer flows they are receiving from Hinsdale, the Town will no longer be billing the "Beechwood" component of the bill to Sewer I. Instead, this bill will be charged to a new "Sewer II" account/surplus (see Article 15).

**Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?** YES

**Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?** YES

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from available funds, "Sewer Receipts Reserved for Appropriation" (Sewer III Surplus), to establish a new Sewer II (Beechwood) Surplus, and subsequently appropriate \$7,840.00 from this newly established surplus as follows for the Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses	FY2016	Proposed FY2017
Sewer II Expenses	0.00	7,840.00
TOTAL	0.00	7,840.00

**Explanation:** Although the Town of Hinsdale has no maintenance responsibilities for the private sewer system associated with "Beechwood Estates," the Town does pay a bill to the Town of Dalton for sewer flows that are discharged into Dalton's system (the fees charged by Dalton are recovered from fees that Hinsdale charges the residents of Beechwood Estates). Historically, the Beechwood portion of the Dalton sewer bill was paid for out of Sewer I surplus whereas the revenues collected by the Town from Beechwood users were credited to Sewer III. By establishing a new "stand alone" account/surplus for Sewer II using Sewer III surplus the Town will be able to partially correct historical accounting errors that resulted from charging Beechwood's bills to Sewer I while crediting Sewer III with the revenue.

**Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?** YES

**Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?** YES

**ARTICLE 16a:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$137,359.00 as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer III Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Sewer III users, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer III Operating Expenses	FY2016	Proposed FY2017
Sewer III Salaries	26,430.00	21,394.00
Sewer III Expenses	73,000.00	87,965.00
Flow Meter	0.00	5,000.00

Truck-Mounted Vacuum Unit	0.00	23,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,430.00</b>	<b>137,359.00</b>

**Explanation:** Anticipated salary payments from Sewer III is expected to decrease substantially as a result of 18 weeks' worth of a part-time laborer's (Dalton Noel) salary now being appropriately billed to the Highway Department during the winter months. Sewer III expenses are expected to increase substantially as well as a result of higher fees being imposed by the Town of Dalton due to increases in the sewer flows they are receiving from Hinsdale. The Water & Sewer Department is also in need of a truck-mounted vacuum unit to perform maintenance at pump stations and household grinder pumps. Acquisition of this unit will enable sewer workers to perform maintenance at more frequent intervals (which will help prevent a wide range of issues from arising in the first place) and also help the Town save money in the long-run by not having to pay independent contractors to perform chamber cleaning. Finally, a new flow meter will need to be procured and installed where the force main leading to the private sewer system associated with Camp Taconic ties into the Town's sewer system at George Schnopps Road.

<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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**ARTICLE 16b:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, "Sewer Receipts Reserved for Appropriation", the sum of \$20,000 to the Sewer III – General Expenses account for the purpose of paying the Fiscal Year 2015 sewer bill received from the Town of Dalton in Fiscal Year 2016.

**Explanation:** Each fiscal year (usually in the late-fall or early-winter) the Town of Hinsdale receives a sewer bill from the Town of Dalton for the prior fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2016, Hinsdale's aggregate sewer bill with Dalton was \$73,278. This represents a 44.8% increase from the Fiscal Year 2014 sewer bill (\$50,612). As the rate charged by the Town of Dalton actually decreased slightly, Hinsdale's bill with Dalton increased substantially due to an unexpectedly large increase in the aggregate sewerage discharge into Dalton's system (as metered at the Dalton-Hinsdale town line along Route 8). Because the magnitude of this increase was not foreseen when the Sewer I and Sewer III operating budgets were set for Fiscal Year 2016, it is now necessary to transfer an additional \$20,000 from Sewer III surplus into Sewer III's General Expense Account in order to pay the full amount of Sewer III's portion of the Fiscal Year 2015 sewer bill assessed by Dalton.

<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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<b>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds Sewer Betterment Reserved, the sum of \$148,937.51 for Sewer Phase III Loan payments; or take any other action thereon.

**Explanation:** These amounts reflect principal and interest payments (debt service) that will be made toward the outstanding balance of Sewer Phase III Loan payments. Payments made in Fiscal Year 2017 represent the 12<sup>th</sup> year of payments on a 25-year loan for the Ashmere Lake component and the 17<sup>th</sup> year of payments on a 39-year loan for the Plunkett Reservoir component of Sewer III.



<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$289,883.12 as follows for the Hinsdale Water Department Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Water users, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Water Department Operating Expenses	FY2016	Proposed FY2017
Water Department Salaries	65,910.00	63,800.00
Water Department Expenses	47,331.70	56,040.04
Water Bond Payments	118,445.00	160,043.08
Raw Water Pumps	0.00	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>231,686.70</b>	<b>289,883.12</b>

***Explanation:*** Anticipated expenses for the Water Department in Fiscal Year 2017 include \$12,500 (which will be combined with a carry forward balance of roughly \$12,500 from FY16 for a total of \$25,000) for the purpose of having a Master Plan and Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the water treatment facility professionally produced by a qualified engineering firm. The Master Plan and O&M Plan are being mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA-DEP). Additionally, the total amount of Water Department bond payments increased primarily as a result of needing to budget \$39,375 for the first year of debt service on the 5-year \$175,000 loan that was taken out for the water meter upgrade project (which was authorized by Hinsdale voters at the January 2016 Special Town Meeting).

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 19a:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000.00 from Free Cash for Town Hall upgrades, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** A number of significant upgrades are needed at Hinsdale Town Hall with respect to the building's computer/IT and phone systems. Our computer/IT systems have been evaluated by three independent IT firms that work with municipalities throughout Berkshire County, and each of these firms have confirmed that a number of relatively time-sensitive upgrades need to be performed in order to avoid potential loss of critical data, disruptions in services, or other potential problems. One of the documented issues is that the physical server (estimated to be about 10 years old) that currently supports the Town Hall and Police Department networks is exhibiting signs of decreasing performance and reliability. Upgrading this server and associated hardware/software will cost approximately \$12,000-\$14,000. Additionally, the IT wiring at Town Hall will also need to be significantly upgraded throughout the entire building, and this cost will be approximately \$9,000. It is also expected that at least two staff computers will need to be replaced at a cost of \$2,000-\$2,500. Finally, it would be highly beneficial to configure a centralized phone system so that incoming calls could be more easily routed to the appropriate department and also so that the number of active phone lines could be substantially reduced (which would provide for considerable operating cost savings in the long-run). The one-time cost of upgrading to a centralized phone system is estimated to be about \$5,000. It is important to note that the Town has applied for a \$22,000 IT grant through the Baker Administration's

“Community Compact” initiative, and, if Hinsdale is ultimately awarded the grant, a substantial amount of those funds would be used to offset the monies otherwise used from Free Cash.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 19b:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from Overlay Surplus for Town Hall upgrades, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> As described in the above written explanation for Article 19a, a number of significant upgrades and repairs are needed at Town Hall. In addition to those described above, the concrete entrance ramps on both sides of the building’s second floor have settled so significantly that neither entrance can meet the criteria for handicap accessibility. A licensed professional contractor has estimated that the cost of removing the existing concrete, supplementing and reforming the existing gravel base, and pouring/finishing replacement concrete would be approximately \$5,000. Additionally, the vinyl flooring on both the first and second floors of Town Hall (which is the original flooring installed when the building was constructed in 1998) has become heavily worn and in need of refurbishing or replacement. It has been estimated that the cost of having a professional contractor strip the vinyl flooring throughout the entire building, complete a deep clean, and wax the stripped/cleaned surface would cost \$3,000-\$5,000. With respect to the source of the funding, the “Overlay” is comprised of funds that are budgeted (and subsequently raised and appropriated) for property tax abatements in a given fiscal year. If the total amount of actual property tax abatements is less than the amount budgeted/appropriated, there is a surplus. Funding \$10,000 worth of Town Hall improvements from existing Overlay Surplus will have no impact on the tax rate itself.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>NO</i></b>

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$16,000.00 from Free Cash for Long-term/Master Planning and Economic Development Consulting Services, or other purposes, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> Beginning at the start of 2016, the Town of Hinsdale assembled a seven-member committee known as the “Mission and Vision Working Group” to help guide what will ultimately be an intensive long-range/master planning process with ongoing public engagement. The Town of Hinsdale recently also received official designation as a “Compact Community.” The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth. In a Community Compact, a community agrees to implement at least one best practice that they select from across a variety of areas. The community’s chosen best practices are reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practices chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. The Compact also articulates the commitments the Commonwealth will make on behalf of the signatory community. The Commonwealth offers incentives to communities for entering into a Community Compact, including prioritizing Commonwealth technical assistance resources to help reach chosen best practices. Extra points on certain grants, and a grant program specifically for Compact communities are also incentives included for participation in the program. The Town of Hinsdale	
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has identified “Master Planning” as one of its best practice areas, and as such we have received a \$10,000 grant to help with related activities. We believe that a successful master planning process will need at least a \$20,000 project budget, and that is why we are requesting an additional \$10,000 from Free Cash to “pair” with the state grant. Finally, several communities in the region (including Lanesborough, Adams and Williamstown) have been discussing the possibility of pooling resources to establish a shared “regional economic development specialist” position. If Hinsdale participates in this program, the cost would be \$6,000 for the year and we would receive approximately 8-10 hours of direct support from the hired professional each month. Consulting services would focus on how the town can better help support existing business operations, attract new businesses to town, promote outdoor-based tourism, and improve the community’s overall attractiveness to prospective residents and business owners.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$4,000.00 from Free Cash for the Transfer Station to procure a storage unit, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** The Transfer Station is in need of a new structure to store returnables. The current storage unit for returnables is no longer structurally sound and has the potential to present a public safety risk if it is not replaced in the near future.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$21,719.77 from Free Cash for the Town to make lease payments on a One Ton pickup truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** In Fiscal Year 2016, the Town entered into a two-year lease agreement for a One Ton pickup truck for the Highway Department. The total cost of the lease is approximately \$43,440 for the two-year period. The amount being requested from Free Cash in Fiscal Year 2017 represents the second (and final) payment on the current lease.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,585.12 from Free Cash for the Town to make lease payments on a cruiser for the Police Department, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** In Fiscal Year 2016, the Town entered into a four-year lease agreement for an unmarked cruiser for the Police Department. The total cost of the lease is approximately \$30,340.48 for the four-year period. The amount being requested from Free Cash in Fiscal Year 2017 represents the second of four annual payments on the current lease.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>



**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from Free Cash for the Police Department to procure Tasers and obtain related training, or take any other action thereon.

**Explanation:** At present, the Hinsdale Police Department is not outfitted with Tasers. A Taser is a hand-held, electro-muscular disruption device that is capable of incapacitating a person and causing pain through the application of an electrical current. For example, Tasers could be used by police to temporarily incapacitate a violent or combative person during arrest. Tasers are not intended to replace firearms but are an additional use of force option for police officers. Tasers are a 'less than lethal' use of force option that may assist officers when dealing with combative, violent or aggressive people. Using Tasers could reduce risk of injury to police officers, offenders, and members of the public. Tasers can be deployed at a safe distance. Immobilization and pain effects cease as soon as Tasers are turned off. The Police Department would like to procure a Taser for each of its full-time and part-time officers. In order to safely and appropriately use Tasers, police officers are required by law to receive associated training.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,500.00 from Free Cash for the Maple Street Cemetery repairs, or take any other action thereon.

**Explanation:** Voters at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting approved a \$11,600 Free Cash transfer for repairs to the cemetery gate and mausoleum. In the fall of 2015, Hill Engineers conducted a thorough site inspection of the Maple Street Cemetery and issued a detailed report identifying a wide range of needed and/or recommended structural repairs. The total cost of these repairs (including the preparation of engineering plans, etc.) was estimated to be in excess of \$50,000. After carefully reviewing the Hill Engineers report, it was determined that many of the proposed repairs could be responsibly postponed for one to two years while still addressing issues that presented more time-sensitive public safety concerns. At present, approximately \$9,700 of the original \$11,600 appropriation from Fiscal Year 2015 remains unspent. Unspent funds from Fiscal Year 2015 were carried forward to Fiscal Year 2016 and the same will be done in Fiscal Year 2017. If these carried forward funds are combined with another \$3,500 (total of \$13,200), the town should be able to have the main gate capstone repointed and reset, complete general repointing of the gate archway as well as joint installation. These funds will also be used to help stabilize the mausoleum's foundation through temporary shoring, excavation, and installation of a poured concrete footing.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash for ongoing repairs at Old Town Hall, or take any other action thereon.

**Explanation:** Voters at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting approved a \$20,000 Free Cash transfer for repairs of Old Town Hall that were previously identified in a 2011 Hill Engineers report. Repairs completed in Fiscal Year 2016 included: installing vinyl siding for the building's gable ends (front and rear), addressing structural deficiencies in the basement, and installing a tile floor

in the sewing/knitting room. Radon, lead, and asbestos testing was also completed. An additional \$10,000 (which will be combined with uncommitted funds for Old Town Hall repairs that are carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016) is being requested for other needed repairs, such as repairing drafty windows, repairing front columns, and painting the front of the building. Potential future uses and programs for Old Town Hall will be thoroughly examined as part of the long-term/master planning process.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash for Landfill Monitoring, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** State law requires municipalities to conduct annual monitoring of closed landfills and produce a detailed report of the findings. Each year the Town of Hinsdale contracts with an environmental engineering firm to perform these services, as well as test for lead levels in the private well of an abutting landowner who could potentially be negatively impacted by the landfill's proximity. These professional services cost approximately \$15,000 on an annual basis. In Fiscal Year 2017, these costs will be split between the "raise and appropriate" (\$5,000) and Free Cash (\$10,000).

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$43,600.00 from Capital Stabilization for the purchase of Extrication Equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** The current Jaws of Life equipment that the Hinsdale Fire Department owns is outdated (23+ years old) and not capable of effectively extracting a person due to changes in the materials used to manufacture modern vehicles. It is necessary for the Fire Department to acquire a new Jaws of Life to help alleviate the potential for tragedy that could otherwise be avoided. The town has applied for a federal grant to purchase a new Jaws of Life, which costs approximately \$43,600. If the Town is ultimately awarded this grant, then a portion of the funds requested from Capital Stabilization will be used to purchase an additional roughly \$33,000 in accessory equipment and the remaining balance will be returned to Free Cash.

<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$23,000.00 from Capital Stabilization for the Town to make lease payments on a Mack Truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action thereon.

***Explanation:*** In Fiscal Year 2016, the Town entered into a four-year lease agreement for a Mack Truck for the Highway Department. The total cost of the lease is approximately \$221,318 for the four-year period. The Fiscal Year 2017 payment represents the second of four annual payments on the current lease. Although the total annual payment for the Mack Truck is \$55,329.49, \$32,329.49 will be paid for out of the Highway Department's Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget

and the remaining \$23,000 will be paid for out of Capital Stabilization.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will transfer \$23,414.16 from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2016 Winter Road Maintenance Account, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> Historically, the Town of Hinsdale has appropriated funds for Winter Road Maintenance (as well we Winter Wages, which are earmarked specifically for overtime wages during the winter season) that were well below the funding levels that would likely be needed to perform road maintenance during the winter. This was done because state law permits municipalities to overspend their winter maintenance/wage accounts, and by “under-budgeting” at the beginning of the Fiscal Year it was thought this would ensure that the town did not budget more for winter road maintenance/wages than was necessary. Although the winter of 2015-2016 was particularly mild, the town still overran the Winter Road Maintenance budget (\$62,300 as set by the 2015 Town Meeting) by \$23,414.16. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017, the town’s approach to budgeting for winter maintenance and winter overtime wages is changing. More specifically, we are attempting to budget closer to the funding we actually believe will be needed in order to reduce the amount of Free Cash required to cover an operating deficit after the winter season has concluded.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the fee simple by deed in lieu of foreclosure from Graziosi Family Trust of the property situated on 0 East Washington Road, identified as Lot 11 on the Assessors Map 409, which is subject to an instrument of taking by the Collector recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4146, Page 334 for unpaid Fiscal Year 2006, 2007 and 2008 real estate taxes, as provided under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 77C, said parcel to be acquired for general municipal purposes and to be held in the care, custody, control and management of the Select Board, and further to authorize the Select Board to record the deed, provided the Select Board determines that at the time of recording, the property is subject to no liens or encumbrances other than the liens of the town, or take any other action thereon.

<b><i>Explanation:</i></b> The Graziosi property is a relatively small parcel of land in the corner of Hinsdale, abutting both Peru and Washington. The town is looking to accept the property deed from the current owner to avoid having to foreclose on the property (which is presently in tax title), which is far more time-consuming and costly.	
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>
<b><i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>