

TOWN OF HAMPDEN

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



Monday, May 12, 2025

7:00 P.M.

**Former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School
85 Wilbraham Road
Hampden, Massachusetts**

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**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Hampden, ss.

To: Either of the Constables of the said Town of Hampden in said County:

Greetings: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hampden qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at former **Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts**, on **Monday, May 12, 2025, at seven o'clock in the evening**, then and there to act on the following articles:

CONSENT AGENDA: Articles 1 to 6 are designated as Consent Agenda (+CA) articles and are considered routine actions to be taken by the voters. The Consent Agenda articles will be acted upon with a single motion and vote. Any registered voter with a question or concern about an article listed on the Consent Agenda may voice an objection and request that the Moderator remove an article from the Consent Agenda. Articles may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the discretion of the Moderator.

CONSENT AGENDA

ARTICLE 1: TOWN REPORTS (+CA)

To hear the Annual Town Reports of all officers of the Town and any committee whose duty it may be to report at said meeting, and to act thereon; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: FY 2026 SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS (+CA)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following total expenditures for each of the following revolving funds pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, to be expended in accordance with the bylaws heretofore approved; or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Approved Total Expenditures</u>
Building Department Fund	\$ 85,000
Cemetery Commission Fund	\$ 30,000
Council on Aging Fund	\$ 21,000
Library Fund	\$ 3,000
Conservation Commission Fund	\$ 25,000
Planning Board Fund	\$ 10,000
Board of Health Fund	\$ 20,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Fund	\$ 10,000

ARTICLE 3: CHAPTER 90: STATE HIGHWAY AID (+CA)

To see if the Town will vote to accept a sum of money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 Section 34 of the Massachusetts General Laws and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Chapter 90 Guidelines and be allowed to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: LIBRARY ADDITIONAL STATE AID (+CA)

To see if the Town will vote that in Fiscal Year 2026, if State aid for the Hampden Public Library is received, this money will be made available for the Library Trustees to use at their discretion; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: CONSERVATION FUND (+CA)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Conservation Fund, said fund to be used for the purpose of acquiring available land for the Town for conservation purposes, if said purchase is voted upon and approved at an Annual or Special Town Meeting prior to such purchase; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: ASSESSORS' FUNDING FOR STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS (+CA)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,000 to the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2026 Massachusetts Department of Revenue mandated programs; or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN BUDGET AND FINANCES

ARTICLE 7: ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided for by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and to raise and appropriate the necessary sums to cover same, and to raise money and make appropriations to defray the expenses of the Town for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: ENTERPRISE FUND: TRANSFER STATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the operations of the Transfer Station from the estimated income to be derived in Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer Station operations, the tax levy, a transfer from available funds, including the retained earnings of the relevant enterprise fund, or from any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: FUNDING FOR HAMPDEN'S 150 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to prepare for activities surrounding the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Hampden in 1878; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER – MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to fund the School Resource Officer for FY 2025 at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of any departmental bills for Fiscal Year 2024 or previous fiscal years and will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money therefore; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: LOCAL OPTION: ADDITIONAL VETERANS EXEMPTION CLAUSE 22J

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, of the Massachusetts General Laws which authorizes the Town, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to increase certain statutory exemption amounts for veterans and their spouses and to see if the Town will vote to implement such an increase by a percentage not to exceed 100% for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

FORMER THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL REUSE

ARTICLE 13: FORMER THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHANGE OF PURPOSE

To see if the Town will vote to change the use of a parcel of land owned by the Town of Hampden, located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts (Parcel ID # 17-048-000) and acquired by the Town for school purposes, to be used for any lawful municipal purpose subject to the supervision and control of the Selectboard; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: MOVING COSTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to pay for the moving of the Town's administrative offices and the library currently located in the Hampden Town House at 625 Main Street, Hampden, Massachusetts to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: FORMER THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL REPAIRS AND RENOVATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to pay for repairs and renovations to the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School located at 85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, Massachusetts; or take any other action relative thereto.

CAPITAL PROJECTS & EXPENDITURES

ARTICLE 16: LAWNMOWER FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a new lawnmower for maintaining town-owned properties by the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: LAWNMOWER FOR THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to purchase a new lawnmower for playing field maintenance by the Parks & Recreation Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: SENIOR CENTER REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to replace and/or repair the roof, windows, bathrooms and septic system at the Senior Center located at 104 Allen Street, Hampden, Massachusetts; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: FIRE STATION REPAIRS, RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by borrowing to repair, renovate and expand the Town's Fire Station located at 19 North Road, including all costs incidental or related thereto and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for the purpose; provided however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion allowing the Town to raise the money needed to repay the borrowing outside the limits established by Proposition 2 ½, M.G.L. c. 59, § 21C; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL: FLOORING REPLACEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to replace the flooring in five to six classrooms at Green Meadows Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL: PARKING LOT REPAIRS & FIRE ROAD EXTENSION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to repair the parking lot and extend the fire road at Green Meadows Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL: IT NETWORK SWITCHES REPLACEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to replace the switches in the IT network at Green Meadows Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: ADD/REPLACE SPLIT AC UNITS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to pay a portion of the cost to add or replace split AC units at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: UPGRADE INTERNAL 2-WAY RADIO REPEATER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to pay a portion of the cost to upgrade the internal 2-way radio repeater at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: UPGRADE CAMERA SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to pay a portion of the cost to upgrade the camera system at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26: MINNECHAUG REGIONAL H.S.: KUBOTA RTV

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money, to pay a portion of the cost to purchase a Kubota RTV for Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

ARTICLE 27: LEASE AMENDMENT HAMPDEN LANDFILL SOLAR, LLC

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to amend a lease agreement between the Town of Hampden and Hampden Landfill Solar LLC, c/o Ameresco, Inc., for 18 Cross Road (Parcel ID #s 19-85-00 and 19-86-00) to expand the leased area by approximately 1.6 acres as further shown on Attachment A; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28: PURCHASE OF CONSERVATION PROPERTY – NORTH ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase or otherwise using previously appropriated Community Preservation Funds, an approximate 2.32-acre parcel on North Road, Hampden, Massachusetts, depicted as Revised Lot B-R on a Plan recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 402 Page 96, and being a portion of the premises described in a deed dated September 24, 2024, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 25594 Page 594, and all of the premises described in a deed dated February 20, 2025 and recorded as aforesaid in Book 25782 Page 127, owned by Minnechaug Land Trust, Inc., as shown on Attachment B for a purchase price not to exceed \$95,000 said property to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Town of Hampden in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 8C for conservation and passive recreation purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

ARTICLE 29: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Act annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

- A) To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of shade structures for the spray park at Memorial Park; or take any other action relative thereto.
- B) To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund to design, engineer and construct a new trail head and parking area on an approximate 2.32-acre parcel on North Road, Hampden, Massachusetts, depicted as Revised Lot B-R on a Plan recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 402 Page 96, and being a portion of the premises described in a deed dated September 24, 2024, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 25594 Page 594, and all of the premises described in a deed dated February 20, 2025 and recorded as aforesaid in Book 25782 Page 127; or take any other action relative thereto.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 30: BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town to regulate Battery Energy Storage Systems in accord with the special protections afforded such uses under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 31: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw of the Town to replace its current accessory dwelling unit bylaw with one that is compliant with recent changes to state law that provide special zoning protections for accessory dwelling units; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCIAL TRANSFERS

ARTICLE 32: ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 33: GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for deposit into the General Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 34: REDUCING THE TAX RATE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated available funds or from the General Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026; or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN ELECTION WARRANT

And you are further required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hampden qualified to vote in elections of Town Officers to meet at the Hampden Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, on **Monday, May 19, 2025**, AD at seven o' clock in the forenoon, then and there to give in their votes on one ballot to the election officers of said Town for the following officers, to wit:

To choose for the term of one year the following:

Town Moderator (1)

To choose for the term of three years the following:

Selectboard (1)

Town Clerk (1)

Collector of Taxes (1)

Town Treasurer (1)

Board of Assessors (1)

Cemetery Commissioner (1)

Parks and Recreation Commissioner (1)

Hampden Free Library Trustee (1)

Planning Board (1)

Constable (3)

To choose for the term of five years the following:

Planning Board (1)

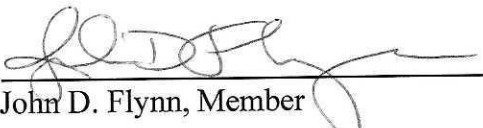
Hampden Housing Authority (1)

To choose all other necessary Town Officers.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at each of the places designated by the Town. Hereof, fail not and make do return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at or before the time of meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands this 14th day of April 2025.

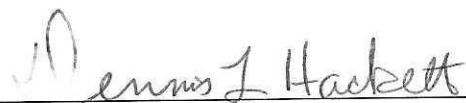
Selectboard


Donald L. Davenport, Chair


John D. Flynn, Member

Craig A. Rivest, Member

I, Constable for the Town of Hampden, have on this date posted copies of the warrant for the Town Meeting to be held on May 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm in all places as designated by the Town of Hampden.


Constable, Town of Hampden

4-16-25
Date

