

Town of Hinsdale

Annual Town Meeting – May 10, 2023

Town Meeting Minutes

68 Registered voters present

May 10, 2023

Berkshire, SS

Article #

1. The elected moderator presided over the meeting which opened at 7:00 pm

2. Voted to accept Hinsdale’s allotment of funds appropriated for FY24 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 **\$153,120.27** for FY24.)

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

3. Voted to:

A. Set salaries of elected officials for FY24 as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended, or take any other action thereon (The salaries in this table below are included in the departmental budget salaries in b., below.)

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

Vote all ayes

4.

Elected Officials	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Assessors (3)*	\$1,500.00	\$5,615.00	0.73	\$4,115.00	Y	Y
Moderator	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$0	Y	Y
Select Board Chair	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00	\$0	Y	Y
Select Board (2)	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	0.00	\$0	Y	Y
Town Clerk	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00	\$0	Y	Y
Tree Warden	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00	\$0	Y	Y
Totals	\$18,900.00	\$23,015.00	0.18	\$4,115.00	Y	Y

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

Vote all ayes

A. Voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available treasury funds the sum of **\$2,660,039** for the Town's operating expenses for FY24 as follows, or any other amount.

Department/Account	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Legal Counsel	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Moderator	\$100.00	\$100.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Select Board/Admin	\$143,506.00	\$155,471.00	8%	\$11,965.00	Y	Y
Board of Assessors	\$74,250.00	\$85,928.00	14%	\$11,678.00	Y	Y
Treasurer -- Collector	\$67,400.00	\$71,000.00	5%	\$3,600.00	Y	Y
Town Clerk/Elections	\$19,480.00	\$18,915.00	-3%	\$435.00	Y	Y
Accounting/Auditing	\$68,364.00	\$64,649.00	-6%	(\$3,715.00)	Y	Y
Finance Committee	\$300.00	\$300.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y

Planning Board	\$500.00	\$500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Conservation Comm.	\$17,285.00	\$18,230.00	5%	\$945.00	Y	Y
Insurances & Bonds	\$89,400.00	\$91,000.00	2%	\$1,600.00	Y	Y
Health/Dental Insurance	\$260,000.00	\$263,956.00	1%	\$3,970.00	Y	Y
County Retirement	\$181,221.00	\$191,234.00	5%	\$10,013.00	Y	Y
Medicare	\$18,500.00	\$17,880.00	-3%	(\$620.00)	Y	Y
Reserve Fund	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Gas/Diesel	\$38,500.00	\$50,000.00	23%	\$11,500.00	Y	Y
Unemployment	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Town Buildings	\$103,900.00	\$107,010.00	3%	\$3,110.00	Y	Y
General Government	\$1,135,706.00	\$1,189,173.00	4%	\$54,481.00	Y	Y
Department/Account	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Financ e
Public Works/DPW	\$416,833.00	\$425,967.00	2%	\$9,134.00	Y	Y
Unaccepted Roads	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	Y	Y
Winter Roads	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Cemeteries	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Street Lights	\$20,600.00	\$24,720.00	17%	\$4,120.00	Y	Y
Town-wide Mowing	\$21,030.00	\$21,030.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Public Works	\$558,463.00	\$571,717.00	2%	\$13,254.00	Y	Y
Department/Account	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Financ e
Police Department	\$402,513.00	\$407,142.00	1%	\$4,629.00	Y	Y
Fire Department	\$88,600.00	\$145,649.00	39%	\$57,049.00	Y	Y
Ambulance Service	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y

Emergency Mgt.	\$4,000.00	\$4,480.00	11%	\$480.00	Y	Y
Building Inspector	\$17,570.00	\$18,300.00	4%	\$730.00	Y	Y
Gas Inspector	\$200.00	\$200.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Tree Warden	\$16,500.00	\$16,500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Public Safety	\$531,383.00	\$594,271.00	11%	\$62,888.00	Y	Y

Department/Account	FY23	FY24	% e	Change	SB	Financ e
Board of Health	\$15,300.00	\$15,300.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Veterans Services	\$26,800.00	\$26,800.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Lake Management	\$20,200.00	\$20,590.00	2%	\$390.00	Y	Y
Animal/Dog Officer	\$6,892.00	\$10,785.00	36%	\$3,893.00	Y	Y
Transfer Station	\$99,585.00	\$112,030.00	11%	\$12,445.00	Y	Y
Landfill Monitoring	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	100 %	\$15,000.00	Y	Y
Council on Aging	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
BHA (formerly VNA)	\$3,142.00	\$3,142.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Health/Human Servs.	\$174,919.00	\$206,647.00	15%	\$31,728.00	Y	Y
Department/Account	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Financ e
Public Library	\$83,885.00	\$87,896.00	5%	\$4,011.00	Y	Y
Beautification Team	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
CSX Land Rental	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Brk Regional Planning	\$1,600.00	\$1,635.00	2%	\$35.00	Y	Y
Sports/Rec	\$500.00	\$500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Community Center	\$10,000.00	\$5,500.00	-82%	(\$4,500.00)	Y	Y
Culture and Rec	\$98,685.00	\$98,231.00	0%	(\$454.00)	Y	Y

Total Operating Budget	\$2,499,156.00	\$2,660,039.00	6%	\$161,897.00	Y	Y

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

B. To see if the Town will vote to approve FY24 Educational Expenses as follows:

A motion was made and seconded to split the vote among the articles
Vote- majority ayes declared by Moderator

- a. **Central Berkshire Regional School District (CBRSD) Assessment** budget of **\$2,684,535.00**, as part of the total amount for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY24.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Voice vote not decisive/ Moderator calls for a hand count
Hand count Yes – 15 No – 36
This portion of the article fails

- b. **Central Berkshire Regional School District's (CBRSD) Capital** budget of **\$256,778.00**, as part of the total amount for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY24.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Vote all ayes this portion of the article passes

- c. **Vocational School Transportation** costs **\$88,205.00** as part of the total educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY24.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Vote all ayes/ this portion of the article passes

- d. **Vocational School Tuition** costs **\$200,139.00** (6 Smith = \$20,076 x 6 = \$120,456; 3 McCann = \$20,121 x 3 = \$60,363; 1 Taconic = \$19,320 = \$19,320) as part of the Town's total for educational expenses, and to raise and appropriate that amount for FY24.

Education Costs	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
CBRSD Assessment	\$2,568,569.00	\$2,684,535.00	4%	\$115,966.00	N	N
CBRSD Capital	\$271,298.00	\$256,778.00	-6%	(\$14,520.00)	Y	Y
Voc Transportation	\$79,626.00	\$88,205.00	10%	\$8,579.00	Y	Y
Voc School Tuition	\$156,976.00	\$200,139.00	22%	\$63,239.00	Y	Y
Total	\$3,076,469.00	\$3,229,657.00	5%	\$173,264.00		

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written
Vote all ayes/ this portion of the article passes

- C. d Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$29,583.00** as follows for Debt and Interest.

Debt & Interest	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Town Hall Loan Principal	\$8,270.00	\$18,176.00	55%	\$9,906.00	Y	Y
Interest-Long Term Debt	\$9,907.00	\$9,907.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Interest-Short Term Debt	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Total	\$19,677.00	\$29,583.00	33%	\$9,906.00	Y	Y

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

5. To see if the Town will:

A. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$84,201.00** for the Sewer I Operating Expenses, which will be offset with fees collected from those users.

Sewer I	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Salaries	\$16,224	\$17,421	7%	\$1,197	Y	Y
Expenses	\$65,151	\$66,780	2%	\$1,629	Y	Y
Total	\$81,375	\$84,201	3%	\$2,826	Y	Y

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

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,882.00** for the Sewer II Operating Expenses, which will be offset with fees collected from those users.

Sewer II	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Expenses	\$14,448	\$14,882	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y
Total	\$14,448	\$14,882	0%	\$0.00	Y	Y

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

B. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$175,607** for the Sewer III Operating Expenses, which will be offset with fees collected from those users.

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

Sewer III	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Salaries	\$ 35,808	\$ 36,987	3%	\$1,179.00	Y	Y
Expenses	\$ 135,239	\$ 138,620	2%	\$3,381.00	Y	Y
Total	\$ 171,047	\$ 175,607	3%	\$4,560.00	Y	Y

C. Voted to transfer from available funds in the Sewer Betterment Reserve the sum of **\$126,117** (**\$45,909** for Plunkett and **\$80,208** for Ashmere) for Sewer Phase III Loan payments.

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

6. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$173,592** for the Hinsdale Water Department Operating Expenses, the amount of which will be offset with fees collected from Water users.

Water Dept	FY23	FY24	%	Change	SB	Finance
Salaries	\$76,972	\$88,988	14%	\$12,016	Y	Y
Expenses	\$40,550	\$41,770	3%	\$1,220	Y	Y
Bond Payments	\$115,959	\$42,834	-171%	(\$73,125)	Y	Y
Total	\$233,481	\$173,592	-34%	(\$59,889)	Y	Y

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

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7. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$77,000**, *\$38,500 from Sewer I Surplus and \$38,500 from Sewer III surplus*, to pay for a CCTV inspection of the Town's sewer collection system, which is the next step in the long-term maintenance program of our multi-million dollar sewer system.

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

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8. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$6,391** from Water Surplus to purchase the upgraded Neptune 360 AMR water meter reading handheld device (at \$4,527) and first year's cloud-based user/maintenance fee (at \$1,864).

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

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9. Voted to Transfer **\$48,010** from Free Cash to balance the Fiscal Year 2023 Winter Road Maintenance budget line.

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

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10. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$60,000** from Free Cash to purchase a new Police Cruiser (or reasonable facsimile).

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

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11. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$155,000** from Free Cash to purchase a new DPW Truck (or reasonable facsimile).

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

12. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$4,600** from Free Cash to make the third of three annual payments for the website upgrade, including all costs incidental or related thereto.

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

13. Voted to raise and appropriate **\$57,049.30** as the second of ten annual payments of a loan financing or lease-to-purchase agreement, totaling **\$570,493.00**, to purchase and equip a new fire pumper-tanker truck for the Hinsdale Fire Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and further to appropriate the sum of **\$166,346.31** from the Capital Stabilization Account for the purchase of such tanker truck; and further to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, §7 or any other statutory authorization, up to an additional **\$155,000.00**, if necessary, to cover any shortfall between funds raised and appropriated to date (including the funds from FY23 and at the ATM tonight) and the amount due for the purchase of such fire pumper-tanker upon delivery.

This article will require a two-thirds vote to be approved - both in order to approve the borrowing authorization and to transfer funds out of the stabilization account. The funds appropriated last year will likely need to be encumbered by the Treasurer-Collector as related to this contract to avoid any appropriation reverting to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. K.P. also recommends that the Town's bond counsel approve this article and the motion on it.

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

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14. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$56.00** from Free Cash to cover an outstanding FY22 “Northeast Paving–Lenoxdale Plant” Invoice, # 6660000063, dated May 1, 2022. (*Approval requires a 4/5th vote*).

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

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15. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$1,250.00** from Free Cash to cover an outstanding “Jack of All Blades” Invoice, # 3324, dated May 1, 2022. (*Approval requires a 4/5th vote*).

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

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16. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$1,877.00** from Free Cash to cover an outstanding FY22 “Milton Cat” Invoice, # 2578546, dated April 28, 2022. (*Approval requires a 4/5th vote*).

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

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17. Voted to transfer the sum of **\$81.00** from Free Cash to cover an outstanding FY22 Advance Auto Parts Invoice # 14889-ID-315789, dated February 14, 2022. (*Approval requires a 4/5th vote*.)

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

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18. Voted to discontinue the “1850 Road to Washington” from the southerly line of South Shore Road to the existing Boat Launch and accept Plunkett Reservoir Road from the southerly line of South Shore Road to the Boat Launch, as previously laid out by the Select Board. (*A Map of this is included in the administrator’s notes.*)

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

- 19.** Voted to set FY24 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 apply 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	FY23	FY24
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
Police Detail	\$15,000	\$20,000

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm
Vote all ayes

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Frissell,
Town Clerk