

TOWN OF HINSDALE – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS/AMENDED

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 the Gymnasium at Kittridge School, 80 Maple Street, Hinsdale, Massachusetts on November 29, 2017, at 7:00 pm, and 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 transfer the sum of \$49,500.00 to purchase an SUV police cruiser from free cash to the police department account or take any other action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$11,450.00 from free cash to the veteran's services account for increased costs for an additional resident/veterans essential services or take any other action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from free cash to the legal counsel account or take any action thereon.
Select Board: Endorsed Finance Committee: Reject

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$43,702.02 from water surplus account to pay off the balance on loan # 25-02-0046001180 (which will save the Town approximately \$11k in interest and we have enough money in surplus to do so), or take any action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,332.54 from free cash to pay the library's three TPx communications invoices for telecommunications services in the library or take any other action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8.69 from free cash for an outstanding bill from L.P. Adams and co. Inc. or take any other action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,128.50 from free cash for two outstanding invoices to Gary Daniels lawn care charges from cemetery (\$400) and public works department (\$728.50) work or take any other action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$179.50 to Greyhouse publishing for an outstanding library invoice or take any other action thereon.
Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

- Article 10:** To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from sewer surplus to the sewer III account to complete Phase I of the *Infiltration and Inflow* analysis mandated by the state, or take any other action thereon.
 Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

FYI: What is I and I – Extraneous water from *Infiltration and Inflow* (I an I) sources reduces the useful life and the capacity of sewer systems and treatment facilities to transport and treat domestic and industrial wastewaters. Infiltration enters a sewer system through defective sewer pipe joints, breaks, or utility hole defects, and occurs when existing sewer lines and utility holes undergo material and joint degradation, as well as when sewer lines are poorly designed and constructed. Inflow normally occurs when rainfall enters the sewer system through direct connections such as roof leaders, yard drains, catch basins, sump pumps, defective utility hole covers, and frame seals, or indirect connections with storm sewers. The mitigation of I an I by sewer system rehabilitation and inflow source removal, combined with an on-going operation and maintenance program, is essential to protect the environment and the significant capital investment in sewers and wastewater treatment facilities made by cities, towns and the Commonwealth. (Source: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/laws/i-thru-z/iiguidelines517.pdfsewe>)

- Article 11:** To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from sewer surplus to sewer III to upgrade the horsepower of the pumps (failure alarms caused by current pumps being underpowered) or take any other action thereon.
 Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

- Article 12:** To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$9,000.00 from free cash to fund additional hours for cross-training staff to ensure stability and continuity of services and appropriately cover the Admin Assistant workload volume, or take any other action thereon.
 Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Reject

- Article 13:** To see if the town will vote to amend the town of Hinsdale's by-law #58, the establishment of various revolving funds, by adding a police department revolving fund pursuant to M.L.G. Chapter 44, section 53E½, which is to be credited with fees, etc., to be used for wages and expenses as needed and approved by the Chief, or take any other action thereon.
 Select Board: Endorse Finance Committee: Endorse

- Article 14:** To see if the town will vote to amend the town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new section **8.a.** "temporary moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers and recreational marijuana retail establishments", that would provide as follows, and further to amend the table of contents to add section **8.a.**, Temporary moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers and recreational marijuana retail establishments:

Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Recreational Marijuana Retail Establishments

 Purpose

By vote at the State election on November 6, 2012, the voters of the Commonwealth enacted Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012, entitled "An Act for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana", regulating the cultivation, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for medical purposes. The law became effective on January 1, 2013, and on May 24, 2013, the State Department of Public Health issued regulations under the act governing the cultivation, processing and distribution of medical-use marijuana. Thereafter, on November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a new law regulating the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for non-medical, i.e., recreational, purposes (new G.L. c. 94G, Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana Not Medically Prescribed). The new law, which allows certain personal use and possession of recreational marijuana, took effect on December 15, 2016 and (as amended on December 30, 2016; Chapter 351 of the Acts of 2016 and

thereafter, on July 28, 2017 by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, “An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana” (the “Act”)) requires a Cannabis Control Commission to issue regulations regarding the licensing of commercial activities by March 15, 2018 and to begin accepting applications for licenses on April 1, 2018. The Act also makes a number of significant changes to the regulation of medical-use marijuana, including, but not limited to, the eventual repeal of Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012, the transfer of the oversight and regulation of medical-use marijuana from the Department of Public Health to the newly-created Cannabis Control Commission, and the adoption of new requirements for the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for medical purposes. Pursuant to the Act, the Commission is required to promulgate new rules and regulations for the medical use of marijuana, including the licensing and operation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers.

Currently, neither a Non-Medical Marijuana Retail Establishment (hereinafter, a “Recreational Marijuana Establishment”), as defined in G.L. c. 94G, Section 1, nor a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center, as defined in G.L. c. 94I, Section 1, are specifically addressed in the Zoning Bylaw. Regulations to be promulgated by the Cannabis Control Commission may provide guidance on certain aspects of local regulation of Recreational Marijuana Retail Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers. The regulation of recreational and medical marijuana raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issue. The Town needs to study and consider the regulation of Recreational Marijuana Retail Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and to address such issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Recreational Marijuana Retail Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers.

Definitions

"Medical Marijuana Treatment Center" shall mean an establishment approved under a medical use marijuana license that acquires, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to registered qualifying patients or their personal caregivers for medical purposes.

“Marijuana Retail Establishment” shall mean an establishment licensed to purchase and deliver marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana establishments and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to consumers.

“Marijuana Establishment” shall mean a “marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business.”

Temporary Moratorium

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provisions of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for Recreational Marijuana Retail Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers. The moratorium shall be in effect through December 31, 2018. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana in the Town, and to consider the Cannabis Control Commission regulations regarding Recreational Marijuana Retail Establishments and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and shall consider adopting new Zoning Bylaws in response to those new issues.


Or, take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands on the 15th of November, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

HINSDALE SELECT BOARD


Laurel Scialabba


Harvey Drosehn


Richard Kardasen

RETURN OF SERVICE
TOWN OF HINSDALE
BERKSHIRE COUNTY, SS:

On the 15th Day of November, 2017 at _____: _____ (time), I have served this warrant posting attested copies thereof at the Town Hall and such other places as the Selectmen deem appropriate, but not less than three (3) in the Town.

_____, Hinsdale Police Officer



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 17, 2017 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 **\$156,072.00**, 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 3: To see if the Town will vote to enact Chapter/Section 56 of the Town of Hinsdale General Bylaws, entitled “Stretch Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the Stretch Energy Code, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2017, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action thereon.

Recommended by the Select Board

NOT Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 7 of the Town of Hinsdale General Bylaws, which allows the Tax Collector to retain Municipal Lien Certificate Fees, to require that all fees be paid into the Town Treasury, or to take any other action thereon.

Recommended by the Select Board

Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hinsdale General Bylaws by deleting Chapter/Section 48 (“Maintenance and Repair of Private and Unaccepted Ways”) and replacing it with a new Chapter/Section 48, “Temporary Repairs to Private and Unaccepted Ways,” as follows:

Temporary Repairs to Private and Unaccepted Ways

A. Purpose and applicability.

1. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6N, the Select Board is hereby authorized to make temporary repairs to private ways which have been open to the public for a period of at least three (3) years, out of funds appropriated for said purpose by Town Meeting. In situations requiring extensive repairs, the Select Board may require that a portion or the entire cost be assessed as betterment on those properties which benefit from the repairs. Repair does not mean new construction.
2. The repairs shall be those required by public necessity, including but not limited to
 - a. The necessity of providing adequately drained ways so as to reduce ecologically harmful runoff into the Town's streams and lakes; and
 - b. The necessity of providing adequate passable ways for public safety vehicles from public ways to residences, Town facilities and resources including access to Town conservation land.
 - c. The Select Board shall make the determination of public necessity.

B. Types of Repairs.

1. The repairs must be temporary in nature, such as filling, grading, patching and surface coating, and may include such repairs to drainage swales, conduits and structures as are necessary to preserve the integrity of surface repairs to the roadway, and shall not be such as to constitute a reconstruction of the roadway.
2. Temporary repairs may be undertaken on a way subject to this bylaw, or to a continuous portion of such way, which portion begins and ends at an intersection or conjunction with another way.

C. Petition.

When the Select Board determines that the repairs require betterment assessment, a minimum of seventy five percent (75%) of the owners of property abutting the portion of the way proposed to be repaired must petition for the repair, with each ownership entity counting as one. The Select Board is authorized to waive this requirement.

D. Betterment charges.

1. When the Select Board determines that the repairs require betterment assessment, the owners of land abutting such way who derive benefit from said repairs shall be assessed betterment charges by the Select Board. Betterment charges, in an amount up to 100% of the aggregate cost to plan, prepare and repair the private way may be assessed on a per lot basis or on the proportion of the lot frontage on the way or portion of the way to be repaired to the frontage of said repaired way or other proportional method as may be required by the Select Board or provided by relevant law.
2. The Town may be considered an abutter if property under the care, custody and control of the Town abuts said way to be repaired.

E. Status of way.

1. This bylaw does not confer any obligation or duty on the Town or its agents to either initially place or to thereafter maintain and repair said private ways so that they are reasonably safe and convenient for travel by being free from defects or want of repair.
2. The making of such temporary repairs to private ways, no matter how often or to what extent, does not constitute an acceptance by the Town of such private ways as public

ways, nor does it constitute a way being "maintained and used as a public way" under the Massachusetts Subdivision Control Law.

3. Any private way repaired under the provisions of this bylaw need not be brought up to full Town standards and may continue to remain a private way. Repaired private ways may be brought to Town Meeting for acceptance as a public way pursuant to state law and any relevant Town procedures.

F. Liability.

The Town, in making repairs under this section shall not be liable for any damages to persons or property caused by negligent repair or maintenance of the private way.

G. Indemnity Agreement.

No repair of a private way shall be undertaken until the Select Board has in its possession agreements executed by at least eighty five percent (85%) of abutting owners on the portion of the way to be repaired holding the Town harmless from any additional damage arising from any negligent repair, and which includes the following provisions:

- a. that the Town assumes no liability to such owners by making the repairs;
- b. that abutting owners shall, jointly and severally indemnify and hold harmless the Town with respect to such statutory liability and any and all other liability for claims of injury, death or property damage to such owners or third parties caused by alleged defects in the way, including attorneys' fees and other costs of defense;
- c. that should the Town decide not to continue to provide temporary repairs to such way, the owners will themselves keep such way in good repair so as to minimize the liability of the Town for having undertaken such repairs;
- d. that such repair shall not constitute "maintenance" of such way, so as to give the way the status of a way "maintained and used as a public way" under the Massachusetts Subdivision Control Law; and
- e. that if assessed for repairs, the owners will not appeal the amount of the assessment and agree that the assessment may be apportioned over the number of years of the expected lifetime of the repair to be determined by the Select Board.

H. Continually Open to Public Use.

Repairs or maintenance under this section shall not be performed on private ways that do not remain open to public use for at least twenty (20) years.

Or, to take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board

Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Hinsdale Select Board to negotiate and enter into a payment in lieu of tax agreement ("PILOT"), pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 38H(b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, between the Town and CC Windsor Road Energy Development, LLC, or its successors or assigns, for real and/or personal property attributable to solar photovoltaic facilities to be installed and operated in the Town of Hinsdale on an approximately 29.03 acre portion of a parcel of land located at 1110 New Windsor Road, Hinsdale, Massachusetts, and recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1782, Page 182 for a term of 20 years and on such other terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Select

Board deems appropriate; and further to authorize Select Board to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hinsdale General By-laws by deleting Section 29, entitled, “Dogs” and Section 51 of entitled, “Dog By-law”, in their entirety and replacing them with the following new Section 51, entitled “Animal Control By-law”, as follows:

Animal Control By-law

Section 1: Administration.

In addition to the requirements set forth in this bylaw, the licensing, keeping and control of animals shall be in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, including but not limited-to the provisions of G.L. c. 140, §§136A to 174E, inclusive, as may be amended from time-to-time.

The Select Board shall annually appoint an Animal Control Officer who shall be sworn in by the Town Clerk and shall be responsible for the enforcement of this bylaw and the General Laws relating to the regulation of animals.

For purposes of this bylaw and G.L. c. 140, §157, the Select Board shall be the Hearing Authority.

Section 2: Definitions.

The terms used herein shall be as defined in G.L. c. 140, §136A.

Section 3: Licensing.

Annual dog and kennel licenses, as required by M G.L. c. 140, §§137 and 137A, must be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk by March 1 for a licensing period of January 1 through December 31.

When licensing a dog for the first time, proof of spay or neutering should be presented in order to be eligible for neutered or spayed license fee. There will be a late fee per dog for licensing after April 1.

Applications for kennel licenses shall include the name, breed, age, proof of fixing (if applicable), proof of rabies vaccinations, a photograph of each dog, and the telephone number where the licensee can be reached at all times.

In addition to meeting all of the requirements of G.L. c. 140, §§137A to 137C and this By-Law, no kennel license shall be issued unless the applicant demonstrates that the use of the subject property as a kennel is permitted under the Town’s Zoning By-Laws.

The annual fee for individual and kennel licenses shall be as follows:

Individual Dog, fixed \$10.00

Individual Dog, intact	\$20.00
Kennel, 2-8 dogs	\$50.00
Kennel, 9 or more dogs	\$100.00
Late fee	\$25.00

Section 4: Restraint and Confinement.

No person shall permit any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to wander on private property without permission of the owner thereof, or on any public property within the Town of Hinsdale, including but not limited-to public ways, school grounds, recreation areas and cemeteries, unless the dog is properly restrained. A dog is under restraint for purposes of this By-Law if it is accompanied by its owner or other person responsible for the dog, who is in full control of such dog and the dog is held firmly on a leash of not more than six (6) feet.

Unrestrained or unlicensed dogs may be sought out, caught and confined by the Animal Control Officer or any police officer of the Town, and impounded pursuant to G.L. c. 140, §§151A and 167.

The owner or keeper of any dog impounded under the provisions of M G.L. c. 140, §167 may claim such dog, provided he or she first procures from the Town Clerk a license and tag for any such dog that is not licensed and pays the cost of the care provided to the dog per day during the period of impoundment (cost will reflect the current rates assessed by the impounding facility).

Nothing in this By-Law shall be deemed to prohibit the use of dogs for hunting, sporting or working purposes as long as said dogs are properly restrained.

Nothing in this By-Law shall apply to a service animal, as that term is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S. Code § 1201, et seq., and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

Section 5: Proper Disposal.

No person shall fail to promptly remove and properly dispose of any feces left by any dog owned, kept or controlled by them on the property of another, including but not limited-to any public property within the Town.

Section 6: Enforcement.

The Animal Control Officer or any police officer of the Town shall be empowered to enforce provisions of this By-Law.

In addition to the remedies set forth herein and in G.L. c. 140, §§136A to 174E, inclusive, or any other applicable provision of law, this By-Law may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §21D. If non-criminal disposition is elected, then any person who violates any provision of this by-law shall be subject to the following penalties:

First Offense: \$25.00
Second Offense: \$50.00
Third Offense: \$75.00
Fourth and Subsequent Offense: \$100.00

Subsequent offenses shall be determined as offenses occurring within two years of the date of the first noticed offense. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 7: Property Damage.

Any owner or keeper a dog, if known, shall be liable for any damages caused to property, livestock or fowl belonging to any other resident. The Select Board may order the owner or keeper to pay such damages after an investigation by the Animal Control Officer of the facts of the matter and an appraisal, not to exceed \$100.00.

Section 8: Nuisance and Dangerous Dogs

The Animal Control Officer shall investigate all complaints made to the Animal Control Officer, the Town of Hinsdale Police Department, the Select Board, or the Town Administrator, that any dog owned or kept within the Town is a Nuisance Dog or Dangerous Dog.

The Animal Control Officer shall require that said complaints be in writing and is hereby empowered to make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to determine the accuracy of said complaint and may make such orders as he or she deems necessary to ensure the protection of public safety and/or to eliminate said nuisance, as provided in G.L. c. 140, §157.

Any person aggrieved by an order of the Animal Control Officer, may request a hearing before the Select Board. Said request shall be in writing and received by the Select Board within five business days of issuance of the Animal Control Officer's order. A copy of the hearing request shall also be delivered to the Animal Control Officer. If no such request is filed within the time specified herein, the order of the Animal Control Officer shall be final.

Upon receipt of a timely request, the Select Board shall convene a public hearing, which shall include an examination of the complainant under oath, to determine whether the dog is a Nuisance Dog or Dangerous Dog. Based on the credible evidence and testimony presented at said public hearing, the Select Board may affirm the Animal Control Officer's order, reverse and nullify the Animal Control Officer's order, or issue any such order as it deems necessary to ensure the protection of public safety and/or eliminate a nuisance. The determination of the Select Board after a hearing shall be final.

Nothing in this By-law is intended to limit or restrict the authority of the Select Board to act in accordance with G.L. c. 140, §157.

Section 9: Severability.

The invalidity of any section, provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this By-Law shall not invalidate any other section, provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause thereof, nor shall it invalidate any license or determination that previously has been issued.

And further, to see if the Town will vote to amend Bylaws Section 38, "Enforcement of Town By-laws", subsection b. Non-criminal Disposition of Any Rule or Regulation of Any Municipal Officer, Board or Department," by deleting the strikethrough language and adding the bold language as follows:

29. Restraining dog, etc.	First	5.00 25.00
	Second	10.00 50.00
	Third	15.00 75.00
	Subsequent	25.00 100.00

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 8A: 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, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, 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 2018.
- 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 2018.
- 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 2018.
- D. An Animal Control Officer's Fees revolving account, this account to be credited with fees from dog owners; and to expend payments to the Animal Control 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 2018.
- 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 2018.
- 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 2018.
- 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 2018.

- 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 2018.
- I. A Council on Aging revolving account; this account to be credited with fees from individuals participating in Council on Aging administered/sponsored program; and to expend payments to the Council on Aging, as approved by the Town Accountant; with expenditures not to exceed **\$2,000.00** during Fiscal Year 2018.

Recommended by the Select Board

Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 8B: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended, to amend the Town's General Bylaws by inserting a new bylaw (Chapter/Section 57) establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows, or take any other action thereon:

Revolving Funds

There are hereby established in the Town of Hinsdale, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, the following Revolving Funds:

Program or Purpose	Representative or Board Authorized to Spend	Department Receipts
Grave Openings revolving account	Cemetery Commission, Town Administrator or Select Board	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.
Plumbing Inspector's Fees revolving account	Town Treasurer	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.
Electrical Inspector's Fees revolving account	Town Treasurer	This account to be credited with fees from electrical permit applicants, and to expend payments to the Electrical Inspector to pay for inspection services as approved by the Town Accountant.

Animal Control Officer's Fees	Animal Control Officer, Police Department, Town Administrator or Select Board	This account to be credited with fees from dog owners; and to expend payments to meet the needs of the Animal Control Department and/or reimburse the Animal Control Officer for related out-of-pocket expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant.
Planning Board Fees revolving account	Planning Board	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.
Zoning Board of Appeals Fees revolving account	Zoning Board of Appeals	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.
Library revolving account	Hinsdale Public Library	This account to be credited with fees from overdue books to be used for book replacement; and to expend payments to the Hinsdale Public Library for legal ads and other expenses, as approved by the Town Accountant.
Fire Department revolving account	Fire Department	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.
Council on Aging revolving account	Council on Aging	This account to be credited with fees from individuals participating in Council on Aging administered/sponsored program; and to expend payments to the Council on Aging, as approved by the Town Accountant.

Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established annually by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 9: 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.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S SALARY	FY2017	Proposed FY 2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
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 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury, the sum of **\$2,056,629.06** for the operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2018 as follows, or any other sum; or take any other action thereon.

DEPARTMENT/ACCOUNT	FY2017	Proposed FY 2018
Legal Counsel	20,000.00	20,000.00
Moderator	50.00	50.00
Select Board & Administration	111,456.50	114,844.70
Board of Assessors	64,075.28	62,482.48
Treasurer	52,800.00	54,175.00
Tax Collector	24,698.20	32,970.00
Town Clerk & Elections	16,250.50	13,838.00
Accounting & Auditing	57,207.86	61,992.60
Finance Committee	300.00	300.00
Planning Board	500.00	500.00
Conservation Commission	3,381.00	11,034.00
Town Insurances & Bonds	70,000.00	85,000.00
Health & Dental Insurance	155,000.00	143,700.00
County Retirement	73,742.00	90,149.00
Medicare	10,200.00	12,750.00
Reserve Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00
Gas/Diesel (Town Vehicles)	25,000.00	25,000.00
Unemployment	22,500.00	24,000.00
Town Buildings- General Operations	70,000.00	85,000.00
General Government Subtotal	797,161.34	857,785.78
Highway Department-General	345,600.00	355,500.00
Highway Department-Private & Unaccepted Road Maintenance	0.00	15,000.00
Highway Department- Snow and Ice	97,500.00	97,500.00
Cemeteries	2,500.00	2,500.00

Street Lights	17,000.00	20,000.00
Town-wide Mowing	15,805.00	15,000.00
Public Works Subtotal	478,405.00	505,500.00
Police Department	250,453.28	272,141.13
Fire Department	80,700.00	84,200.00
24-hour Ambulance Service	1,500.00	1,500.00
Emergency Management	3,900.00	5,182.13
Building Inspector	16,473.00	15,983.00
Gas Inspector	200.00	200.00
Tree Warden	11,500.00	16,500.00
Public Safety Subtotal	364,726.28	395,706.26
Board of Health	10,720.00	18,000.00
Veterans Services	34,050.00	34,950.00
Lake Management	17,650.00	26,850.00
Animal Inspector / Dog Officer	2,780.00	6,250.00
Transfer Station / Waste Disposal	100,808.64	105,858.00
Landfill Monitoring	15,000.00	15,000.00
Council on Aging	4,500.00	4,500.00
Visiting Nurse Association	2,364.00	2,388.00
Health, Sanitation, & Human Services Subtotal	187,872.64	213,796.00
Public Library	67,700.00	68,500.00
Beautification Committee	1,000.00	1,000.00
CSX Land Rental	800.00	800.00
Berkshire County Reg. Planning	1,503.43	1,541.02
Sports/Recreation Committee	500.00	500.00
Community Center	11,000.00	11,000.00
Historical Commission	0.00	500.00
Cultural & Recreational Subtotal	82,503.43	83,841.02
TOTAL	1,910,668.69	2,056,629.06

Recommended by the Select Board

Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 11a: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, and raise and appropriate the amount of **\$2,459,360.00** for said budget, or take any other action thereon.

Recommended by the Select Board

Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 11b: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 and raise and appropriate the amount of **\$40,608.00** 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 **\$237,000.00** as follows for the purpose of Vocational Education, or take any other action thereon.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS	FY2017	Proposed FY 2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Vocational Education Tuition and Transportation	379,295.00	237,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>

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.

DEBT & INTEREST	FY2017	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Town Hall Loan, Principal	6,557.35	6,868.83	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Interest-Long Term Debt	11,618.65	11,307.17	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Interest-Short Term Debt	2,000.00	2,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
TOTAL DEBT & INTEREST	20,176.00	20,176.00		

ARTICLE 14a: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$81,310.00** 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 I Operating Expenses	FY2017	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Sewer I Salaries	9,322.00	12,350.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Sewer I Expenses	45,960.00	68,960.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
TOTAL	55,282.00	81,310.00		

ARTICLE 14b: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer I Capital Expenses from available funds, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer I Capital Expenses	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Flow Meter	10,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
TOTAL	10,000.00		

ARTICLE 14c: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, "Sewer I Reserve", the sum of **\$20,750.00** to the Sewer I – General Expenses account for the purpose of paying the Fiscal Year 2016 sewer bill received from the Town of Dalton, or other expenses, in Fiscal Year 2017.

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

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,152.00** as follows for the Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with

fees collected from Sewer II users, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses	FY2017	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Sewer II Expenses	7,840.00	12,152.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
TOTAL	7,840.00	12,152.00		

ARTICLE 16a: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$131,795.00** 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	FY2017	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Sewer III Salaries	21,394.00	26,770.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Sewer III Expenses	87,965.00	105,025.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
TOTAL	109,359.00	131,795.00		

ARTICLE 16b: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer III Capital Expenses from available funds, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer III Capital Expenses	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Flow Meters (2)	20,000.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
TOTAL	20,000.00		

ARTICLE 16c: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, “Sewer III Reserve”, the sum of **\$25,750.00** to the Sewer III – General Expenses account for the purpose of paying the Fiscal Year 2016 sewer bill received from the Town of Dalton, or other expenses, in Fiscal Year 2017.

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 **\$145,572.65** 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 **\$286,363.31** 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	FY2017	Proposed FY2018	Select Board Action	Finance Action
Water Department Salaries	63,800.00	69,180.00	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Water Department Expenses	56,040.04	56,041.70	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
Water Bond Payments	160,043.08	161,141.61	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended</i>

TOTAL	279,883.12	286,363.31		
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ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$30,000.00** from Free Cash for ongoing renovations of Town Hall, or take any other action thereon.

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$20,000.00** from Free Cash for a feasibility study and/or ongoing renovations of the Community Center, 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 **\$35,000.00** from Free Cash for infrastructure improvements or engineering services, 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 **\$8,000.00** from Free Cash for Economic Development and Planning, or other purposes, 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 **\$5,000.00** from Free Cash for Open Space & Recreation Planning, or other purposes, 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 **\$55,329.49** from Free Cash for the Town to make lease payments on a Mack Truck for the Highway Department, 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 **\$14,500.00** from Free Cash for the Highway Department to procure replacement panels and fenders for the loader, 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 **\$15,000.00** from Free Cash for the Highway Department to procure replacement culverts, 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 **\$30,000.00** from Free Cash for trimming or removing hazardous trees on town property or on a town right-of-way, 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 **\$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 29: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$13,200.00** from Overlay Surplus for the Vision Assessing Software Conversion, or take any other action thereon.

Recommended by the Select Board
NOT Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$48,416.55** from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2017 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 transfer the sum of **\$3,372.00** from Free Cash to the Police Department General Expense Account to pay an invoice from the Town of Dalton (Communications Center use) from a prior fiscal year or take any action thereon. (four-fifths majority required to pass)

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 32a: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$15,000.00** from Free Cash to the Town's Special Detail Work account, per G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53C, to enable the Town to reimburse its employees who work on private detail projects, or take any other action related thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board
NOT Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 32b: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$10,000.00** from Overlay Surplus to the Town's Special Detail Work account, per G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53C, to enable the Town to reimburse its employees who work on private detail projects, or take any other action related thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board
NOT Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$50,000.00** from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action thereon.
(two-thirds majority required to pass)

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to establish a new Roads Stabilization Account, and, if said account is established, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to this account, or take any other action thereon.
(two-thirds majority required to pass)

Recommended by the Select Board
Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the fee simple by deed in lieu of foreclosure from Liberty Road Realty Trust the property situated on 0 Ashmere Road, identified as Lot 29 on the Assessors Map 113, which is subject to an instrument of taking by the Collector recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 05181, Page 342 for unpaid Fiscal Years 1975-2012 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 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the fee simple by deed in lieu of foreclosure from Liberty Road Realty Trust the property situated on 0 Ashmere Road, identified as Lot 31 on the Assessors Map 113, which is subject to an instrument of taking by the Collector recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 05181, Page 343 for unpaid Fiscal Years 1975-2012 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 37: To choose and elect the following Town Officers:

(1) Select Board member for a 3-year term

(1) Town Clerk	for a 3-year term
(3) Finance Committee members	for a 3-year term
(2) Finance Committee members	for a 1-year term
(1) Assessor	for a 3-year term
(1) Planning Board member	for a 5-year term
(1) Planning Board member	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 20, 2017 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. to bring in their votes for Town Officers per **Article 37** 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 8, 2017

Laurel Scialabba - Chair

Bruce Marshall

Harvey Drosehn

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 2017 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE EXPLANATIONS

Prepared by the Town Administrator

FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET SUMMARY:

- Total aggregate spending (including the school budget as well as Water & Sewer) as approved by the Select Board for Fiscal Year 2018 would be approximately \$5.852 million. This represents a roughly 2.66% increase over the approximately \$5.70 million budgeted for in Fiscal Year 2017.
- When funding for Water & Sewer and Capital Items are excluded, aggregate spending as approved by the Select Board for Fiscal Year 2018 would be approximately \$5.213 million. This represents a roughly 0.55% increase over the approximately \$5.184 million budgeted for in Fiscal Year 2017.
- Based on the spending proposed in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, and an analysis of anticipated local revenues (which are anticipated to increase slightly) and state aid (which is essential level funded), the tax rate is projected to be approximately \$13.97 to \$14.08 per \$1,000 in assessed value, which is a \$0.01 to \$0.12 decrease below the \$14.09 tax rate in Fiscal Year 2017. This translates into a roughly \$2 to a \$28 tax decrease for a Hinsdale home of "average" value (average home value in 2017 is \$234,800 with a property tax obligation of \$3,308.33).
- It is estimated that the total tax levy in Fiscal Year 2018 will be approximately \$4.137 million (\$1.715 million of the \$5.852 million overall budget will be funded from a combination of state aid, local receipts, Free Cash, Overlay Surplus, and Water/Sewer surplus), which keeps the Town roughly \$434,000 below its estimated \$4.571 million levy limit. Put another way, we have a roughly 9.5% "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.
- The budget funds approximately \$289,000 worth of non-recurring items (i.e., equipment, capital projects, etc.) from a combination of Free Cash, Overlay Surplus, and Sewer I and Sewer III surplus.
- The budget funds two new part-time positions (Conservation Agent and Housing Inspector) and eliminates one existing part-time position (Town Hall Custodian).
- Central Berkshire Regional School District's cumulative assessment (including operating and capital expenses) to the Town in Fiscal Year 2018 is essentially level funded from Fiscal Year 2017 (\$2,499,968 vs. \$2,496,738; 0.13% increase), which includes Year 1 debt service costs associated with the feasibility study for Wahconah High School.
- The budget calls for a transfer of \$50,000 from Free Cash (current balance in FY2017 is roughly \$350,000) to the Town's Capital Stabilization Fund to begin building a reserve to finance future capital projects and equipment purchases. Future appropriations/transfers to and withdrawals from this account will both require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote at Town Meeting. The Town Administrator and Select Board recommend the town begin

- transferring up to \$50,000 from Free Cash into the Capital Stabilization fund annually for a minimum of four years before funds are slated to be withdrawn from the account.
- The budget calls for \$50,000 to be raised and appropriated (paid for out of the tax levy) to a newly established Roads Stabilization Fund to begin building a reserve to finance future road/bridge (re)construction projects. Future appropriations/transfers to and withdrawals from this account will both require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote at Town Meeting. The Town Administrator and Select Board recommend the town begin raising and appropriating a minimum of \$50,000 to the Roads Stabilization Fund annually for a minimum of five years before funds are slated to be withdrawn from the account.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the sum of \$156,072.00, 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 (\$156,072.00) that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is expected to award the town in Fiscal Year 2018 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.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to enact Chapter/Section 56 of the Town of Hinsdale General Bylaws, entitled “Stretch Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the Stretch Energy Code, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2017, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: Adoption of the proposed bylaw is one of the criteria the Town of Hinsdale must satisfy in order to be designated a “Green Community,” as administered by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Designation as a green community will enable the town to obtain an initial designation grant of up to \$140,000 and use these funds to make upgrades to town buildings and vehicles that promote energy efficiency. Town’s that have previously adopted the “stretch code” as part of the Green Community designation process have reported favorable results without any measurable negative impacts to rates of new construction/development. See complete bylaw for detailed explanation of intended purpose.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>NO</i>
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ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 7 of the Town of Hinsdale General Bylaws, which allows the Tax Collector to retain Municipal Lien Certificate Fees, to require that

all fees be paid into the Town Treasury deleting the bylaw and, or to take any other action thereon.

Explanation: Historically, the compensation received by the Town Collector has been comprised of both salary (a fixed monetary value) and fees/penalties (a variable monetary value). For many years, this means of funding the Town/Tax Collector position was used by communities across the Commonwealth. However, in present times, this approach is very infrequently used and has gradually given way to a more traditional approach whereby the Collector is compensated entirely in the form of a salary that is established on an annual basis.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hinsdale General Bylaws by deleting Chapter/Section 48 (“Maintenance and Repair of Private and Unaccepted Ways”) and replacing it with a new Chapter/Section 48, “Temporary Repairs to Private and Unaccepted Ways” (see warrant for detailed text on bylaw change)

Explanation: Hinsdale residents residing off of private and unaccepted ways continue to express a desire to have the Hinsdale Highway Department perform maintenance and basic repairs to their roads. Given municipal funding for road maintenance is constrained and – by statute – intended to be primarily applied to maintain town-accepted roads, it has been the position of the Town that performing maintenance on private and unaccepted roads was both financially and statutorily infeasible. The proposed new bylaw provides needed clarity with respect to the type and extent of maintenance and repairs the Highway Department will be authorized to perform on private and unaccepted roads, and further provides an appropriate mechanism to finance such work. More specifically, the bylaw enumerates that future work on private and unaccepted roads would be financed via the establishment of a betterment fund, which would be funded by the residents of the road in question (as opposed to being funded by the tax levy that applies to all residents).

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Hinsdale Select Board to negotiate and enter into a payment in lieu of tax agreement (“PILOT”), pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 38H(b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, between the Town and CC Windsor Road Energy Development, LLC, or its successors or assigns, for real and/or personal property attributable to solar photovoltaic facilities to be installed and operated in the Town of Hinsdale on an approximately 14 acre portion of a parcel of land located at 1110 New Windsor Road, Hinsdale, Massachusetts, and recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1782, Page 182 for a term of 20 years and on such other terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Select Board deems appropriate; and further to authorize Select Board to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Dating back to December 2016, the Town of Hinsdale was approached by a developer interested in constructing a large-scale commercial solar photovoltaic array on a large,

primarily wooded, parcel of land located on New Windsor Road. Under Massachusetts General Law, municipalities have the ability to enter into a structured tax agreement with a solar developer that provides all parties financial certainty with respect to annual payments (payments in lieu of personal property tax payments) for a specified period of years. It is currently expected that by entering into a structured tax agreement with the developer for the New Windsor Road project that the Town will be assured a new source of revenue in excess of \$30,000 beginning in the first year of the agreement (and increasing 2.5% in each subsequent year).

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?

YES

Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?

YES

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hinsdale General By-laws by deleting Section 29, entitled, “Dogs” and Section 51 of entitled, “Dog By-law,” in their entirety and replacing them with the following new Section 51, entitled “Animal Control By-law” (see warrant for detailed text on bylaw change).

Explanation: The State Legislature updated the State Statutes pertaining to Dog or Animal Control laws and requirements of a local Animal Control Officer a few years back. The Animal Control Officer, Chief of Police, and Town Administrator and other local officials have invested significant time and effort in updating our local By-Law so that this amendment (although fairly substantial) would be modernized and in compliance and conformity with these new Massachusetts statutes.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?

YES

Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?

YES

ARTICLE 8A: 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, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, or take any other action thereon (see warrant for detailed text on revolving funds).

Explanation: 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 2018.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?

YES

Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?

YES

ARTICLE 8B: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended, to amend the Town’s General Bylaws by inserting a new bylaw establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows, or take any other action thereon (see warrant for detailed text on this bylaw).

Explanation: The Municipal Modernization Act, which was signed into law in August 2016, amended Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws in order to provide more flexibility by eliminating the departmental per fund and total fund caps, broadening the types of departmental receipts for which funds can be established, and providing for the revolving funds

to be established by bylaw or ordinance instead of an annual legislative body vote. As a result, beginning with Fiscal Year 2019, it will no longer be necessary for the Town to vote on the equivalent of Article 8A at its Annual Town Meeting because these revolving funds will have been more permanently authorized by bylaw.

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

ARTICLE 9: 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.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S SALARY	FY2017	Proposed FY 2018
Assessor Chairman Salary	2,285.00	2,285.00
Assessor Member Salary	1,665.00	1,665.00
Moderator Salary	50.00	50.00
Select Board Chairman Salary	2,000.00	2,000.00
Select Board Member Salary	1,800.00	1,800.00
Town Clerk Salary	6,500.00	6,500.00
Tree Warden Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00

<i>Explanation:</i> There are no proposed changes to elected official salaries in Fiscal Year 2018.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury, the sum of **\$2,056,629.06** 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	FY2017 Budgeted	FY2018 Proposed	% Change
Select Board & Administration	\$111,456.50	\$114,844.70	3.04%
Salaries	\$99,606.50	\$103,044.70	3.45%
Expenses	\$11,850.00	\$11,800.00	0.45%
Police Department	\$250,453.28	\$272,141.13	8.66%
Salaries	\$200,407.82	\$228,704.04	14.12%
Expenses	\$50,045.46	\$43,437.09	-13.20%
Highway Dept. - General	\$345,600.00	\$355,500.00	2.86%
Salaries	\$203,000.00	\$207,500.00	2.22%
Expenses	\$142,600.00	\$148,000.00	3.79%

Highway Dept. – Private & Unaccepted Road Maintenance		\$0.00	\$15,000.00	
Salaries		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$0.00	\$15,000.00	
Highway Dept. - Snow & Ice		\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	0.00%
Expenses		\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	0.00%
Fire Department		\$80,700.00	\$84,200.00	4.34%
Salaries		\$32,200.00	\$34,200.00	6.21%
Expenses		\$48,500.00	\$50,000.00	3.09%
Treasurer		\$52,800.00	\$54,175.00	2.60%
Salaries		\$25,500.00	\$26,775.00	5.00%
Expenses		\$27,300.00	\$27,400.00	0.37%
Town Collector		\$24,698.20	\$32,970.00	33.49%
Salaries		\$16,718.20	\$26,000.00	55.52%
Expenses		\$7,980.00	\$6,970.00	-12.66%
Town Accountant		\$38,457.86	\$42,992.60	11.79%
Salaries		\$21,157.86	\$21,792.60	3.00%
Expenses		\$17,300.00	\$21,200.00	22.54%
Lake Management		\$17,650.00	\$26,850.00	52.12%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
Expenses		\$17,650.00	\$24,350.00	37.96%
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%
Board of Assessors		\$64,075.28	\$62,482.48	-2.49%
Salaries		\$50,985.28	\$51,882.48	1.76%
Expenses		\$13,090.00	\$10,600.00	-19.02%
Board of Health		\$10,720.00	\$18,000.00	67.91%
Salaries		\$8,320.00	\$15,600.00	87.50%
Expenses		\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	0.00%

Public Library		\$67,700.00	\$68,500.00	1.18%
Salaries		\$37,000.00	\$37,800.00	2.16%
Expenses		\$30,700.00	\$30,700.00	0.00%
Building Inspector		\$16,473.00	\$15,983.00	-2.97%
Salaries		\$13,333.00	\$13,333.00	0.00%
Expenses		\$3,140.00	\$2,650.00	-15.61%
Town Clerk		\$16,250.50	\$13,838.00	-14.85%
Salaries		\$10,900.50	\$7,888.00	-27.64%
Expenses		\$5,350.00	\$5,950.00	11.21%
Transfer Station		\$115,808.64	\$120,858.00	4.36%
Salaries		\$12,480.00	\$15,808.00	26.67%
Expenses		\$103,328.64	\$105,050.00	1.67%
Town Hall Custodian		\$8,000.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
Salaries		\$8,000.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Conservation Commission		\$3,331.00	\$11,034.00	231.25%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$9,100.00	
Expenses		\$3,331.00	\$1,934.00	-41.94%
Planning Board		\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
Community Ctr. Committee		\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	0.00%
Finance Committee		\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
Emergency Management		\$3,900.00	\$5,182.13	32.88%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Expenses		\$3,900.00	\$4,182.13	7.23%

Cemeteries		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
Tree Warden		\$11,500.00	\$16,500.00	86.96%
Salaries		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
Expenses		\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	100.00%
Veterans Services		\$34,050.00	\$34,950.00	2.64%
Salaries		\$1,300.00	\$750.00	-42.31%
Expenses		\$32,750.00	\$34,200.00	4.43%
Animal Control/Inspection		\$2,780.00	\$6,250.00	124.82%
Salaries		\$2,280.00	\$5,250.00	130.26%
Expenses		\$500.00	\$1,000.00	100.00%
Gas Inspector		\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	
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		\$0.00	\$500.00	
Salaries		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$0.00	\$500.00	
Moderator		\$50.00	\$50.00	0.00%
Salaries		\$50.00	\$50.00	0.00%
Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL		\$1,394,454.26	\$1,490,801.04	6.96%

ADDITIONAL/UNCATEGORIZED COST ITEMS			
	FY2017 Budgeted	FY2018 Proposed	% Change
Town Insurances & Bonds	\$70,000.00	\$85,000.00	21.43%

Health & Dental Insurance	\$155,000.00	\$143,700.00	-7.29%
Reserve Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
Street Lights	\$17,000.00	\$20,000.00	17.65%
Audit	\$18,750.00	\$19,000.00	1.33%
Legal Services	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
Medicare	\$10,200.00	\$12,750.00	25.00%
Unemployment	\$22,500.00	\$24,000.00	6.67%
County Retirement	\$73,742.00	\$90,149.00	22.25%
Town Hall IT Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$17,000.00	13.33%
CSX Property Lease	\$800.00	\$800.00	0.00%
Visiting Nurse Association	\$2,364.00	\$2,388.00	1.02%
Town-wide Mowing	\$15,805.00	\$15,000.00	-5.09%
Gas/Diesel (PD, FD, DPW)	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	0.00%
Heating (TH, DPW, FD)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
Town Hall General Expense	\$16,000.00	\$34,000.00	112.50%
Fuel-Pump Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
Telephone & Internet Service	\$7,000.00	\$10,000.00	42.86%
Office Machine Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
Berkshire Regional Planning	\$1,503.43	\$1,541.02	2.50%
24-hr Ambulance Service	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
SUB TOTAL	\$516,164.43	\$565,828.02	9.62%

Explanation: See anticipated budget allocations detailed in the above table.

The proposed FY18 budget would convert the Town Collector's compensation structure from a combination of salary and fees to strictly salary. The proposed change in compensation will require a vote at the 2017 ATM (see Article 4) because Town Meeting previously adopted a bylaw enabling the Collector to be compensated with fees. The proposed change will have no impact on the tax rate because the Collector's proposed increase in base salary will be offset by additional funds (currently being paid to the Collector) on delinquent taxes and water/sewer fees being retained as local receipts.

The proposed increases in funding for the Board and Health and Conservation Commission are attributable to the creation of two new part-time positions. With respect to the Board of Health, a part-time (4-hour per week) Housing Inspector position would be created to help the Town enforce existing codes and combat housing blight. With respect to the Conservation Commission, a part-time (7-hour per week) Conservation Agent position would be created to provide staff support to the Conservation Commission in the form of additional technical expertise in ecology, natural resource management, and environmental regulations.

With respect to proposed increases in funding for insurance (non-medical), the Town's insurance provider recently furnished renewal documents for our P&C insurance policies, and the premium rate naturally increased. Additionally, given that we are still in the process of

levels for town buildings/vehicles/equipment based on a detailed assessment completed by one of MIIA's certified appraisers, it is a given that our premium levels will ultimately increase by a larger percentage in FY18 than would have otherwise been the case.

The proposed increases in funding for Town Hall general expenses in the FY18 budget are a result of moving costs associated with Town Hall cleaning services into this account as opposed to a separate account for Town Hall Custodian. Also, additional funds are needed in this account in anticipation of the Eversource 10% rate hike on electricity distribution.

The proposed increases in funding for telephone and internet service are attributable to higher costs associated with being on broadband internet (Charter/Spectrum) as opposed to DSL (Verizon), as well as the Town adding additional phone lines and electing to move costs associated with Police Department and Highway Department phone/internet expenses out of those departmental budgets and into one centralized account.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 11a: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, and raise and appropriate the amount of **\$2,459,360.00** 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 2018 increased by 0.45% from Fiscal Year 2017 (essentially level-funded). Ms. Laurie Casna, Superintendent of CBRSD, will be attending the Annual Town Meeting to speak to this funding article in detail.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 11b: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 and raise and appropriate the amount of **\$40,608.00** for said budget, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: The amount of Hinsdale's assessment toward the CBRSD Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 decreased by 16.29% from Fiscal Year 2017. Ms. Laurie Casna, Superintendent of CBRSD, will be attending the Annual Town Meeting to speak to this funding article in detail.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$237,000.00** as follows for the purpose of Vocational Education, or take any other action thereon.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS	FY2017	Proposed FY 2018
Vocational Education Tuition and Transportation	379,295.00	237,000.00

Explanation: It is anticipated that a total of 9 high-school age students in Hinsdale will be

enrolled in a vocational education program during the 2017-2018 school year. This represents an decrease of seven students when compared to the number of students (16) that were anticipated for the current school year (2017-2018). 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 lower head count means that the town will be responsible for a substantially lower sum of tuition and transportation payments in Fiscal Year 2018. 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. The proposed funding in Article 12 allows up to six months' worth of additional tuition payments in the event that a family with a vocational education student moves into Hinsdale during Fiscal Year 2018.

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

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.

DEBT & INTEREST	FY2017	Proposed FY2018
Town Hall Loan, Principal	6,557.35	6,868.83
Interest-Long Term Debt	11,618.65	11,307.17
Interest-Short Term Debt	2,000.00	2,000.00
<i>TOTAL DEBT & INTEREST</i>	20,176.00	20,176.00

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 2018 represent the 19th year of payments on a 39-year loan.

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

ARTICLE 14a: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$81,310.00** 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.

Sewer I Operating Expenses	FY2017	Proposed FY2018
Sewer I Salaries	9,322.00	12,350.00
Sewer I Expenses	45,960.00	68,960.00
TOTAL	55,282.00	81,310.00

Explanation: The proposed increases in spending for Sewer I wages are primarily attributable to

the addition of a full-time seasonal laborer (4-month position) who will also support work being completed on the town's municipal water system. In the time since the department's original budget request was submitted it has become clear that the bill the Town of Hinsdale pays to the Town of Dalton for sanitary sewer is going to increase at a far greater rate than was originally expected. When the Town received the FY16 sewer bill in FY17 the cost had increased by over 40% during the same time period that total sewage flows from Hinsdale to Dalton had decreased by 17.5%. The dramatically increased rates are attributable to extensive capital projects that the City of Pittsfield is completing on its system, and these costs are in turn passed on to the Town of Dalton and other communities (i.e., Lenox and Richmond) that ultimately tie into Pittsfield's wastewater system. At this time the only fiscally responsible course of action is to budget on sewer rates in FY18 being 55% more than they were in FY17. The fees that the Town of Hinsdale assesses Sewer I users will need to be increased as a result to ensure that revenues cover costs and avoid a situation where we have to transfer funds from surplus to cover an operating deficit at the end of the fiscal year.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 14b: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer I Capital Expenses from available funds, or take any other action thereon.

Sewer I Capital Expenses	Proposed FY2018
Flow Meter	10,000.00
TOTAL	10,000.00

Explanation: This flow meter will be installed where the sewer system servicing the Ashmere Landing development (Pine Cone Lane) joins in with Sewer I on Peru Road/Route 143. Installation of the flow meter at this location will help enable the Town to better monitor/track volumes contributed to Sewer I from the Ashmere Land development.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 14c: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, "Sewer I Reserve", the sum of **\$20,750.00** to the Sewer I – General Expenses account for the purpose of paying the Fiscal Year 2016 sewer bill received from the Town of Dalton, or other expenses, in Fiscal Year 2017.

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 2017, Hinsdale's aggregate sewer bill with Dalton was \$105,132. This represents a 43.7% increase from the Fiscal Year 2015 sewer bill (\$73,278). As the aggregate sewerage discharge into Dalton's system (as metered at the Dalton-Hinsdale town line along Route 8) actually decreased by 17.5% from Fiscal Year 2015 to Fiscal Year 2016, the substantial increase in cost is attributable to the rate being charged by the Town of Dalton rising dramatically. Because the magnitude of this increase was not foreseen when the Sewer I and Sewer III operating budgets were set for Fiscal Year 2017, it is now necessary to transfer an additional \$20,750 from Sewer I surplus into Sewer I's General Expense Account in order to pay the full amount of Sewer I's

portion of the Fiscal Year 2016 sewer bill assessed by Dalton, as well various unanticipated equipment and maintenance expenses.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,152.00** as follows for the Sewer II (Beechwood) Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Sewer II users, or take any other action thereon.

Sewer II Operating Expenses	FY2017	Proposed FY2018
Sewer II Expenses	7,840.00	12,152.00
TOTAL	7,840.00	12,152.00

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).

In the time since the department's original budget request was submitted it has become clear that the bill the Town of Hinsdale pays to the Town of Dalton for sanitary sewer is going to increase at a far greater rate than was originally expected. When the Town received the FY16 sewer bill in FY17 the cost had increased by over 40% during the same time period that total sewage flows from Hinsdale to Dalton had decreased by 17.5%. The dramatically increased rates are attributable to extensive capital projects that the City of Pittsfield is completing on its system, and these costs are in turn passed on to the Town of Dalton and other communities (i.e., Lenox and Richmond) that ultimately tie into Pittsfield's wastewater system. At this time the only fiscally responsible course of action is to budget on sewer rates in FY18 being 55% more than they were in FY17. The fees that the Town of Hinsdale assesses Sewer II users will need to be increased as a result to ensure that revenues cover costs and avoid a situation where we have to transfer funds from surplus to cover an operating deficit at the end of the fiscal year.

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

ARTICLE 16a: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$131,795.00** 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.

Sewer III Operating Expenses	FY2017	Proposed FY2018
Sewer III Salaries	21,394.00	26,770.00
Sewer III Expenses	87,965.00	105,025.00
TOTAL	109,359.00	131,795.00

Explanation: The proposed increases in spending for Sewer III wages are primarily attributable to the addition of a full-time seasonal laborer (4-month position) who will also support work being completed on the town’s municipal water system. In the time since the department's

original budget request was submitted it has become clear that the bill the Town of Hinsdale pays to the Town of Dalton for sanitary sewer is going to increase at a far greater rate than was originally expected. When the Town received the FY16 sewer bill in FY17 the cost had increased by over 40% during the same time period that total sewage flows from Hinsdale to Dalton had decreased by 17.5%. The dramatically increased rates are attributable to extensive capital projects that the City of Pittsfield is completing on its system, and these costs are in turn passed on to the Town of Dalton and other communities (i.e., Lenox and Richmond) that ultimately tie into Pittsfield's wastewater system. At this time the only fiscally responsible course of action is to budget on sewer rates in FY18 being 55% more than they were in FY17. The fees that the Town of Hinsdale assesses Sewer III users will need to be increased as a result to ensure that revenues cover costs and avoid a situation where we have to transfer funds from surplus to cover an operating deficit at the end of the fiscal year.

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

ARTICLE 16b: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** as follows for the Hinsdale Sewer III Capital Expenses from available funds, or take any other action thereon.

Hinsdale Sewer III Capital Expenses	Proposed FY2018
Flow Meters (2)	20,000.00
TOTAL	20,000.00

Explanation: These flow meters will be installed where the sewer system servicing the residential developments around Plunkett Reservoir and Ashmere Lake (collectively known as Sewer III) tie in with Sewer I. Installation of the flow meters at these locations will help enable the Town to better monitor/track volumes contributed from Sewer III into Sewer I, which has a bearing on how a variety of expenses (including the annual sewer bill that Hinsdale receives from the Town of Dalton) are currently assigned to the users of Sewer I and Sewer III on a proportionate basis.

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

ARTICLE 16c: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, “Sewer III Reserve,” the sum of **\$25,750.00** to the Sewer III – General Expenses account for the purpose of paying the Fiscal Year 2016 sewer bill received from the Town of Dalton, or other expenses, in Fiscal Year 2017.

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 2017, Hinsdale’s aggregate sewer bill with Dalton was \$105,132. This represents a 43.7% increase from the Fiscal Year 2015 sewer bill (\$73,278). As the aggregate sewerage discharge into Dalton’s system (as metered at the Dalton-Hinsdale town line along Route 8) actually decreased by 17.5% from Fiscal Year 2015 to Fiscal Year 2016, the substantial increase in cost is attributable to the rate being charged by the Town of Dalton rising dramatically. Because the magnitude of this increase was not foreseen when the Sewer I and Sewer III operating budgets

were set for Fiscal Year 2017, it is now necessary to transfer an additional \$25,750 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 2016 sewer bill assessed by Dalton, as well various unanticipated equipment and maintenance expenses.

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

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds Sewer Betterment Reserved, the sum of **\$145,572.65** 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 2018 represent the 13th year of payments on a 25-year loan for the Ashmere Lake component and the 18th year of payments on a 39-year loan for the Plunkett Reservoir component of Sewer III.

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

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$286,363.31** 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.

Water Department Operating Expenses	FY2017	Proposed FY2018
Water Department Salaries	63,800.00	69,180.00
Water Department Expenses	56,040.04	56,041.70
Water Bond Payments	160,043.08	161,141.61
TOTAL	279,883.12	286,363.31

Explanation: Anticipated expenses for the Water Department in Fiscal Year 2018 are only anticipated to rise nominally from Fiscal Year 2017. The proposed increases in spending for Water Department wages are primarily attributable to the addition of a full-time seasonal laborer (4-month position) who will also support work being completed on the town's sewer system.

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

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$30,000.00** from Free Cash for ongoing renovations of Town Hall, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: In Fiscal Year 2017 a number of significant upgrades were completed at Hinsdale Town Hall with respect to the building's computer/IT, phone systems, fire suppression system, and other components. The Town's building inspector has impressed upon us the importance of upgrading the first and second floor main entrance doors at Town Hall in order to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We have received preliminary cost estimates from one possible vendor with ample expertise and experience reconstructing entrances in accordance with the ADA, and we received an estimate of probable cost of approximately

\$32,000. The requested transfer of \$30,000 in Free Cash will be paired with funds carried forward from the Town Hall Renovations Account in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget with the intent of covering the cost of replacing both main entrances and installing associated electrical components to attain compliance with the ADA.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?

YES

Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?

YES

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$20,000.00** from Free Cash for a feasibility study and ongoing renovations of the Community Center, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: Voters at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting approved a \$20,000 Free Cash transfer for repairs of the Community Center 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. Similarly, an additional \$10,000 (which was combined with uncommitted funds for Community Center repairs that were carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016) was transferred from Free Cash at the 2016 Annual Town meeting for other needed repairs. The next significant project that will be tackled is the replacement of the columns on the front of the Community Center. There are six columns on the front of the Community Center, and we received an estimate of probable cost of \$10,000 per column replacement. If residents vote in favor of funding both Article 20 and Article 21, then the full \$20,000 requested will be applied toward the replacement of two columns in Fiscal Year 2018. However, if voters do not support the Article 21 funding request, then at least \$10,000 of the funding requested in Article 20 will be applied toward retaining a consulting firm to complete a thorough feasibility study that examines potential future uses and programs that could be administered at the Community Center.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?

YES

Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?

YES

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$35,000.00** from Free Cash for infrastructure improvements or engineering services, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: Many of the Town's immediate engineering and infrastructure needs straddle multiple departments. Furthermore, it is common for needs to change during a given fiscal year and/or have an unexpected situation arise that requires engineering/consulting services. By transferring a sum of money (recommended \$35,000 in Fiscal Year 2018) on an annual basis for infrastructure/engineering purposes that is not tied to a specific department, it gives the Town more flexibility to adapt to the circumstances without the need to call a Special Town Meeting and/or seek a transfer from the Reserve Fund. Potentially as much as 33% of the recommended \$35,000 for Fiscal Year 2018 will be available for use by the Highway Department with concurrence/authorization from the Town Administrator. Additional anticipated projects include an engineering study for the Plunkett Reservoir spillway and a feasibility study related to potential future uses of the Community Center. It should also be noted that these funds will NOT be used for the procurement of goods/services related to the Water & Sewer Department.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?

YES

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$8,000.00** from Free Cash for Economic Development and Planning, or other purposes, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017, several communities in the region (Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Clarksburg, and Great Barrington) committed some funding to enable the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to establish a shared “regional economic development specialist” position that would serve the above mentioned towns. If Hinsdale participates in this program again in Fiscal Year 2018, the cost would be approximately \$6,200 for the year and we would receive approximately 8 hours of direct support from the economic development specialist 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. An additional \$1,800 is requested to provide cost support for professionally printed marketing/promotional materials that the economic planner will help the Town develop.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$5,000.00** from Free Cash for Open Space & Recreation Planning, or other purposes, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> The Town of Hinsdale recently received a \$12,000 grant from the Division of Conservation Services to offset the costs of developing an Open Space & Recreation Plan and a natural resource protection bylaw. The grant is an 80% reimbursement grant, which means the Town must contribute an additional \$3,000 of its own funds to complete the project work valued at \$15,000. We have included an additional \$2,000 over and above the \$3,000 because part of the impetus for the OSRP is to pursue land acquisition for a new town beach and recreation area, and conducting an independent appraisal of a prospective parcel could cost up to \$2,000.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$55,329.49** from Free Cash for the Town to make lease payments on a Mack Truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> 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 2018 payment represents the third of four annual payments on the current lease.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$14,500.00** from Free Cash for the Highway Department to procure replacement panels and fenders for the loader, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> Although the vehicle is otherwise mechanically sound, there are presently a variety of safety concerns regarding the Highway Department's loader that need to be addressed in order to ensure compliance with OSHA regulations. Replacing the deteriorated panels and fenders on the loader will reduce risks to operator safety and, in the short-term, help the Town save on the cost of replacing the loader.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$15,000.00** from Free Cash for the Highway Department to procure replacement culverts, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> Funds will be used to procure culverts for 14 crossings (replacing existing failing crossings). Culverts will primarily be used on E Washington Road. Culverts on roads such as Smith, Stonehouse, and George Schnopps will also be addressed as funding permits.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$30,000.00** from Free Cash for trimming or removing hazardous trees on town property or on a town right-of-way, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> With a grant from the Town's insurance provider, a certified arborist recently performed a Town-wide Tree Risk Assessment that identified approximately 70 problem trees (50+ of which should be removed). The arborist estimated that the total cost of removing all of the problem trees would be up to \$50,000. Given that it would be somewhat cost prohibitive to finance the removal/trimming of all these trees in a single fiscal year, the FY2018 budget proposes that \$30,000 be dedicated for this purpose for Year 1. An additional \$20,000 will be planned for FY 2019 (Year 2) so that the Town should be able to successfully address all of the issues flagged in the Tree Risk Assessment, as well as address additional problem trees that arise in the coming year.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 28: 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.

<i>Explanation:</i> 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 2018 represents the third of four annual payments on the current lease.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$13,200.00** from Overlay Surplus for the Vision Assessing Software Conversion, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: The Board of Assessors has historically used CSC-CAMA as its assessing software, which is a program long supported from a technical assistance standpoint by the state. However, beginning in Fiscal Year 2019, the state will no longer be supporting CSC-CAMA. As a result, all towns current using this program have no alternative but to begin using a new software package for assessing purposes. Conversion to a new software platform will take place in Fiscal Year 2018 (one year prior to the Fiscal Year where the new software will become fully deployed). After considering the assessing software options available, the Board of Assessors has selected Vision as their preferred package, and undergoing the data conversion from CSC-CAMA to Vision necessitates a one-time \$13,200 fee.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?	YES
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Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?	NO
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ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$48,416.55** from Free Cash to the Fiscal Year 2017 Winter Road Maintenance Account, or take any other action thereon.

Explanation: State law permits a municipality to deficit spend from its “Snow and Ice” account because it is understood that the severity of a given winter cannot be accurately anticipated beforehand. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017, the Town’s approach to budgeting for winter maintenance and winter overtime wages changed. More specifically, we attempted to budget closer to the funding we actually believed would be needed in order to reduce the amount of Free Cash required to cover an operating deficit after the winter season has concluded. We used a 6-year average of winter roads maintenance costs as the basis for the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Unfortunately, despite appropriating approximately \$20,000 more to the Winter Roads Maintenance Account in Fiscal Year 2017 than was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2016, the cost of treating and maintaining the roads during the winter months still exceeded this year’s budget (\$80,000) by approximately 60%.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?	YES
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Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?	YES
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ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$3,372.00** from Free Cash to the Police Department General Expense Account to pay an invoice from the Town of Dalton (Communications Center use) from a prior fiscal year or take any action thereon.
(four-fifths majority required to pass)

Explanation: The Town of Dalton did not provide the Town of Hinsdale a bill for communications center use in Fiscal Year 2015 until the second half of Fiscal Year 2017.

Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?	YES
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Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?	YES
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ARTICLE 32a: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$15,000.00** from Free Cash to the Town’s Special Detail Work account, per G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53C, to enable the Town to reimburse its employees who work on private detail projects, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: Officers of the Hinsdale Police Department are permitted to take part in third party work details. Third party work details are defined as any assignment requiring the services of a police officer in which said services are requested by, and paid for by a third party other than the Town of Hinsdale or the Hinsdale Police Department. Historically, Hinsdale police officers were not provided their individual compensation for third party details until the Town of Hinsdale had received payment from the third party (i.e., a private vendor requesting a police detail, another municipality, etc.). As such, the timeframe in which Hinsdale police officers are compensated for such work details can be highly variable. The current Police Union Contract (covering Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2018), which was agreed to by both the union of the Select Board, includes a provision that the special detail account for police officers be pre-funded in order to ensure that officers are compensated in a more timely manner. This means that the Town of Hinsdale will ensure compensation is made to the officer who has performed an outside detail prior to receiving reimbursement/payment from the third party. Article 32a recommends that \$15,000 be transferred from Free Cash to the Police Department's special detail work account to help establish a pre-funded account for this purpose.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>NO</i>
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ARTICLE 32b: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$10,000.00** from Overlay Surplus to the Town's Special Detail Work account, per G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53C, to enable the Town to reimburse its employees who work on private detail projects, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: Officers of the Hinsdale Police Department are permitted to take part in third party work details. Third party work details are defined as any assignment requiring the services of a police officer in which said services are requested by, and paid for by a third party other than the Town of Hinsdale or the Hinsdale Police Department. Historically, Hinsdale police officers were not provided their individual compensation for third party details until the Town of Hinsdale had received payment from the third party (i.e., a private vendor requesting a police detail, another municipality, etc.). As such, the timeframe in which Hinsdale police officers are compensated for such work details can be highly variable. The current Police Union Contract (covering Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2018), which was agreed to by both the union of the Select Board, includes a provision that the special detail account for police officers be pre-funded in order to ensure that officers are compensated in a more timely manner. This means that the Town of Hinsdale will ensure compensation is made to the officer who has performed an outside detail prior to receiving reimbursement/payment from the third party. Article 32b recommends that \$10,000 be transferred from Overlay Surplus to the Police Department's special detail work account to help establish a pre-funded account for this purpose.

<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
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<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>NO</i>
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ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to transfer **\$50,000.00** from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action thereon.

<i>Explanation:</i> A capital improvement plan is being developed that identifies capital items
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(vehicles, equipment, projects, etc.) that the Town intends to pursue over a 5-year period (FY2019-FY2023). Although Free Cash can and will be used to finance a number of these acquisitions and projects, it is fiscally prudent that the Town take the additional step of transferring available funds into the Capital Stabilization Fund on an annual basis so as to establish a healthy reserve before funds are withdrawn to finance capital needs. At this time, the goal is to transfer a minimum of \$50,000 to this account on an annual basis for a period of four years (establishing a reserve balance of at least \$200,000). In order to ensure the fund balance is sustainable in the long-term, allocations to this fund over a given three-year period should generally exceed the aggregate amount of withdrawals during the corresponding time frame.

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

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to establish a new Roads Stabilization Account, and, if said account is established, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to this account, or take any other action thereon.
(two-thirds majority required to pass)

Explanation: It is well documented that the Town has a wide range of road infrastructure needs, and that these needs extent beyond what the Chapter 90 funding provided by the state can reasonably support. It is proposed that the town establish a new stabilization fund (a reserve fund) with monies specifically set aside for financing future road infrastructure projects. The intent is to allocate a minimum of \$50,000 to this new account on an annual basis for a minimum of five years, so as to establish a somewhat robust reserve (minimum \$250,000) before any funds are withdrawn for projects. Funds from this new account could be used for stand-alone projects or used in combination with state funding and other sources to finance projects that were particularly large or multi-faceted. In order to ensure the fund balance is sustainable in the long-term, allocations to this fund over a given three-year period should generally exceed the aggregate amount of withdrawals during the corresponding timeframe.

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

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the fee simple by deed in lieu of foreclosure from Liberty Road Realty Trust the property situated on 0 Ashmere Road, identified as Lot 29 on the Assessors Map 113, which is subject to an instrument of taking by the Collector recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 05181, Page 342 for unpaid Fiscal Years 1975-2012 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.

Explanation: This is a relatively small parcel of land (0.11 acres) with approximately 43 feet of frontage on Ashmere Road. 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.

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

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the fee simple by deed in lieu of foreclosure from Liberty Road Realty Trust the property situated on 0 Ashmere Road, identified as Lot 31 on the Assessors Map 113, which is subject to an instrument of taking by the Collector recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 05181, Page 343 for unpaid Fiscal Years 1975-2012 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.

<i>Explanation:</i> This is a relatively small parcel of land (0.11 acres) with approximately 48 feet of frontage on Ashmere Road. 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.	
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Select Board?</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Was this Article Recommended by the Finance Committee?</i>	<i>YES</i>