



# Town of Hinsdale

## Annual Town Meeting - May 11, 2022 Minutes 103 Registered Voters

### Article#

1. Elected Moderator, Dave Stuart, was present.
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2. To see if the Town will accept Hinsdale's allotment of funds appropriated for FY23 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of General Laws. These funds are to pay for costs allowed by applicable legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges; with any unspent funds to carry over from year to year until spent by the Town; these sums are to be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.  
(This article allows the Town to accept our share of State Chapter 90 funds, which is **\$153,050.00** for FY23.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

3. Voted to:
  - a. Set the salaries of all elected officials of the Town for FY23 as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended. (These salaries total **\$18,900**, and are included in the Article 3b departmental totals, below.)

Elected Officials	F '22	FY23	Select Board..	.Fin anc e
Assessors (3)*	\$1500	\$1500	y	y
Moderator	\$100	\$100	y	y
Select Board Chait	\$3,000	\$3,000	y	y
Select Board (2)	\$2,800	\$2,800	y	y
Town Clerk	\$7,034	\$10,000	y	y
Tree Warden	\$1,500	\$1,500	y	y

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

- b. Raise and appropriate or transfer from available treasury funds, the sum of **\$2,499,156** for the operating expenses of the Town for FY23 as follows.

<b>Department/ Account</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>Financ e</b>
Legal Counsel	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	y	y
Moderator	\$ 100	\$ 100	y	y
Select Board & Admin	\$ 137,120	\$ 143,506	y	y
Board of Assessors	\$ 72,750	\$ 74,250	y	y
Treasurer	\$ 53,759	\$ 62,400	y	y
Tax Collector	\$ 27,856	\$ 5,000	y	y
Town Clerk/Elections	\$ 14,842	\$ 19,480	y	y
Accounting & Auditing	\$ 70,233	\$ 68,364	y	y
Finance Committee	\$ 300	\$ 300	y	y
Planning Board	\$ 500	\$ 500	y	y
Conservation Committee	\$ 16,400	\$ 17,285	y	y
Insurances & Bonds	\$ 88,000	\$ 89,400	y	y
Health/Dental Insurance	\$ 169,000	\$ 260,000	y	y
County Retirement	\$ 158,647	\$ 181,221	y	y
Medicare	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,500	y	y
Reserve Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	y	y
Gas/Diesel	\$ 35,000	\$ 38,500	y	y
Unemployment	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	y	y
Town Buildings	\$ 94,390	\$ 103,900	y	y
<b>General Government</b>	<b>\$1,000,897</b>	<b>\$1,135,706</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>
Public Works/DPW	\$ 396,368	\$ 416,833	y	y
Unaccepted Roads	\$ 15,000	\$ -	y	y
Winter Roads	\$ 97,500	\$ 97,500	y	y
Cemeteries	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	y	y
Street Lights	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,600	y	y
Town-wide Mowing	\$ 21,030	\$ 21,030	y	y
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$ 551,898</b>	<b>\$ 558,463</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>

Department/Account	FY22	FY23	SB	Financ e
Police Department	\$ 339,666	\$ 402,513	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>
Fire Department	\$ 85,600	\$ 88,600	'y	<b>Vy</b>
Ambulance Service	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	y	y
Emergency Management	\$ 5,450	\$ 4,000	y	y
Building Inspector	\$ 17,100	\$ 17,570	y	y
Gas Inspector	\$ 200	\$ 200	y	y
Tree Warden	\$ 11,500	\$ 16,500	y	y
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>\$ 461,516</b>	<b>\$ 531,383</b>	y	y
Board of Health	\$ 14,400	\$ 15,300	y	y
Veterans Services	\$ 35,300	\$ 26,800	y	y
Lake Management	\$ 26,200	\$ 20,200	y	y
Animal/Dog Officer	\$ 6,710	\$ 6,892	y	y
Transfer Station/Waste	\$ 94,843	\$ 99,585	y	y
Landfill Monitoring	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	y	y
Council on Aging	\$ 3,075	\$ 3,000	y	y
Visiting Nurse (VNA)	\$ 2,856	\$ 3,142	y	y
<b>Health&amp;Human Services</b>	<b>\$ 198,384</b>	<b>\$ 174,919</b>	y	y
Public Library	\$ 78,165	\$ 83,885	y	y
Beautification Team	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	y	y
CSX Land Rental	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	y	y
Berkshire Reg Planning	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,600	y	y
Sports/Rec	\$ 500	\$ 500	y	y
Community Center	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	y	y
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>	<b>\$ 92,985</b>	<b>\$ 98,685</b>	y	y
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 2,295,474<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 2,499,156</b>	y	y

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

*See the footnotes below*

c. Voted to approve FY23 Educational Expenses as follows:

1. **Central Berkshire Regional School District (CBRS) Assessment** budget of **\$2,568,569** as part of the total amount for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY23, or take any other action thereon.
11. **Central Berkshire Regional School District's (CBRS) Capital** budget of **\$271,298** as part of the total amount for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY23, or take any other action thereon.

111. **Vocational School Transportation** costs of \$79,626 as part of the total for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY23, or take other action thereon.

**iv. Vocational School Tuition** costs of \$156,976 (5 Smith+ 3 Mccann)= 8@ \$19,622/student = Total Voc. Tuitions) as part of the Town's total for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY23, or take any other action thereon.

Education Costs	FY22	FY23	SB	Finance
CBRSD Assessment	\$2,466,553	\$2,568,569	y	<b>N</b>
CBRSD Capital	\$ 274,845	\$ 271,298	y	y
Voc School Transportation	\$ 76,194	\$ 79,626	y	y
Voc School Tuition	\$ 149,432	\$ 156,976	y	y
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,967,024</b>	<b>\$3,076,469</b>	y	y

<sup>1</sup>This total is off approximately \$10k due to funds carried forward from FY21.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,677 as follows for Debt and Interest, or take any other action thereon.

Debt & Interest Table	FV12	<sup>1</sup> FV7.3	SB	Finance
Town Hall Loan, Principal	<b>\$8,270</b>	\$8,270	y	y
Interest-Long Term Debt	\$9,907	\$9,907	y	y
Interest-Short Term Debt	\$1,500	\$1,500	y	y
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,677</b>	<b>\$19,677</b>	y	y

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

4. Voted to transfer **\$34,270.77** from Free Cash to balance the Fiscal Year 2022 Winter Road Maintenance budget line.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

5. To see if the Town will:

- a. Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$81,374** for the Sewer I Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from those users.

Sewer I	FY22	FVZ3	%	S B-	Financ e
Salaries	\$12,224	\$16,244	34%	y	y
Expenses	\$65,150	\$65,150	0%	y	y
Total	\$77,374	<b>\$81,374</b>	5%	y	y

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

- b. Voted the sum of **\$14,882** for the Sewer II Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from those users.

Sewer II	FYU	FY23	o	S B	Financ e
Expenses	\$14,448	\$14,882	2%	y	y
Total	\$14,448	<b>\$14,882</b>	2%	y	y

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

- c. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$171,047** for the Sewer III Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from those users.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

Sewer III	FV22	FV23	$\frac{3}{4}$	S B	Financ e
Salaries	\$28,197	<b>\$35,808</b>	25%	y	y
Expense s	\$131,300	\$135,239	3%	y	y
Total	\$159,497	<b>\$171,047</b>	7%	y	y

- d. Voted to transfer from available funds in the Sewer Betterment Reserve, the sum of **\$101,669** (**\$45,709** for Plunkett and **\$55,960** for Ashmere) for Sewer Phase III Loan payments.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

6. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$233,481** as follows for the Hinsdale Water Department Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Water users.

<b>Water Department</b>	<b>FV21</b>	<b>F'f23</b>	<b>.,0/o</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>Finan ce</b>
Salaries	\$69,067	\$76,972	9%	y	y
Expenses	\$40,550	\$40,550	0	y	y
Bond Payments	\$109,459	\$115,959	9%	y	y
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$219,076</b>	<b>\$233,481</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

7. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,240** from Sewers I, II, III, and Water users to be offset by fees for the Town to purchase and install the *SoftRight* software module to enhance customer billing and service, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

<b>Departme nt</b>	<b>Amt</b>	<b>Spli t</b>	<b>.SB</b>	<b>Financ e</b>
Sewer I	\$1,540	16.5 %	y	y
Sewer II	\$1,540	16.5 %	y	y
Sewer III	\$3,080	33.5 %	y	y
Water	\$3,080	33.5 %	y	y
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,240</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

8. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$32,500** from Free Cash for Infrastructure and Engineering Expenses for FY23.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

9. Voted to authorize the Select Board to transfer the sum of **\$150,000** from Free Cash to the Transfer Station budget to pay for the costs to cap the former landfill in excess of the allotted ARPA funds, including all costs incidental or related thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

10. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$54,387.56** from Free Cash to make the second of five annual payments on a lease-to-own truck the Town agreed to purchase at the FY21 Annual Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

11. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$11,300** from Free Cash to restore the Maple Street Cemetery Mausoleum, prune the shrubbery overgrowth throughout the site, and purchase computer software to improve cemetery record keeping, including all costs incidental or related thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

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12. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$4,600** from Free Cash to pay for the new website software and site development, including all costs incidental or related thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

13. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$21,000** from Free Cash to pay for the anticipated overage in the Town Waste General Expense account due to the increases in waste management costs, including all costs incidental or related thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

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14. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$15,000** from Free Cash to pay for the removal of dead, dying, and hazardous trees, located across town as identified and ranked by the consulting Arborist, including all costs incidental or related thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written

Vote – passed unanimously

15. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$3,000** from Free Cash to pay expenses for one Part-time Police Officer to attend the State-mandated Police Officer's bridge training program, required of all part-time officers across the Commonwealth.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

16. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$7,000** from Free Cash to pay the cost of the State-mandated biennial high-hazard dam inspections for Belmont and Plunkett Reservoirs, including all costs incidental or related thereto, or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

17. Voted to raise and appropriate **\$57,049.30** as the first of ten annual payments of a loan financing, or lease to purchase agreement, totaling **\$570,493.00**, to purchase and equip a new tanker truck for the Hinsdale Fire Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
A motion was made and seconded to conduct a secret ballot  
Vote – 35 Yes      56 No Amendment failed

A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read “.....new or **used** tanker truck”

Hand count was used to vote on the amendment

Vote: Yes 53      No 42 amendment passed

Vote on the amended article declared by Moderator using voice vote – Amended article passes

18. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$216.08** from Free Cash to cover an outstanding FY21 Northeast Paving/ Lenoxdale Plant Invoice# 68001426, received on September 7, 2021.

*(Northeast Paving has acknowledged this charge was late due to their staffing shortage. Approval requires a 415<sup>th</sup> vote.)*

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

19. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$1,178.50** from Free Cash to cover an outstanding FY21 Invoice (#Q2, 2021) from Howard Laboratories, Inc. in Hatfield, MA, received on August 27, 2021. *(Howard Labs has acknowledged the bill was late due to their staffing difficulties. Approval requires a 415<sup>th</sup> vote.)*

Please Note: This Article shall be corrected on the floor of the ATM, it is a Water Department charge and the funds will come from the Water Reserve account, not Free Cash. BG.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read from Water Reserve Account, not Free Cash  
Vote on the amendment – passed unanimously  
Vote on the amended article – passed unanimously

20. Voted to deposit **\$50,000** from Free Cash into the Town Capital Stabilization Account.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously



21. Voted to deposit \$50,000 from Free Cash into the Town Road Stabilization Account.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

22. Voted to deposit \$50,000 from Free Cash into the Town Stabilization Account.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

23. Voted to accept G.L. c. 258 § 13, to require the Town to indemnify and save harmless municipal officers, elected or appointed from personal financial loss and expense in the event that they are named in litigation arising out of their actions or omissions when acting within the scope of their official duties or employment, or take any other action thereon.

Please Note: In addition to a required vote of a Town Meeting, the statute also requires that the voters at an Annual Town Election accept the following question:

Shall the town vote to accept the provisions of section thirteen of chapter two hundred and fifty-eight of the General Laws which provides that the town shall indemnify and save harmless municipal officers, elected or appointed, from personal financial loss and expense including reasonable legal fees and costs, if any, in an amount not to exceed one million dollars, arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of any act or omission except an intentional violation of civil rights of any person under any law, if the official at the time of such act or omission was acting within the scope of his official duties or employment?

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

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Therefore, if this passes at the ATM 2022, the question will appear on the May 2023 Election Ballot for final approval.

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24. Voted to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for the enactment of special legislation entitled "An Act Authorizing the Town of Hinsdale to Continue the Employment of Susan Rathbun" as set forth below, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto:

**An Act Authorizing the Town of Hinsdale to Continue Employment of Susan Rathbun**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
and by the authority of the same as follows:*

**Section 1.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Susan Rathbun, the Chief of Police in the Town of Hinsdale, who would be subject to mandatory retirement on the last day of the month in which she turns 65 years old, may

continue to serve in such a position until **February 2, 2027**, or until the date of her retirement or non-reappointment, or the date she is relieved of her duties by the Town, whichever occurs first; provided however, that no deductions shall be made from the regular compensation of Susan Rathbun pursuant to Chapter 32 of the General Laws for any service subsequent to her reaching the age of 65 in connection with her service to the Town for retirement purposes; provided further, that she is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of her office; provided further, that the Town may at its own expense require that Susan Rathbun be examined by an impartial physician designated by the Town to determine such capability; and provided further, that Susan Rathbun shall, upon retirement, receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which she would have been entitled had she retired at the age of 65.

**Section 2.** This act shall take effect upon its passage.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
 Vote – passed unanimously

25. Voted to affirm the following petition, or take any other action thereon:

This (citizens) petition addresses the long-overdue road improvements needed to major thoroughfares in the Town of Hinsdale, MA. The undersigned asks that the Select Board of Hinsdale, MA, be charged with developing and adopting a plan to make major thoroughfares safe, passable, and durable for all Hinsdale Residents. These thoroughfares include Peru Rd., New Windsor Rd., Frank and George Schnopp Rds, and East Washington Rd (including Fassell Road). We recommend that funds be secured through a Bond, and perhaps State Grants, in an amount

sufficient to repair the long-neglected parts, including culverts and road surfaces, to withstand residential/emergency/school buses and other vehicular traffic and weather. We believe these repairs and restorations are required to create safe and livable streets for all residents, business owners, and service providers. Furthermore, we ask that the plan be presented to Town Residents by year's end, with adoption to start in 2023.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
 A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to add Creamery and Buttermilk Rd. to the list.  
 Hand count on the amendment Yes 53 No 12  
 Vote on the amended article– passed by majority/ called by Moderator

26. Voted to set FY23 spending limits for the following revolving funds established by the Town's General Bylaws, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, as indicated in the table below, with such table limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year unless Town Meeting votes to change the same prior to the start of such fiscal year.

• Revolving Fund Limits	FY22	·FY23
Grave Openings	\$10,000	\$10,000
Plumbing: Inspector Fees	\$6,000	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Fees	\$6,000	\$6,000
Animal Control Fees	\$2,000	\$2,000
Planning Board Fees	\$3,000	\$3,000
Zoning Board Fees	\$6,000	\$6,000

Library	\$500	\$500
Fire Department	\$3,000	\$3 000
Council on Aging	\$2,000	\$2,000
Police Programs	\$5,000	\$5 000

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written  
Vote – passed unanimously

27. To notify and warn all residents of the Town qualified by law to vote in Elections, to meet in the Hinsdale Town Hall, 39 South Street on Saturday, May 14, 2022, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. to choose and elect the Town Officers listed below. Vote is by simple majority rule unless otherwise noted.

<b>Election - May14, 2022</b>	<b>Opening(s)</b>	<b>Term in Years</b>
Select Board	1	3
Select Board	1	2
Assessor	1	3
Assessor	1	2
Assessor	1	1
Finance	3	3
Finance Committee	1	2
Planning Board	1	5
Planning Board	1	4
Planning Board	1	2
Tree Warden	1	3

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Frissell  
Town Clerk