

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Hanover

Warrant for **Special and Annual** Town Meeting

Plymouth, SS

Greetings: To any Constable of the Town of Hanover in said County.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Elections and Town Affairs to meet in the HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL, 287 Cedar Street

MONDAY THE 6th DAY OF MAY, 2024

Special Town Meeting at 7:00pm

Annual Town Meeting at 7:30pm



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Town will make every effort to assure that Town Meeting is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Should any assistance be desired in this regard, please contact the Hanover Select Board's Office at (781) 826-5000 ext. 1084.

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Town of Hanover

Warrant for *Special* Town Meeting

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MONDAY THE 6th DAY OF MAY, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.



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INDEX OF ARTICLES FOR <i>SPECIAL</i> TOWN MEETING – MAY 2024		
ARTICLE #	ISSUE	SUBMITTED BY
1	Payment of Prior Year Expenditures	Director of Finance, Fire Chief and Director of Public Works
2	Fire Station Planning Closeout	Director of Finance, Town Manager and Fire Chief

ARTICLES FOR *SPECIAL* TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Monday, May 6, 2024

ARTICLE 1. PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money or transfer from any available funds, or to transfer from other accounts, to pay such accounts as may be presented against the Town for which an appropriation does not exist, or take any other action relative thereto.

RR Donnelly	\$210.00
Doughboy Uniforms	\$766.05
Eversource	\$45.55
Amazon Business	\$603.97
Cross Cultural Comm Syst	\$240.00
Crisis Prevention Institute	\$1,424.50
Konica Minolta	\$1,407.67
MA Assoc. School Business Officers	\$585.00
Multi-Health Systems, Inc.	\$500.00
SHI International Corp	\$15,202.00
Stericycle (Shred-It)	\$319.70
Vista Higher Learning	\$404.55
W.B. Mason	\$255.06

Director of Finance
Fire Chief
Director of Public Works
School Director of Finance and Operations

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$21,964.05 from Certified Free Cash for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article implements a routine housekeeping procedure and allows the Finance Director to pay invoices presented for payment after the close of the prior fiscal year. Pursuant to State Law, a Town Meeting vote is required to accept and pay these outstanding invoices. This Article is presented at the Special Town Meeting so the vendors can be paid as soon as possible if the Article is approved.

ARTICLE 2. FIRE STATION PLANNING CLOSEOUT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General laws the sum of \$56,147.33 for the payment of invoices related to the New Fire Station Planning Project, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Finance
Town Manager

Fire Chief

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$56,147.33 to be used as set forth in this Article, as identified in the chart below:

SOURCE					USE	
Description	TM Ref	Art #	Amount		Description	Amount
Purch/Equip Dump/Plow Truck	ATM 2021	17	13,700.00		Fire Station Planning Closeout	56,147.33
4x4 Pickup w/ Plow	ATM 2022	26	1,756.75			
Purch/Equip Cemetery Dump Truck	ATM 2019	27	15,943.20			
Transfer Station Wheel Loader	ATM 2022	29	173.40			
Hearing Room Improvements	ATM 2014	51	20,020.00			
Generator Fire HQ	ATM 2014	54	4,553.98			
			56,147.33			56,147.33

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article is to close out the Fire Station Planning project approved at a prior Town Meeting. The project was originally to be funded by debt, but now that the project is not moving forward, the expenses will need to be covered another way. This funds those expenses using old articles where the projects are completed but there are still funds remaining.

And you are hereby ordered to serve this Special Town Meeting Warrant posting attested copies thereof fourteen days, at least, before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 1st day of April, 2024.

HANOVER SELECT BOARD

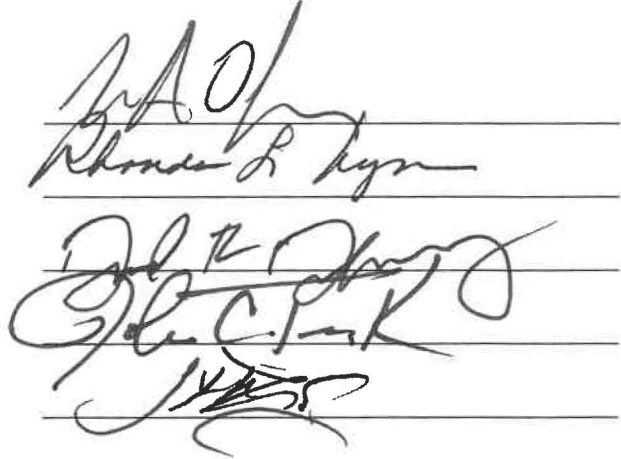
Vanessa A. O'Connor, Chair

Rhonda L. Nyman , Vice Chair

David R. Delaney

John C. Tuzik

Steven R. Louko, Jr.



, Constable

Posted this 11 day of April, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Hanover

Warrant for **Annual** Town Meeting

Plymouth, SS

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MONDAY THE 6th DAY OF MAY 2024, AT 7:30 PM
Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 PM



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INDEX OF ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 2024		
ARTICLE #	ISSUE	SUBMITTED BY
1	Accept Reports in Annual Town Report	Advisory Committee
2	Hear/Accept Reports of Committees & State Officials	Advisory Committee
3	Authorize Treasurer to Accept Trust Funds	Director of Finance
4	Assume Liability to Allow State DEP Work	Select Board
5	Set Pay for Elected Official – Town Moderator	Advisory Committee
6	Set Pay for Elected Official - Town Clerk	Advisory Committee
7	Appropriate Funds – Community Preservation Revenues	Community Preservation Committee
8	General Fund Base Operating Budget	Town Manager
9	General Fund Override Operating Budget	Town Manager
10	Transfer Meals Tax to OPEB Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2025	Town Manager/Director of Finance
11	Water Enterprise Budget	Town Manager/ Select Board
12	Appropriate Funds – Police Cruisers (\$190,000 Debt)	Police Chief/Town Manager
13	Appropriate Funds – Police Portable & Cruiser Radios (\$140,000 Debt)	Police Chief/Town Manager
14	Appropriate Funds – Replace 4x4 Pickup (\$75,000 Retained Earnings)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
15	Appropriate Funds – Water Service Van (\$60,000 Retained Earnings)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
16	Increase Income-Based Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Exemption	Director of Finance
17	Special Education Reserve Fund Transfer (\$750,000 Free Cash)	School Superintendent/School Committee
18	Appropriate Funds – Fuel Canopy Improvements (\$30,000 Bond Premium Receipts Reserved)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
19	Appropriate Funds – Large Area Mower (\$100,000 Debt)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
20	Appropriate Funds – Wood Chipper Replacement (\$90,000 Debt)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
21	Appropriate Funds – 72” Mower Replacement (\$20,000 Bond Premium Receipts Reserved)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
22	Appropriate Funds – Transfer Station Scale Replace (\$185,000 Debt)	Director of Public Works/Town Manager
23	Amend General Bylaws – Addition of Eligibility of Elected Town Officers Bylaw	Petition
24	Accept Chapter 90 Road Grant Monies	Town Manager/Director of Public Works
25	Street Acceptance – Laurel Lane	Director of Public Works

26	PEG Access & Cable Related Fund	Town Manager/Director of Finance/Director of Community Services
27	Set Limits On Revolving Funds	Town Manager
28	Appropriate Funds – Funding for Town Costs Required to Run Winterfest and Hanover Day (\$50,000 Free Cash)	Town Manager
29	Appropriate Funds – Basketball Court Renovations (\$100,000 Free Cash)	Town Manager
30	Amend General Bylaws 6-10 Animal Control Bylaws	Select Board/Town Manager
31	Amend Zoning Bylaws - Insert New Section 6.18.0 – Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District	Select Board
32	Amend General Bylaws Section 6.9 Sign Bylaw, Section 2. Authority and Interpretation	Select Board
33	Appropriate Funds – King Street/ Circuit Street Waterline (\$2,000,000 Debt)	Director of Public Works
34	Appropriate Funds – PFAS Upgrades (\$1,750,000 Debt)	Director of Public Works
35	Appropriate Funds – Stetson House - Cobbler's Shop	Community Preservation Committee/Hanover Historical Society
36	Appropriate Funds – Digital Collections Preservation	Community Preservation Committee/Hanover Historical Society
37	Appropriate Funds – Rail Trail – Ellis Connection	Community Preservation Committee/Town Manager/Parks and Recreation Committee
38	Appropriate Funds – Stetson House Interior Redesign	Community Preservation Committee/Hanover Historical Society
39	Appropriate Funds - Affordable Housing Trust	Community Preservation Committee/Affordable Housing Trust
40	Addition of New Dog License Fees	Town Clerk
41	Amend Zoning Bylaws - Insert New Section 6.17.0 – Multi-Family Overlay District	Planning Board
42	Amend Zoning Bylaws - Section 10.00 Purpose and Applicability	Planning Board
43	Amend Zoning Bylaws – Accessory Dwelling Unit	Planning Board
44	Appropriate Funds – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (\$20,000 Bond Premium Receipts Reserved)	Fire Chief/Town Manager
45	Appropriate Funds – Ambulance (\$475,000 Debt)	Fire Chief/Town Manager
	Election	

ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Monday, May 6th, 2024

ARTICLE 1. ACCEPT REPORTS IN ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Officers and Committees as printed in the Annual Town Report, or take any other action relative thereto.

Advisory Committee

We move that the Town accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report as written.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide Town Meeting with recommendations and commentary for each warrant article. To do this, we have been meeting with article sponsors, Town Departments Heads, appointed and elected leaders, board and committee volunteers, and stakeholders since September. The recommendations and commentary are meant to summarize and communicate the large amount of available information to help Town Meeting members make better-informed decisions. All documents available to the Advisory Committee, video recordings of our meetings, and these recommendations and commentary are available on the Town's website.

This Article implements a routine housekeeping procedure to accept the Annual Town Report.

ARTICLE 2. HEAR/ACCEPT REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & STATE OFFICIALS

To see if the Town will vote to hear reports of the Committees and State Officials and act thereon, or take any other action relative thereto.

Advisory Committee

We move that the Town accept the reports provided under Article 2.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article implements a routine housekeeping procedure to accept the Annual Town Report.

ARTICLE 3. AUTHORIZE TREASURER TO ACCEPT TRUST FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize its Treasurer to accept such trust funds as may be placed in his or her hands during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Finance

We move that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to accept trust funds for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article implements a routine housekeeping procedure allowing the Treasurer to accept trust funds that are donated to the Town during the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 4. ASSUME LIABILITY TO ALLOW STATE DEP WORK

To see if the Town will vote to assume liability in the manner provided by Section 29 and 29A of Chapter 91 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended, for all damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Department of Environmental Protection, or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

We move that the Town vote to accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Each year, the Town is required by the State to assume responsibility for liability and damages which may be incurred by the State while improving, developing, maintaining, and protecting tidal and non-tidal rivers. Approval of this Article would acknowledge and accept this responsibility.

ARTICLE 5. SET PAY FOR ELECTED OFFICIAL – TOWN MODERATOR

To see if the Town will vote to fix the pay of its elective officer as required by law as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator: \$100 for Annual Town Meeting
 \$100 for Special Town Meeting

Advisory Committee

We move that the Town set the pay of the Moderator for Fiscal Year 2025 to be \$100 for Annual Town Meeting and \$100 for Special Town Meeting.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article's passage is required annually to pay the Town Moderator.

ARTICLE 6. SET PAY FOR ELECTED OFFICIAL – TOWN CLERK

To see if the Town will vote to fix the pay of its elective officer as required by law as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Clerk: \$_____ annually

Advisory Committee

We move that the Town set the pay of the Town Clerk for Fiscal Year 2025, including any amounts due under MGL Chapter 41 Section 19G, to be \$83,589.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article's passage is required annually to pay the Town Clerk, an elected paid position within the Town government. The recommended annual compensation represents a 2.5% increase from FY24. The Advisory Committee has endeavored to consistently recommend 2.5% annual increases.

ARTICLE 7. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REVENUES

To see if the Town will vote as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate the Town's Community Preservation Revenues for Fiscal Year 2025 as follows:

- I. 10% of the said revenues to be set aside for future appropriation for open space (other than open space for recreational use);
- II. 10% of the said revenues to be set aside for future appropriation for historic resources;
- III. 10% of the said revenues to be set aside for future appropriation for community housing;
- IV. 5% of the said revenues to be set aside for administrative expenses; and
- V. The remainder of said revenues to be set aside for future appropriation for any purposes permissible under the Community Preservation Act, Chapter 44B.

Said funds are to be expended for the purposes stated herein within the scope proposed and approved by the Community Preservation Committee and for the purposes approved by this Town Meeting, by the Town Manager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

We move that the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2025 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$82,271 to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee; and further to reserve for future appropriation from the Community Preservation Fund estimated revenues the sum of \$164,542 for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space excluding land for recreational uses; \$164,542 for the acquisition, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources; \$164,542 for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; \$878,196 for the creation of a budgeted reserve and \$191,325 to provide of Community Preservation Fund debt obligations.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The Community Preservation Act requires that a minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be set aside in each of the three categories of open space, historic resources, and community housing; and an administrative budget of 5%. The budgeted reserve is set up as an additional annual reserve and may be used to fund any eligible Community Preservation projects. This Article also provides funds to support debt payments on previously approved projects.

ARTICLE 8. GENERAL FUND BASE OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$73,567,975 for a General Fund Operating Budget, to provide for a reserve fund, and to defray the expenses of the Town, and to meet said appropriation transfer the sum of \$1,792,147 from Certified Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Cemetery Graves & Foundations account, transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots account, transfer the sum of \$26,530 from the Title V Receipts Reserved account, transfer the sum of \$1,200,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved account, transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Wetlands Receipts Reserved account, and raise \$70,454,298 from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other sources, or take any other action relative thereto.

	<i>FY2024 Appropriated</i>	<i>FY2025 Requested</i>	<i>\$ Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>
General Government:				
Salaries	\$272,843	\$287,579	\$14,736	5.40%
Expenses	\$165,922	\$170,785	\$4,863	2.93%
Finance Department:				
Salaries	\$860,723	\$869,519	\$8,796	1.02%
Expenses	\$209,870	\$211,009	\$1,139	0.54%
Community Development and Municipal inspections:				
Salaries	\$624,463	\$697,894	\$73,431	11.76%
Expenses	\$28,800	\$31,500	\$2,700	9.38%
Community Services:				
Salaries	\$121,816	\$135,631	\$13,815	11.34%
Expenses	\$210,960	\$188,007	\$(22,953)	-10.88%
Library:				
Salaries	\$491,776	\$515,584	\$23,808	4.84%
Expenses	\$142,960	\$128,000	\$(14,960)	-10.46%
Police:				
Salaries	\$4,135,932	\$4,244,049	\$108,117	2.61%
Expenses	\$269,767	\$271,792	\$2,025	0.75%
Fire:				
Salaries	\$3,920,759	\$4,015,950	\$95,191	2.43%
Expenses	\$265,682	\$275,152	\$9,470	3.56%
Hanover Public Schools	\$35,031,299	\$36,802,869	\$1,771,570	5.06%
South Shore Vocational High School	\$1,165,696	\$1,410,696	\$245,000	21.02%
Public Works:				
Salaries	\$3,873,035	\$3,796,128	\$(76,907)	-1.99%
Expenses	\$3,497,731	\$3,502,867	\$5,136	0.15%
Snow & Ice	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	0.00%

Debt	\$4,248,170	\$4,177,820	\$(70,350)	-1.66%
Town Wide Expenses	\$10,356,684	\$11,315,144	\$958,460	9.25%
Transfers	\$115,000	\$120,000	\$5,000	4.35%
Total General Fund Operating Budget	\$70,409,888	\$73,567,975	\$3,158,087	4.49%
Certified Free Cash	\$1,792,147	\$1,792,147	\$0	0.00%
Cemetery Graves & Foundations	\$65,000	\$50,000	\$(15,000)	-23.08%
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	0.00%
Title V Receipts Reserved Account	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$0	0.00%
Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	0.00%
Wetlands Receipts Reserved Accounts	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Less Total Transfers	\$3,128,677	\$3,113,677	\$(15,000)	-0.48%
To be raised by the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other sources	\$67,281,211	\$70,454,298	\$3,173,087	4.72%

Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$73,567,975 for a total General Fund Operating budget as set forth in the Advisory Committee Recommended column below, to provide for a reserve fund and to defray the expenses of the Town, and for the purposes listed in the budget document, and to meet said appropriation transfer the sum of \$1,792,147 from Certified Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Cemetery Graves & Foundations account, transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots account, transfer the sum of \$26,530 from the Title V Betterment Program, transfer the sum of \$1,200,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved account, transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Wetlands Receipts Reserved account, and raise \$70,454,298 from the 2025 Tax Levy and other sources.

	<i>FY 2024</i>	<i>FY 2025</i>				
		<i>Base Budget</i>		<i>Override Budget</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>Appropriated</i>	<i>Town Manager</i>	<i>AdCom</i>	<i>Town Manager</i>	<i>AdCom</i>	<i>Override Additional</i>
General Government:						
Salaries	\$272,843	\$287,579	\$287,579	\$311,601	\$311,601	\$24,022
Expenses	\$165,922	\$170,785	\$170,785	\$175,922	\$175,922	\$5,137
Finance Department:						
Salaries	\$860,723	\$869,519	\$869,519	\$969,078	\$969,078	\$99,559
Expenses	\$209,870	\$211,009	\$211,009	\$228,262	\$228,262	\$17,253
Comm Develop/Muni Insp:						
Salaries	\$624,463	\$697,894	\$697,894	\$697,894	\$697,894	\$0
Expenses	\$28,800	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$0
Community Services:						
Salaries	\$121,816	\$135,631	\$135,631	\$235,023	\$235,023	\$99,392
Expenses	\$210,960	\$188,007	\$188,007	\$220,968	\$220,968	\$32,961
Library:						
Salaries	\$491,776	\$515,584	\$515,584	\$540,092	\$540,092	\$24,508
Expenses	\$142,960	\$128,000	\$128,000	\$129,400	\$129,400	\$1,400
Police:						
Salaries	\$4,135,932	\$4,244,049	\$4,244,049	\$4,336,951	\$4,336,951	\$92,902
Expenses	\$269,767	\$271,792	\$271,792	\$272,718	\$272,718	\$926
Fire:						
Salaries	\$3,920,759	\$4,015,950	\$4,015,950	\$4,171,629	\$4,171,629	\$155,679
Expenses	\$265,682	\$275,152	\$275,152	\$297,844	\$297,844	\$22,692
Hanover Public Schools:	\$35,031,299	\$36,802,869	\$36,802,869	\$39,550,594	\$39,550,594	\$2,747,725
South Shore Vocational HS	\$1,165,696	\$1,410,696	\$1,410,696	\$1,410,696	\$1,410,696	\$0
Public Works:						
Salaries	\$3,873,035	\$3,796,128	\$3,796,128	\$3,889,499	\$3,889,499	\$93,371
Expenses	\$3,497,731	\$3,502,867	\$3,502,867	\$3,772,724	\$3,772,724	\$269,857
Snow & Ice	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0
Debt	\$4,248,170	\$4,177,820	\$4,177,820	\$4,177,820	\$4,177,820	\$0
Town Wide Expenses	\$10,356,684	\$11,315,144	\$11,315,144	\$11,837,343	\$11,837,343	\$522,199
Transfers	\$115,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
Total General Fund Operating	\$70,409,888	\$73,567,975	\$73,567,975	\$77,777,558	\$77,777,558	\$4,209,583
Certified Free Cash	\$1,792,147	\$1,792,147	\$1,792,147	\$0	\$0	(\$1,792,147)
Cemetery Graves & Foundations	\$65,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Title V Receipts Reserved	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$0
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0
Wetlands Receipts Reserved	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Less Total Transfers	\$3,128,677	\$3,113,677	\$3,113,677	\$1,321,530	\$1,321,530	(\$1,792,147)
To be raised by the FY25 Tax Levy and other sources	\$67,281,211	\$70,454,298	\$70,454,298	\$76,456,028	\$76,456,028	\$6,001,730

Advisory Committee Commentary: The following commentary applies to both Articles 8 and 9. The Town's operating budget is the primary opportunity for residents, through Town Meeting, to determine what services they would like their government to provide and accordingly how much they will pay in property taxes. The Advisory Committee supports Article 8 and Article 9.

The budget process starts with a proposal from the Town Manager with the general goal of maintaining the same level of services as in the prior year. The Advisory Committee then conducts a thorough review to ensure responsible budgeting practices and to avoid wasteful spending. This results in a single budget recommendation by the Advisory Committee to Town Meeting. While there is always a spirited discussion about the Operating Budget at Town Meeting, the outcome is that Town Meeting usually adopts the Advisory Committee's recommended budget without any adjustments. The Advisory Committee would like to think this is because of the significant work that goes into preparing the budget through numerous iterations, based on input and feedback from various stakeholders. This process repeats every fiscal year (FY), which runs from July 1 to June 30.

The process this year is different because it is not possible to maintain the same level of services as last year without a Proposition 2 ½ operational override. Accordingly, Town Meeting must take a more active role in choosing between multiple budgets and possibly multiple service-level options. We encourage Town Meeting to actively consider, through Articles 8 and 9, what level of services you would like the Town to provide and what level of property taxes you are willing to pay. While it is true that Town Meeting must make this determination every year, this year is much more impactful as this decision through the override will reset what it means to maintain level services.

Proposition 2 ½ Explanation

Prop 2 ½ is a law that was passed in 1980 setting a limit on the total amount of taxes a Town can charge its property owners every year, called the "levy limit." The levy limit cannot increase by more than 2.5 percent of the levy limit from the prior year, plus certain allowable increases such as new growth from property added to the tax rolls. It is important to note that the levy limit is not necessarily the same as the amount of actual property taxes. The amount of actual property taxes is called the levy, and the levy could be below the levy limit, which would result in "excess levy" - basically an amount of taxes the Town could have had property owners pay, but did not. There have been several years when the Town has taxed below the levy limit, including recently.

The process to increase the levy limit beyond what is allowed is called an "override" where resident voters in Town are given the opportunity to vote on a ballot question about whether to increase the levy limit by a specific amount. If residents vote at the ballot to increase the levy limit, then it is increased permanently, and the following year's levy limit will be a 2.5 percent increase from the new higher levy limit. Since Prop 2 ½ was passed, Hanover has had two overrides: in 1990 and 1997. Hanover has not had an override for 27 years since 1997. Multiple factors, including inflation, market cost increases, unfunded State mandates, and the loss of Federal pandemic-related funds, have made it impossible for the Town to put forward a budget this year that provides the same level of services as last year without an override.

Current Options

The Town Manager has proposed two general fund operating budgets. The first proposed budget is set forth in Article 8 and increases property taxes by 2.3% to maintain as many of the current services as possible at a cost within the current levy limit, not requiring an override; this is referred to as the “Base Budget.” The second proposed budget is set forth in Article 9 and increases property taxes by 13.4% to provide the same level of services as last year, with some adjustments addressed below, requiring an override; this is referred to as the “Override Budget.” If the override does not pass at the Town Election on May 18, 2024, the Base Budget in Article 8 will apply regardless of whether Town Meeting approves all or part of the Override Budget in Article 9. In evaluating these two proposed budgets, the Advisory Committee did extensive work with at least three separate public meetings for each Department Head.

Every year we review the entirety of the Town Manager’s proposed budget to identify savings, efficiencies, and appropriate adjustments. This year, in addition to our normal line-item review, we also evaluated comparisons with nine similar towns: Norwell, Pembroke, Rockland, Holliston, Middleborough, North Reading, Sandwich, Westwood, and Wrentham. Based on our comparative review, Hanover provides generally similar services at a similar cost to these nine towns. There was data and arguments provided that Hanover provides a higher quality service for less cost than these towns, but the Advisory Committee does not take a position regarding that conclusion.

The Advisory Committee does not see a reasonable way to decrease the cost of the budget in any significant amount without decreasing the level of services. If Town Meeting desires to appropriate an amount of spending that requires an override, but would like to make some reductions, it has the ability to make a motion to reduce any line-item. The Advisory Committee has identified the following specific cost reductions associated with the services included in the Override Budget but not included in the Base Budget. We are not specifically recommending that Town Meeting cut these services, but we are identifying these costs to assist in any discussion.

Differences Between the Two Proposed Budgets

The Override Budget is \$4,209,583 higher than the Base Budget, broken out as follows:

		Total Increase	Average Household
General Government:		\$29,159	\$7.34
Salaries	\$24,022		
Expenses	\$5,137		
Finance Department:		\$116,812	\$22.00
Salaries	\$99,559		
Expenses	\$17,253		
Community Services:		\$132,353	\$22.01
Salaries	\$99,392		
Expenses	\$32,961		
Library:		\$25,908	\$7.33
Salaries	\$24,508		
Expenses	\$1,400		
Police:		\$93,828	\$14.67
Salaries	\$92,902		
Expenses	\$926		
Fire:		\$178,371	\$29.33
Salaries	\$155,679		
Expenses	\$22,692		
Hanover Public Schools:		\$2,747,725	\$484.02
Public Works:		\$363,228	\$66.00
Salaries	\$93,371		
Expenses	\$269,857		
Town Wide Expenses:		\$522,199	\$95.34
Total General Fund Operating:		\$4,209,583	\$748.04

The services included in these differences are described as follows:

Town Hall Staff: *The Town has been receiving Federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to cover the costs of the Town Planner, two Administrative Assistants, Assistant Town Clerk, and Financial Analyst. ARPA funds run out on December 31, 2024. The Override Budget fully funds these five positions to prepare for FY26. The Base Budget does not fund the Financial Analyst position and only funds half of the cost for the remaining four positions after ARPA funds are no longer available. If only the Base Budget is passed, it is expected that the Financial Analyst position would be cut and further staff cuts would be possible in FY26 for the Planning, Finance, and Town Clerk's offices.*

Community Services (Veterans Mental Health Program & Benefits): *The Community Services Department's Base Budget reduces our budgeted Chapter 115 veterans benefits by \$30,000 and does not fund the Behavioral and Mental Health Veterans program which requires \$100,000 to continue at current levels. The Town implemented this Behavioral and Mental Health Program during COVID with the use of ARPA funds. The elimination of this program will result in the loss*

of approximately 15 regular therapy sessions, services to approximately 5 veterans who are coping with addiction issues, and the elimination of several group programs that are being offered including: RISE Resiliency Program, Mindfulness, and Caregiver Support. All these services are currently being offered free of charge to Hanover Veterans and their families here locally without the “red tape” often associated with obtaining these types of services at the State and Federal levels.

Library Department (Saturday Hours): The Library is currently open 10-5 on Saturdays from Labor Day through Memorial Day. The additional funding in the Override Budget is to extend Saturday hours year-round, which requires adding an additional half-time staff member.

Police Department (Civilian Clerks/Patrol Levels): The Police Department Headquarters Station must always be staffed and is currently staffed by civilian clerks. The Base Budget reduces civilian clerk personnel by 1.5 FTEs (full-time equivalents) plus per diem staff. This will require trained law enforcement officers to take over front desk duties to cover those reductions, which will lead to one less officer on patrol at least 12 hours per day.

Fire Department (Firefighter/Paramedic Reduction): The Base Budget eliminates 1 full-time Firefighter/Paramedic which results in the reduction of shift-strength from 6 to 5 at least 15% of the time.

Emergency Dispatch: The Town is currently receiving funding from a grant for our annual regional dispatch cost of \$800,000. The grant ends halfway through FY25, so we are responsible for half of the costs in FY25, then the entire costs in FY26 and beyond. The Base Budget only funds half this amount for FY25 (\$400,000) and the Override Budget includes the entire amount of \$800,000 to set the Town on a sustainable path for future budgets. If the override does not pass and only the Base Budget is used, the Town will be facing a \$400,000 shortfall in FY26.

DPW (Stormwater Program): The Town is legally required to maintain a stormwater program that is currently funded through the main operating budget. The Base Budget moves this expense of \$168,000 to the Water Enterprise fund. It should be noted that this does not actually reduce the cost to residents since this amount would simply be paid through increased water rates instead of property taxes.

Hanover Public Schools: The School Department represented that the Base Budget would result in the following reductions:

\$1,593,944 in classroom instruction. This would include a reduction of 15-20 teaching positions. As a result, this would increase class size in grades 1-12. There would also be a reduction to electives and programs. There would be a significant impact on counseling and health services.

\$348,000 in required staffing. This includes reading specialists, a special education teacher, a speech and language pathologist, and an adjustment counselor.

\$328,295 in district leadership. This would lead to reduced oversight, reduced communication, safety and security concerns, and reduced support for teachers and staff.

\$285,500 in instructional materials. This would include a freeze on new technology and basic supplies, and cuts to texts, materials and software licenses. This would significantly impact art, music and athletics.

\$174,000 in full-day kindergarten tuition relief for families.

It is important to note that Town Meeting only can change the Hanover Public Schools line-item budget by a specific amount and is not otherwise able to further influence specific School programs or spending.

Free Cash: The Base Budget uses \$1,792,747 in Free Cash as a funding source and the Override Budget uses no Free Cash.

Free Cash is a term used to identify carryover funds from one fiscal year to another and is caused generally by a combination of overestimating expenses and underestimating revenue. The Department of Revenue recommends that Towns generate an amount of Free Cash every year equal to 3-5% of the operating budget and that Free Cash be used for one-time non-recurring expenses. Free Cash is not generally an appropriate funding source for the operating budget as it is unreliable.

Until Fiscal Year 2021, Hanover used relatively small amounts of Free Cash to offset the operating budget. Between Fiscal Years 2021 and 2024, Town Officials made the decision to utilize significantly larger amounts of Free Cash towards the operating budget to provide residents relief during COVID and because the Town was able to build up unusually high Free Cash through the availability of COVID-era federal funds (ARPA, CARES, FEMA) along with the diligent work of the Town's Chief Financial Officer to aggressively seek reimbursement for all possible costs. The Override Budget uses no Free Cash towards the operating budget as an effort to level-set a sustainable operating budget and mitigate the need for future overrides in the short term while still supporting the ongoing 3-5% annual Free Cash generation and providing future funding for Capital and other one-time, non-recurring expenses.

As a procedural explanation, Town Meeting does not have the ability to approve or reject the Prop 2 ½ override; that can only happen at the Town Election. Town Meeting must approve an operating budget within the current levy limit in case the override does not pass at the Town Election. If Town Meeting approves an Override Budget under Article 9 but the override is then rejected by voters at the Town Election, the Base Budget would control. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee encourages Town Meeting to approve the Base Budget in Article 8 regardless of your position on the Override Budget in Article 9.

While the Advisory Committee supports the overall need for an override and specifically the Article 9 Override Budget, we have two significant concerns.

First and most importantly, the override results in a significant property tax increase that will be most difficult for those on limited and fixed incomes. If the override passes, we encourage Town policymakers and leaders to aggressively pursue ways to support these financially vulnerable residents.

Second, we have serious concerns about potential future budget increases and the need for long-term fiscal planning. We understand the unique set of circumstances requiring an override this year; with not having an override for 27 years, increased market pressures, increased unfunded State mandates, and the sunset of federal pandemic-related funding. However, we fully expect the Town to live within the limitations of Prop 2 ½ for at least the next five years. To be clear and direct, if the May 2024 override passes at the Town Election, the Advisory Committee does not expect to support an additional override for the next five years. We urge the Select Board and the School Committee to make the same commitment and to actively undertake multi-year long-term financial planning beyond the current year-to-year approach.

ARTICLE 9. GENERAL FUND OVERRIDE OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$77,777,558 for a General Fund Operating Budget, to provide for a reserve fund, and to defray the expenses of the Town, and to meet said appropriation transfer the sum of \$0 from Certified Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Cemetery Graves & Foundations account, transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots account, transfer the sum of \$26,530 from the Title V Receipts Reserved account, transfer the sum of \$1,200,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved account, transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Wetlands Receipts Reserved account, and raise \$76,456,028 from the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other sources, or take any other action relative thereto.

	<i>FY2024 Appropriated</i>	<i>FY2025 Requested</i>	<i>\$ Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>
General Government:				
Salaries	\$272,843	\$311,601	\$38,758	14.21%
Expenses	\$165,922	\$175,922	\$10,000	6.03%
Finance Department:				
Salaries	\$860,723	\$969,078	\$108,355	12.59%
Expenses	\$209,870	\$228,262	\$18,392	8.76%
Community Development and Municipal inspections:				
Salaries	\$624,463	\$697,894	\$73,431	11.76%
Expenses	\$28,800	\$31,500	\$2,700	9.38%
Community Services:				
Salaries	\$121,816	\$235,023	\$113,207	92.93%
Expenses	\$210,960	\$220,968	\$10,008	4.74%
Library:				
Salaries	\$491,776	\$540,092	\$48,316	9.82%
Expenses	\$142,960	\$129,400	\$(13,560)	-9.49%
Police:				
Salaries	\$4,135,932	\$4,336,951	\$201,019	4.86%
Expenses	\$269,767	\$272,718	\$2,951	1.09%
Fire:				
Salaries	\$3,920,759	\$4,171,629	\$250,870	6.40%
Expenses	\$265,682	\$297,844	\$32,162	12.11%
Hanover Public Schools	\$35,031,299	\$39,550,594	\$4,519,295	12.9%
South Shore Vocational High School	\$1,165,696	\$1,410,696	\$245,000	21.02%
Public Works:				
Salaries	\$3,873,035	\$3,889,499	\$16,464	0.43%
Expenses	\$3,497,731	\$3,772,724	\$274,993	7.86%
Snow & Ice	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	0.00%

Debt	\$4,248,170	\$4,177,820	\$(70,350)	-1.66%
Town Wide Expenses	\$10,356,684	\$11,837,343	\$1,480,659	14.30%
Transfers	\$115,000	\$120,000	\$5,000	4.35%
Total General Fund Operating Budget	\$70,409,888	\$77,777,558	\$7,367,670	10.46%
Certified Free Cash	\$1,792,147	\$0	\$(1,792,147)	-100.00%
Cemetery Graves & Foundations	\$65,000	\$50,000	\$(15,000)	-23.08%
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	0.00%
Title V Receipts Reserved Account	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$0	0.00%
Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	0.00%
Wetlands Receipts Reserved Accounts	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Less Total Transfers	\$3,128,677	\$1,321,530	\$(1,807,147)	-57.76
To be raised by the Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Levy and other sources	\$67,281,211	\$76,456,028	\$9,174,817	13.64%

Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$77,777,558 for a total General Fund Operating budget as set forth in the Advisory Committee Recommended column below, to provide for a reserve fund and to defray the expenses of the Town, and for the purposes listed in the budget document, and to meet said appropriation transfer the sum of \$1,792,147 from Certified Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Cemetery Graves & Foundations account, transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots account, transfer the sum of \$26,530 from the Title V Betterment Program, transfer the sum of \$1,200,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved account, transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Wetlands Receipts Reserved account, and raise \$76,454,028 from the 2025 Tax Levy and other sources.

	FY 2024	FY 2025				
		Base Budget		Override Budget		Difference
	Appropriated	Town Manager	AdCom	Town Manager	AdCom	Override Additional
General Government:						
Salaries	\$272,843	\$287,579	\$287,579	\$311,601	\$311,601	\$24,022
Expenses	\$165,922	\$170,785	\$170,785	\$175,922	\$175,922	\$5,137
Finance Department:						
Salaries	\$860,723	\$869,519	\$869,519	\$969,078	\$969,078	\$99,559
Expenses	\$209,870	\$211,009	\$211,009	\$228,262	\$228,262	\$17,253
Comm Develop/Muni Insp:						
Salaries	\$624,463	\$697,894	\$697,894	\$697,894	\$697,894	\$0
Expenses	\$28,800	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$0
Community Services:						
Salaries	\$121,816	\$135,631	\$135,631	\$235,023	\$235,023	\$99,392
Expenses	\$210,960	\$188,007	\$188,007	\$220,968	\$220,968	\$32,961
Library:						
Salaries	\$491,776	\$515,584	\$515,584	\$540,092	\$540,092	\$24,508
Expenses	\$142,960	\$128,000	\$128,000	\$129,400	\$129,400	\$1,400
Police:						
Salaries	\$4,135,932	\$4,244,049	\$4,244,049	\$4,336,951	\$4,336,951	\$92,902
Expenses	\$269,767	\$271,792	\$271,792	\$272,718	\$272,718	\$926
Fire:						
Salaries	\$3,920,759	\$4,015,950	\$4,015,950	\$4,171,629	\$4,171,629	\$155,679
Expenses	\$265,682	\$275,152	\$275,152	\$297,844	\$297,844	\$22,692
Hanover Public Schools:	\$35,031,299	\$36,802,869	\$36,802,869	\$39,550,594	\$39,550,594	\$2,747,725
South Shore Vocational HS	\$1,165,696	\$1,410,696	\$1,410,696	\$1,410,696	\$1,410,696	\$0
Public Works:						
Salaries	\$3,873,035	\$3,796,128	\$3,796,128	\$3,889,499	\$3,889,499	\$93,371
Expenses	\$3,497,731	\$3,502,867	\$3,502,867	\$3,772,724	\$3,772,724	\$269,857
Snow & Ice	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0
Debt	\$4,248,170	\$4,177,820	\$4,177,820	\$4,177,820	\$4,177,820	\$0
Town Wide Expenses	\$10,356,684	\$11,315,144	\$11,315,144	\$11,837,343	\$11,837,343	\$522,199
Transfers	\$115,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
Total General Fund Operating	\$70,409,888	\$73,567,975	\$73,567,975	\$77,777,558	\$77,777,558	\$4,209,583
Certified Free Cash	\$1,792,147	\$1,792,147	\$1,792,147	\$0	\$0	(\$1,792,147)
Cemetery Graves & Foundations	\$65,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Title V Receipts Reserved	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$26,530	\$0
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0
Wetlands Receipts Reserved	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Less Total Transfers	\$3,128,677	\$3,113,677	\$3,113,677	\$1,321,530	\$1,321,530	(\$1,792,147)
To be raised by the FY25 Tax Levy and other sources	\$67,281,211	\$70,454,298	\$70,454,298	\$76,456,028	\$76,456,028	\$6,001,730

Advisory Committee Commentary: *The Advisory Committee supports Article 9.*

As a summary of our commentary provided through the prior Article, the Town is unable to maintain level services without an override. If residents would like to maintain level services, the Advisory Committee recommends you vote in support of Article 9. If residents would like to reduce spending in some amount, the Advisory Committee has identified specific services in our previous commentary, along with the identified cost reduction if those services are removed from the budget.

The question now for Town Meeting is what services you want and at what cost.

ARTICLE 10. TRANSFER MEALS TAX TO OPEB TRUST FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the meals tax funds collected above \$450,000 to the OPEB Trust Fund for the Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager
Director of Finance

We move that the Town vote to transfer the meals tax funds collected above \$450,000 during Fiscal Year 2025 to the OPEB Trust Fund.

Advisory Committee Commentary: *Hanover, like many Massachusetts communities, imposes a Meals Tax of 0.75% on restaurant meals sourced within the Town. We have historically used 100% of the Meals Tax revenue to fund our Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and doing so has been vital to maintaining our strong credit rating with Moody's. A number of new restaurants have opened in Hanover over the past decade, and this has increased our annual Meals Tax revenue during that time from about \$300,000 to about \$700,000. This increased Meals Tax revenue allows us to continue funding OPEB while also providing relief to property taxpayers by using some of the Meals Tax revenue towards the operating budget. In FY25, the first \$450,000 of Meals Tax revenue will be allocated towards the operating budget and the remainder towards OPEB. We will revisit this allocation in FY26.*

ARTICLE 11. WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$4,960,627 from Water Enterprise receipts to defray Water Enterprise direct costs and that \$463,395 as appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget be used for Water indirect costs, all to fund the total cost of operations of the Water Enterprise as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Personnel Services	\$2,088,008
Other Expenses	\$2,092,611
Debt Service	\$780,008
Appropriate for Direct Costs	\$4,960,627
Indirect - Reimburse General Fund for Shared Expenses	\$463,395
Total Cost - Water Enterprise	\$5,424,022

Town Manager
Select Board

We move that, should the Override pass at both Town Meeting and the Election, the Town vote to appropriate \$4,792,627 from Water Enterprise to defray Water Enterprise direct costs and that the \$463,395 as appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be used for Water indirect costs. We move that, should the Override NOT pass, the Town vote to appropriate \$4,960,627 from Water Enterprise to defray Water Enterprise direct costs and that the \$463,395 as appropriated in the General Fund Operating Budget to be used for Water indirect costs. Each item is to be expended by the Town Manager in accordance with Chapter 67 of the Acts of 2009, the Town Manager Act, for the purposes identified and those purposes only, and each item is to be considered a separate appropriation for that purpose only.

Personnel Services	\$2,014,636
Other Expenses	\$1,997,983
Debt Service	\$780,008
Appropriate for Direct Costs	\$4,792,627
Indirect - Reimburse General Fund for Shared Expenses	\$463,395
Total Cost - Water Enterprise	\$5,256,022

Advisory Committee Commentary: Hanover utilizes a Water Enterprise Fund, meaning that the Town's water expenses are paid through water user fees. While the Water Enterprise budget does not directly impact property taxes, water rates do affect town residents with potentially higher water rates and fees. The most significant potential change this year is shifting the mandatory \$168,000 stormwater expense from the General Operating Budget to the Water Enterprise Budget if the Town does not approve the override at the Town Election. The annual increase from the prior fiscal year when including the \$168,000 expense is 7.7% and without it is 4.4%.

ARTICLE 12. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – POLICE CRUISERS (\$190,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$190,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip police cruisers, or take any other action relative thereto.

Police Chief
Town Manager

We move that the sum of \$150,000 be appropriated to purchase and equip two police cruisers; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This article will replace two existing AWD style cruisers with two 4x4 SUV style cruisers. 4x4 cruisers are far more effective and reliable compared to sedans or AWD style vehicles for use by law enforcement especially during significant weather events. Typically, the Hanover Police Department gets three years out of a front-line vehicle. The \$150,000 accounts for two fully equipped 4x4 police cruisers inclusive of lights, sirens, radios, medical/life-saving equipment. The Police Department initially requested three cruisers according to their normal vehicle replacement plan but reduced that request to two cruisers given our budgetary challenges. This purchase is being funded through debt instead of free cash to minimize use of free cash; debt repayments will impact future years' operating budgets.

ARTICLE 13. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – POLICE PORTABLE & CRUISER RADIOS (\$140,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$140,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip portable radios for the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Police Chief
Town Manager

We move that the sum of \$140,000 be appropriated to purchase and equip portable radios for the Police Department; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The useful life-span of portable radios is typically 7-10 years. Our current police radios are 7 years-old and becoming increasingly problematic and less reliable. These digital portable radios are utilized daily, exposed to all weather elements, and serve as vital link between officers and police dispatch. Replacement ensures the radios remain online and available for regular police use and emergencies without disruption of service. This purchase is being funded through debt instead of free cash to minimize use of free cash if the override is unsuccessful; debt repayments will impact future fiscal years' operating budgets.

ARTICLE 14. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – REPLACE 4X4 PICKUP WITH PLOW (\$75,000 Retained Earnings)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$75,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip a 4x4 pickup truck with a plow, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$75,000 to be used as set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This is a planned replacement of a 2015 F-250 4x4 pick-up truck for the water distribution foreman. The 2015 vehicle will be rotated down to replace a 2006 F-250 in the water treatment operation; which will be sold or traded in. In addition to this vehicle being used for its day-to-day purposes, during emergency events it is imperative that the Town's front-line vehicles in DPW, HPD, and HFD are properly sized and fully functioning. Water Enterprise Retained Earnings are similar to Free Cash and are most appropriately used for capital expenses or other one-time uses. This expense has no impact on property tax rates. Current Certified Retained Earnings are \$528,345 so the use of \$75,000 for this vehicle will not have a direct impact on the town's water fees.

ARTICLE 15. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – WATER SERVICE VAN (\$60,000 Retained Earnings)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$60,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip a water service van, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$60,000 to be used as set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This is a planned replacement of a 2013 water service van for the water distribution crew. The 2013 van will be rotated down to replace a 2009 water service van used by the water treatment crew; the 2009 van will be sold or traded in. Water service vans are used for the daily operation and maintenance of the distribution system; they carry tools, supplies, measuring devices, parts, etc. that are needed daily to maintain our hydrants, pipes, valves, meters. During unplanned events such as watermain breaks these vans are used to transport people, parts, tools, to and from the job site. Water Enterprise Retained Earnings are similar to Free Cash and are most appropriately used for capital expenses or other one-time uses. This expense has no impact on property tax rates. Current Certified Retained Earnings are \$528,345 and the use of \$60,000 for this vehicle will not have a direct impact on the town's water fees.

ARTICLE 16. INCREASE INCOME-BASED SENIOR CITIZEN REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 41C and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 41A, to increase the Gross Receipts Limit to \$40,000 for a single person and \$55,000 for a married, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Finance

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The Town allows for a property tax exemption of \$1,500 to qualifying residents at least 65 years old, with income below the limits, and having lived in town for at least five years. Seven households applied for this exemption in FY23 and eleven in FY22. State law has recently allowed towns to increase the maximum income limit. The Town understands the current difficult economic conditions, especially for our senior citizens on fixed and limited incomes. These conditions are made more difficult with the possible upcoming Proposition 2 ½ override. This Article increases the annual income limit to the maximum allowed by State law to help more senior citizens to benefit from a real estate tax exemption. We value the ability of our residents to remain in Town, aging in place and providing richness to our community.

ARTICLE 17. SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVED FUND TRANSFER (\$750,000 FREE CASH)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of up to \$750,000 or another sum for the Special Education Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

School Superintendent
School Committee

We move that, should the Override pass at both Town Meeting and the Election, the Town vote to appropriate \$300,000 from Certified Free Cash for the purposes set forth in this Article. We move that should the Override NOT pass, the Town vote to appropriate \$750,000 from Certified Free Cash for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Special Education expenses are non-discretionary and must be covered to fulfill our School Department's legal obligations. These expenses are dynamic throughout the year and can increase without notice based on unforeseen circumstances. Article 12 of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting established the Special Education Reserve Fund to be used for unanticipated Special Education expenses and to protect against potential resulting budgetary volatility. Special Education expenses have increased significantly since FY22 based on tuition increases mandated by the Commonwealth, significant market increases in the cost of transportation, and significant increases in the number of students in out-of-district placements.

The School Department was forced to seek an additional \$650,000 in funding through a Special Town Meeting article last year to cover budgetary overages from Special Education expenses. If the override does not pass, it is expected that the School Department will have a similar significant need to fund Special Education expenses, though we expect the need will be significantly less if the override does pass.

The Advisory Committee therefore recommends allocating \$750,000 in Free Cash to be used exclusively for unanticipated special education expenses if the override does not pass and \$300,000 if the override does pass. A vote of both the School Committee and the Select Board is required to access any of the funds, and unspent funds will carry over into ensuing fiscal years to defray any future unanticipated special education expenses.

ARTICLE 18. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – FUEL CANOPY IMPROVEMENTS (\$30,000 Bond Premium Receipts Reserved)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$30,000, or another sum, for improvements to the fuel canopy and fire suppression system, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$30,000 from the Bond Premium Receipts Reserved Fund for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article will allow for the installation of an upgraded fire suppression system at the Town fuel pumps located at our DPW facility on Ames Way; these pumps are used by Hanover DPW, Fire, and Police for regular gas and diesel. The current fuel canopy was built in the 1970s, has been deemed obsolete by our fire protection contractor, and the fire suppression system does not meet current code requirements. While the canopy itself could use some preventative maintenance, the fire suppression system is the priority. This project has been delayed multiple times, but it can wait no longer. Hanover's Finance Director has identified rebated funds from previous years' borrowing which were generated from Hanover municipal bond proceeds and will be used to fund this project.

ARTICLE 19. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – LARGE AREA MOWER (\$100,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$100,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip a large area mower, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated to purchase and equip a large area mower; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This would be a new mower for the grounds division of DPW. The use would be primarily at Forge Pond Park, Hanover High School, and Hanover Middle School, properties with large areas of green grass that are heavily used by athletic groups. This upsized mower is twice the size of anything in our existing fleet so it is projected that crews will spend about half the time mowing these properties, allowing them to mow all town properties on a more regular and aggressive schedule. During the summer months in particular, Hanover residents and athletic organizations have regularly voiced their expectations and desires that Hanover's fields and open spaces be well manicured and playable. This mower should last 15-20 years. This purchase is being funded through debt instead of free cash to minimize use of free cash if the override is unsuccessful; debt repayments will impact future fiscal years' operating budgets.

ARTICLE 20. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – WOOD CHIPPER REPLACEMENT (\$90,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$90,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip a wood chipper, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the sum of \$90,000 be appropriated to purchase and equip a wood chipper; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article funds the replacement of a 1998 wood chipper that is used for general purposes and storm emergencies to help clear trees and associated debris from town roadways, sidewalks, facilities, ballfields, etc. The replacement wood chipper would include updated safety mechanisms that are not on the current wood chipper. Given the critical use of this equipment and the safety concerns, the Advisory Committee supports this Article. The DPW expects over 25 years of use out of this new wood chipper. This purchase is being funded through debt instead of free cash to minimize use of free cash if the override is unsuccessful; debt repayments will impact future fiscal years' operating budgets.

This Article funds the replacement of an aging wood chipper that is used for general purposes and storm emergencies. The replacement wood chipper would include updated safety mechanisms that are not on the current wood chipper. Given the critical use of this equipment and the safety concerns, the Advisory Committee supports this Article. This Article is being funded through debt instead of Free Cash given the current budgetary uncertainty.

ARTICLE 21. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – 72” MOWER REPLACEMENT (\$20,000 Bond Premium Receipts Reserved)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$20,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip a 72” mower, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000 from the Bond Premium Receipts Reserved Fund for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This is a planned replacement of a circa 2000 72" mower used primarily by the public grounds division of DPW. During the grass growing season this mower is used constantly every day. Hanover's DPW is responsible for mowing over 100 acres of public grounds, including cemeteries, schools, and recreation facilities. Hanover's Finance Director has identified rebated funds from previous years' borrowing which were generated from Hanover municipal bond proceeds and will be used to fund this project.

**ARTICLE 22. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – TRANSFER STATION SCALE
REPLACEMENT (\$185,000 Debt)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$185,000, or another sum, to replace the vehicle scale at the Transfer Station, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works
Town Manager

We move that the sum of \$185,000 be appropriated for the purchase of a vehicle scale for the Transfer Station; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This project will replace the existing vehicle/truck scale at the Transfer Station. The existing scale was installed in the mid-1990's and is at the end of its useful life. The ramps on either end are severely deteriorated, the decking is corroded, and the load cells regularly fail due to 30 years of weather exposure. This scale is used daily and is our means of monitoring materials coming and going to the Transfer Station. Without a working scale, the Town is unable to accurately charge residents who use the C&D service and more importantly the Town is unable to check and verify the invoices received from our hauling contractors who charge us by the ton for the disposal of all of our waste and recyclables. If the Town is unable to provide an accurate weighing mechanism, contractors (inadvertently or purposefully) could invoice us for greater amounts than they are taking. This purchase is being funded through debt instead of free cash to minimize use of free cash if the override is unsuccessful; debt repayments will impact future fiscal years' operating budgets.

ARTICLE 23. AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS – ADDITION OF ELIGIBILITY OF ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to add the following Eligibility of Elected Town Officers Bylaw to the General Bylaws:

Any registered Hanover voter shall be eligible to hold any elective town office, provided however, no person shall simultaneously hold more than one elective town office. Any registered Hanover voter shall be eligible to run for any elective town office, even if currently holding elective town office, provided their current term expires with the election itself, or they resign from their current unexpired elective office term upon election to a new elective office.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

By Petition: John K. Sargent
 Andrew Noiles
 Mary E. Monahan
 Francis Greg Satterwhite
 Brian May

Advisory Committee Commentary: Current Bylaws allow one person to hold multiple town elected positions. This Article would amend the Bylaws to allow any one person to hold only one elected town position at a time. Persons who hold more than one town elected office have a disproportionately increased influence on the workings, policies, and decision-making process of the Town, the result of which is a dilution of the checks and balances important to the fair and equal administration of local government. The Advisory Committee supports the motion of the petitioners.

ARTICLE 24. ACCEPT CHAPTER 90 ROAD GRANT MONIES

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Hanover Select Board and the Town Manager to accept such sums of money as may be distributed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Chapter 90 highway grant program, so-called, funds to be expended by the Town Manager in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of the Massachusetts Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

 Select Board
 Town Manager
 Director of Public Works

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article authorizes the Town Manager to accept Chapter 90 funds as allocated by the State Legislature for the highway improvements in the Town. The Town uses these funds primarily to repair and maintain our approximately 87 miles of local, public roadways. We anticipate receiving approximately \$520,000 in FY2025; however, the actual amount we end up with is determined by the State Legislature. It is important to note that this Chapter 90 funding does not adequately cover the costs of fully maintaining the road system within Hanover and additional funding will be needed in future years for major road repair and paving.

ARTICLE 25. STREET ACCEPTANCE – LAUREL LANE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following streets as public ways, or take any other action relative thereto: Laurel Lane: The entire length of Laurel Lane, as shown on a plan entitled “Final As-Built Plan, Benjamin Brook Estates, Laurel Lane, Hanover, Massachusetts” (sheet 1) prepared by Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors, dated November 22, 2023, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Hanover Department of Public Works.

Director of Public Works

We move that the Town vote to accept this Article as printed in the warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The Planning Board voted unanimously during their meeting on April 8, 2024, based on the recommendation of the DPW Director, in support of Laurel Lane's acceptance by the 2024 Annual Town Meeting as a Town-owned road and right of way. Within the right-of-way there is the roadway, sidewalk, trees, signage, curbing, drainage, and a waterline. The Town's acceptance of this new street is in accordance with past practices and current standards.

ARTICLE 26. PEG ACCESS & CABLE RELATED FUND

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to the PEG Access & Cable Related Fund for the purpose of monitoring compliance of the Town's cable operator with the franchise agreement, preparing for renewal of the franchise license, and providing local cable access services and programming for the Town of Hanover in Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager
Director of Finance
Director of Community Services

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$500,000 from the Peg Access & Cable Receipts Reserved fund for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article appropriates funds to the PEG Access & Cable Related Fund which will be used to support Hanover Community Television and related activities such as but not limited to personnel, equipment, training, etc., as well as funding for educational classes in partnership with Hanover High School.

ARTICLE 27. SET LIMITS ON REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to set limits on the Revolving Funds set forth in Section 6-31 of the Town of Hanover General By-Laws in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, §53E1/2 as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Limit on Spending
Library	\$15,000
Recreation Fund	\$50,000
GATRA	\$160,000
Forge Pond Park	\$45,000
Council on Aging	\$50,000
Public Health Clinic	\$140,000
Public Safety Vehicles	\$250,000

Town Manager
Director of Finance

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article establishes limits on spending from various revolving funds with no changes from FY24. The Advisory Committee supports the recommendation of the Town Manager and Finance Director as to the specific spending limit amounts.

ARTICLE 28. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – FUNDING FOR TOWN COSTS REQUIRED TO RUN WINTERFEST AND HANOVER DAY (\$50,000 FREE CASH)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$50,000, or another sum, to fund Town of Hanover costs required to run Winterfest and Hanover Day, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$50,000 from Certified Free Cash for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Intensive resources are required from the Hanover Police Department, Fire Department, and DPW to support Hanover Day and Winterfest. These costs have increased significantly. The timing of Hanover Day so late in the fiscal year, that ends on June 30, makes it difficult to assure sufficient funds are available within the operating budget, especially if unanticipated events, such as multiple winter storms, happen during the year. Funding these events through this separate article will ensure sufficient funds are available. The Advisory Committee recommends revisiting the funding mechanism for this expense in future years given its consistent and recurring nature.

ARTICLE 29. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS (\$100,000 FREE CASH)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$100,000, or another sum, for the renovations of various basketball courts in Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

We move that the Town not accept this Article and take no further action.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The Advisory Committee does not support the timing of this Article given our current budgetary challenges and uncertainty, though we do appreciate the need for quality recreational facilities and will consider supporting such a project in future years.

ARTICLE 30. AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS 6-10 ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAWS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover General Bylaw, Animal Control Bylaw, Section 6-10(B)(5) as follows;

Animal Control Bylaw, 6-10 (B) (5).

Section 5

If any person shall make a complaint to the Animal Control Officer, concerning any violation of the By-Law, the Animal Control Officer shall investigate such complaint, and make such order concerning the restraint or disposal of the dog as may be deemed necessary.

Any person aggrieved by an order of the Animal Control Officer may make a complaint in writing about the dog, within 10 days of said order, to the Town Manager, or as otherwise provided for in accordance with “an Act establishing a Town Manager form of Government for the Town of Hanover” who shall act thereon, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Section 157. Any person aggrieved by an order of the Town Manager issued pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, shall have a right to first appeal to the ~~Selectmen and then~~ to the District Court as provided for in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board
Town Manager

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The current Animal Control Bylaw allows an appeal of an order by the Animal Control Officer to the Town Manager, then the Select Board, and then to the District Court. In any appeal to the District Court, the Court reviews the determination of the Town Manager without consideration for the decision of the Select Board; making the Select Board review unnecessary. This Article will remove the Select Board review, thereby adding efficiency, decreasing the time to obtain a final determination, and potentially reducing legal fees.

ARTICLE 31. AMEND ZONING BYLAWS INSERT NEW SECTION 6.18.0 – ROUTE 3 CORRIDOR SIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Bylaws with the insertion of a new section for the Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District as follows; or take any other action relative thereto:

New Zoning Bylaw Section 6.18.0 Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District

6.18.0 – ROUTE 3 CORRIDOR SIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT

6.18.1 Purpose.

The Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District is established to create an overlay district that provides for a telecommunications antenna and the development and construction of electronic billboards in a planned manner by allowing for the erection and/or construction of electronic billboards within the overlay district to provide visibility and benefit the viability of new and existing businesses subject to reasonable controls that govern the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such signs and minimize impacts on public safety, scenic, natural and historic resources.

6.18.2 Description.

Description of area included in the Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District is shown on the current official Hanover Zoning District Map, as amended. Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District shall be construed as an overlay district with regard to said location. All requirements of the underlying zoning district shall remain in full force and effect, except as may be specifically superseded herein. The Overlay District shall include all parcels listed below:

5-55 5-58 5-28 5-30 5-43 5-43A 5-42 5-45

6.18.3 Definitions.

For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

Electronic Billboard. An electronic advertising sign or other electronic commercial sign with two faces which directs attention to a business, commodity, service or attraction sold, offered or existing elsewhere than upon the same lot where such sign is displayed.

6.18.4 Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District.

- A. Special permit uses. Off-premises billboard signs, non-accessory commercial signs, and on-premises electronic billboard signs (hereinafter also referred to as "billboards" in this section 6.18.0) shall be permitted in the Route 3 Corridor Overlay Districts only by grant of a special permit issued by the Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA). Any person or entity desiring a special permit under this section shall submit a special permit application to the Planning Board together with a filing fee of \$2,500.00, 2 paper copies, and an electronic copy of the application materials including a site plan as outlined below:
 1. Site plan stamped by a Massachusetts licensed professional land surveyor and area maps identifying the following features: (i) location of any existing buildings, parking spaces and traffic circulation pattern on the subject parcel; (ii) proximity of nearest residentially used and residentially zoned property utilizing current area photographs and Hanover Assessors Maps; (iii) specific location of the proposed foundation of the

- proposed billboard; (iv) location of an existing billboard(s) on the parcel, including any billboards on a building; and (v) structural and graphic renderings stamped by a structural engineer, (doesn't have to be mass - manufacturing specs will do if stamped) and photographs or architectural depiction of proposed billboard.
2. Billboard details shall include the following information: (i) detailed dimensions and area of any proposed single or multi-faced billboard; (ii) detail sheet of any proposed support structure specifying dimensions and construction type including foundation with height of stanchion from ground elevation to top of the display area and lighting proposal, including cut sheets of all proposed lighting fixtures to be either attached to the billboard, structure or affixed to the ground; and (iii) a delineation of the proposed fall zone of the structure including on abutting property.
 3. Additional requirements: (i) authorization from the property owner (i.e., lease, etc.) granting permission to install the proposed billboard; and (ii) any additional information as may be required by the Planning Board to assist the Board in determining whether the application complies with the intent and requirements of this section.
 4. Space shall be reserved on each electronic billboard for the installation of a Municipal Public Safety Radio Antennae(s) and/or associated equipment. This installation may take place during initial construction of said billboard or any other time during the period of the special permit/Host Community Agreement as deemed necessary by the Town. The full installation cost(s) will be borne by the permittee and the permittee shall provide the Town and/or its contracted public safety/emergency communication organization all necessary access rights for the continued maintenance of said antenna. Permittee shall not allow any other communication device or like structure that could interfere with the town's current or future public safety communication needs without providing the Town with a full study and obtaining approval prior to installation.

6.18.5 Restrictions and design guidelines:

In order to be eligible for a special permit, any billboard shall be in compliance with the following requirements:

- A. Billboards shall be permitted under this Bylaw only in the Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District.
- B. Billboards shall not create a material visual impact to any abutting or adjacent residentially zoned and used property in the Town of Hanover.
- C. All billboards must be permanently affixed to a main support structure. No portable billboards shall be permitted.
- D. Billboards shall not have excessive lighting. Electronic billboards shall use automatic level controls to reduce light levels at night and under cloudy or other darkened conditions.
- E. Exposed back of billboards, poles and other support structures must be painted in a color and finished so as to present an attractive and finished appearance which will blend with the natural surroundings.
- F. The following types of billboards are prohibited:

1. Animated, projected, moving or giving the illusion of movement (including any moving parts), scrolling, flashing, revolving, and blinking, and intermittently illuminated billboards, beacons (or any light directed at any location other than the billboard itself), searchlights, pennants, and inflatable billboards, including balloons.
 2. Billboards with physical movements of any kind.
 3. Changeable copy or message billboards that change at intervals of more than once every ten seconds; and to remain in compliance with State regulations. Changes of image shall be instantaneous as seen to the human eye and shall not use fading, rolling, window shading, dissolving or similar effects.
 4. Tri-vision billboards.
 5. Video billboards or billboards that otherwise give the illusion of video or moving images.
 6. Billboards with sound.
 7. Billboards with pyrotechnics.
 8. Billboards which by reason of position, wording, illustration, size, shape or color obstruct, impair, obscure, interfere with the view of, or may be confused with any traffic control signal or device or which may otherwise obstruct or interfere with traffic.
 9. Shall not display sexually explicit images, obscene language, content advertising Adult Uses defined in Section 2.100 of the Hanover Zoning Bylaw, or content advertising recreational marijuana dispensaries.
- G. Limitations on number of billboards. There shall be no more than one billboard, double-sided in the Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District.
- H. A billboard may be double-sided. An individual billboard display or billboard face shall not exceed 672 square feet in total area on each side and shall not exceed 14 feet in height by 48 feet in width, as calculated pursuant to these Zoning Bylaws.
- I. A billboard shall be mounted on a pedestal or other support structure. The top of the billboard shall not exceed 85 feet in height at the existing ground elevation of the proposed footing.
- J. There shall be no billboard, including a roof billboard, on any building, whether erected or otherwise placed or painted on the building;
- K. No billboard shall be on or otherwise attached to a tree, utility pole, fence or rock.
- L. Lighting or other illumination related to the proposed billboard shall not project, glare or negatively impact abutting properties and shall not shine onto abutting roadways other than Route 3.

6.18.6 Criteria for approval:

The Planning Board shall not approve any applications for a special permit under this section unless it finds that all of the following conditions are met and/or are incorporated into any special permit decision:

- A. The specific site is an appropriate location for the proposed billboard and the design and layout complies with the standards and requirements set forth in this bylaw.
- B. The proposed billboard will not adversely affect the abutting neighborhood as to lighting, glare and shadows or have the effect of causing a distracted hazard to motorists.
- C. Any special permit decision shall require compliance with requirements relating to the provision and maintenance of insurance.
- D. Any special permit decision shall require billboards to have their permit numbers on them.
- E. Any special permit decision shall require compliance with maintenance and inspection requirements.
- F. All permits are subject to any necessary approvals, restrictions and conditions required and/or issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or the Federal government; as they related to outdoor advertising and billboards.
- G. The Planning Board, in granting the special permit, shall attach such additional conditions and safeguards as it deems necessary.
- H. There shall be in place prior to the erection/construction of any electronics billboard a valid Host Community Agreement entered into by the applicants and approved by the Select Board governing the operation of the sign to mitigate the impacts of the proposed billboard within the Town of Hanover.
- I. The applicants shall propose a monthly duration of time for the Town of Hanover as to Public Service Announcements (PSA) that shall run with the duration of the lease for such billboard.
- J. During public safety emergencies, as defined by a request from the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and/or Town Manager that within reason is important for the protection of life, property and/or public health or environmental assets, the petitioner shall work directly and quickly with the Town to provide messaging requested by the Town, and place such messaging as priority over all other messaging.

6.18.7 Sign maintenance/removal:

- A. All billboards and supporting structures shall be kept in good repair and free from tear, rust, and other indices of deterioration.
- B. If a billboard permitted under this section is abandoned, discontinued, or is in disrepair for a period of 90 days, it shall be cause for its removal. The Building Commissioner shall notify the owner and/or manager of the billboard and property owner in writing, specifying a forty-five-day period to remove or repair. If the billboard has not been removed or repaired within the time period to the satisfaction of the Building Commissioner, the Building Commissioner may revoke the billboard permit and cause the billboard to be removed forthwith. All expenses for the removal shall be borne by the billboard owner and/or property owner as determined by the Building Commissioner.
- C. If the Building Commissioner determines that a billboard is an immediate threat to public safety irrespective of any stays granted to the billboard and/or property owner, the Building Commissioner may cause any billboard, abandoned or not, and any portion of its support structure if deemed part of the public threat, to be immediately removed, and/or the

threatened public area cordoned off. All expenses for protecting the public, including the removal of said billboard or stabilization of the public safety threat, shall be borne by the billboard owner and/or property owner as determined by the Building Commissioner. A billboard which is not abandoned may be returned to its original position, but only after repairs have been made and the public safety threat abated, to the satisfaction of the Building Commissioner.

6.18.8 Nothing in this section shall be applicable to on-premises signs, also known as accessory signs.

Select Board

Advisory Committee Commentary: The Advisory Committee supports referring this Article for further study.

ARTICLE 32. AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS SECTION 6.9 SIGN BYLAW, SECTION 2. AUTHORITY AND INTERPRETATION

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 6.9, Sign Bylaw, Section 2. of the General Bylaws for the Town with the addition of the following language, or take any action relative thereto.

Bold and Underline denotes new language for insertion:

Section 2. Authority and Interpretation

This by-law is hereby declared to be remedial and protective and is to be so construed as to secure the beneficial interests and purposes thereof. This by-law is adopted pursuant to Chapters 93 and 43B of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision(s) in this By-Law, one Billboard may be permitted by the Planning Board in accordance with the terms of the Zoning By-Law in the Route 3 Corridor Sign Overlay District.

Select Board

We move that the Town refer this article to the Select Board for further study.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article is a companion Article to Article 31 which has been referred for further study.

ARTICLE 33. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – KING STREET/CIRCUIT STREET WATERLINE (\$2,000,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$2,000,000, or another sum, for the replacement of the water main, and related work on Circuit Street from

West Hanover Square to King Street and on King Street from Circuit Street to School Street, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works

We move that the sum of \$2,000,000 be appropriated for the replacement of the water main and related work on King Street from West Hanover Square to King Street and on King Street from Circuit Street to School Street; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Hanover's water system dead-ends at the Hanson/Hanover line at King Street. This impacts fire flows and water quality along King Street because water that dead-ends does not circulate. Last year's Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$875,000 to replace roughly 2000 feet of old cast-iron watermain with new ductile iron pipes on King Street from the Briarwood Drive neighborhood to the Hanson line. This improvement, now completed, was a necessary step to enhance fire protection and water quality in that section of Town, which historically has had discolored water issues on occasion. In addition to the newly completed King Street waterline, the Water Department installed an automated "bleeder" at the end of King Street. This automated bleeder flushes water on a regular basis, much like hydrant flushing, to cycle out old water for new, further enhancing water quality in that section of Town.

As of 2024, the water distribution pipes along King Street, from School Street to the Hanson line, are new. In order to fully solve King Street's problems, we are now turning our attention to some of the lines feeding King Street. Replacing the current 10" cast-iron watermain from West Hanover Square along Circuit Street to the King Street/School Street intersection with a 12" ductile-iron pipe will further enhance the water quality and fire flows for all King Street as well as that portion of Circuit Street. Once this Circuit Street line is installed, the next potential upgrade that may be needed would likely be the 10" cast-iron line along School Street that also feeds King Street. DPW has reason to believe, based on data collection and customer complaints, that Circuit Street is the main culprit to the issues in this area but the School Street line cannot be ruled out as adding to the problem. Upgrading the Town's old cast-iron pipes to ductile-iron pipes has the benefits of eliminating corrosion and discolored water as well as reducing waterline breaks because ductile iron has greater "tensile strength" relative to cast-iron.

ARTICLE 34. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – PFAS UPGRADES (\$1,750,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$1.75 Million, or another sum, for the design of upgrades to the Town's three water treatment plants to remove PFAS in the Town's drinking water to levels compliant with levels that are required by the proposed regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency, or take any other action relative thereto.

Director of Public Works

We move that the sum of \$1,750,000 be appropriated for the design of upgrades to the Town's three water treatment plants to remove PFAS in the Town's drink water to levels compliant with levels that are required by the proposed regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Like many communities throughout the Commonwealth and country, low levels of PFAS compounds have been detected in Hanover's drinking water. Currently, Hanover's PFAS levels are below State standards at two of our three treatment facilities: Beal and Broadway. At our main facility, Pond Street, our summertime seasonal levels sometimes exceed State standards. The current State standard for PFAS is 20 parts per trillion; the Federal government currently provides an advisory level of 70 parts per trillion.

With the support of a 2022 Annual Town Meeting article passed by voters, Hanover DPW installed granular activated carbon (GAC) filter media to our Pond Street Water Treatment Facility to bring PFAS levels below State standards; this has been an effective treatment to reduce PFAS to a point below 20 parts per trillion. More recently, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed new limits for multiple PFAS compounds requiring public water supplies to bring the number below 4 parts per trillion. It is anticipated that this new 4 parts per trillion level will be codified into law. At this new level, all our wells currently exceed the standard and will be out of compliance. This proposed article will provide funds to design, pilot test, and permit upgrades to all three treatment plants to reduce the level of PFAS below the new 4 parts per trillion standard. To add to the complexity of the new federal limits, the EPA will be regulating individual PFAS compounds rather than the aggregate of the six compounds currently regulated by the State. Ultimately, we expect total costs of \$15,000,000 or more for Hanover to upgrade treatment facilities in the manner required to meet the new federal limits. Hanover will be seeking all available federal and state loans, grants, and other like programs, such as the State Clean Water Revolving Fund, to reduce and mitigate costs to water users.

ARTICLE 35. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – STETSON HOUSE – COBBLER’S SHOP RESTORATION

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 44B (Community Preservation), and the Hanover General Bylaws, Section 4-19, to appropriate \$5,000 U.S. dollars from the Town’s Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to restore, upgrade, and reinterpret the historic 1850’s Cobbler’s Shop on the Stetson House Grounds. Said funds to be expended within the scope approved by the Community Preservation Committee, and for the purposes approved by this Town Meeting, said funds to be expended for the purposes stated herein by the Town Manager, under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee,” said funds to be expended within two (2) years unless extended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee
Hanover Historical Society

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: The Community Preservation Act allows for a surcharge to be assessed on property taxes that the State will match in some part and that can only be used for specific purposes. Use of CPA funds does not affect property taxes and cannot be used towards the operating budget. CPA funds in Hanover are handled through the Community Preservation Committee, which reviews all applications through a public hearing process. This Article is funded as a historical project and there are \$1,114,649 of CPA funds currently available for that purpose.

ARTICLE 36. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – DIGITAL COLLECTIONS PRESERVATION

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 44B (Community Preservation), and the Hanover General Bylaws, Section 4-19, to appropriate \$10,000.00 U.S. dollars from the Town’s Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to purchase equipment for creating digital collections of documents. Said funds to be expended within the scope approved by the Community Preservation Committee, and for the purposes approved by this Town Meeting, said funds to be expended for the purposes stated herein by the Town Manager, under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee,” said funds to be expended within two (2) years unless extended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee
Hanover Historical Society

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article is funded as a historical project and there are \$1,114,649 of CPA funds currently available for that purpose.

ARTICLE 37. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – RAIL TRAIL – ELLIS CONNECTION

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 44B (Community Preservation), and the Hanover General Bylaws, Section 4-19, to appropriate \$250,000 U.S. dollars, from the Town’s Community Preservation Fund (CPF) for costs related to the construction of a spur, to the existing trail in West Hanover to Ellis Field. Said funds to be

expended within the scope approved by the Community Preservation Committee, and for the purposes approved by this Town Meeting, said funds to be expended for the purposes stated herein by the Town Manager, under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee, said funds to be expended within two (2) years unless extended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee
Town Manager
Parks and Recreation Committee

We move that the Town appropriate \$15,000 from Community Preservation Act funds for the costs associated with the permitting and engineering of a trail from a point roughly at the current terminus of the Rail Trail in West Hanover near the Drinkwater River to an ending point on the Ellis Field property.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Annual Town Meeting in 2021 appropriated \$250,000 from CPA funds to extend the Rail Trail from the Rockland line to the Drinkwater River in Hanover. Those funds, coupled with a grant obtained by the Town from the Mass Trails grant program, have been used to complete the work to date on the West Hanover portion of the Rail Trail. The Rail Trail project is an excellent community amenity enjoyed by many residents.

The purpose of this “connector” trail is to allow users of the trail to reach a point of interest rather than the current “dead end,” and the goal is to build this portion of trail in a manner that continues the Rail Trail network for those with mobility issues, those on bikes, and/or those pushing strollers, etc. The original submission of this Article included the full cost of permitting, engineering, and construction for a 620 foot-long boardwalk; however, because the permitting and engineering has not been completed at this time, due to the fact monies have not been authorized for that purpose, the estimated construction costs provided for in the request for funding have been estimated at a high amount.

While the Advisory Committee fully appreciates the reasons for overestimating the full construction costs as part of this request, we believe the most prudent and financially responsible path forward is for Town Meeting to appropriate the monies required to fully engineer and permit this project to a “shovel ready” state. Town Meeting next year will have the benefit of a fully-vetted plan for construction with known costs so we ensure funds are spent wisely and voters know exactly what they are getting for their money. Handling this project in the manner suggested here should not disrupt the timeline for completion in a significant way because there are likely wetland issues that will need to be dealt with during the engineering and permitting phase, naturally entailing a slowdown in that process. If all goes well and the Town is able to engineer and permit a connector trail from Ellis Field to the Rail Trail, and if next year’s Annual Town Meeting voters feel comfortable with the final plan and associated costs, the project could be constructed and completed next Summer.

This Article is funded as an open space project and there are \$786,092 of CPA funds currently available for that purpose.

ARTICLE 38. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – STETSON HOUSE – INTERIOR REDESIGN

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 44B (Community Preservation), and the Hanover General Bylaws, Section 4-19, to appropriate \$9,000.00 U.S. dollars from the Town’s Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to repair, restore, improve and reinterpret the first-floor interior spaces of the Historic Drummer Samuel Stetson House. Said funds to be expended within the scope approved by the Community Preservation Committee, and for the purposes approved by this Town Meeting, said funds to be expended for the purposes stated herein by the Town Manager, under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee,” said funds to be expended within two (2) years unless extended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee
Hanover Historical Society

We move that the Town accept this Article as printed in the Warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article is funded as a historical project and there are \$1,114,649 of CPA funds currently available for that purpose.

ARTICLE 39. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

To see if the Town will vote, Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 44B (Community Preservation), and the Hanover General Bylaws, Section 4-19, to appropriate 10% of funds collected from Fiscal Year 2024 from the Community Housing Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Hanover Affordable Housing Trust to provide affordable housing in Hanover. Said funds to be expended within the scope approved by the Community Preservation Committee, and for the purposes approved by this Town Meeting, said funds to be expended for the purposes stated herein by the Town Manager, under the direction of the Affordable Housing Trust, or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee
Affordable Housing Trust

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$164,542 from the Community Housing Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Hanover Affordable Housing Trust as set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article is a routine housekeeping Article to transfer funds into the Affordable Housing Trust. This will enable the Affordable Housing Trust to act promptly in order to make acquisitions related to affordable housing.

ARTICLE 40. ADDITION OF NEW DOG LICENSING FEES

To see if the Town will vote to approve new dog license fees, as follows:

- Spayed and neutered dogs \$20 per dog for a three-year license
- Intact dogs \$35 per dog for a three-year license,

Said fees to take effect on January 1, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Clerk

We move that the Town vote to accept this Article as printed in the warrant.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This Article would add an option for dog owners to obtain a three-year license or the current one-year license. The Town Clerk's office handles dog licenses and reports that this added option will allow for added efficiency for both residents and staff.

ARTICLE 41. AMEND ZONING BYLAWS INSERT NEW SECTION 6.17.0 – MULTI-FAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanover Zoning Bylaws with the insertion of a new section for the Multi-Family Overlay District as follows; or take any other action relative thereto:

New Zoning Bylaw Section 6.17.0 Multi-Family Overlay District

6.17.0 – MULTI-FAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT

6.17.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Multi-family Overlay District (MFOD) is to allow multi-family housing as of right in accordance with Section 3A of the Zoning Act (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A). This zoning provides for as of right multi-family housing to accomplish the following purposes:

- A. Encourage the production of a variety of housing sizes and typologies to provide equal access to new housing throughout the community for people with a variety of needs and income levels;
- B. Support vibrant neighborhoods by encouraging an appropriate mix and intensity of uses to support an active public space that provides equal access to housing, jobs, gathering spaces, recreational opportunities, goods, and services.
- C. Preserve open space in a community by locating new housing within or adjacent to existing developed areas and infrastructure.
- D. Support public investment in public transit and pedestrian- and bike-friendly infrastructure.
- E. Increase the municipal tax base through private investment in new residential developments.

6.17.2 Establishment and Applicability

This MFOD is an overlay district having a land area of approximately 71 acres in size that is superimposed over the underlying zoning district(s) and is shown on the Zoning Map.

- A. **Applicability of MFOD.** An applicant may develop multi-family housing located within a MFOD in accordance with the provisions of this Section 6.17.0.
- B. **Overlay District.** The MFOD is an overlay district superimposed on the underlying zoning district(s) and overlay district(s). The regulations for use, dimension, and all other provisions of the Zoning Bylaw governing the respective underlying zoning district shall remain in full force, except for uses allowed as of right or by special permit in the MFOD. Uses that are not identified in Section 6.17.0 are governed by the requirements of the

underlying zoning district(s). Any MFOD project shall comply with Section 6.800 Water Resource Protection District consisting of several Well Protection Zones and an Aquifer Protection Zone.

The MFOD shall consist of the following parcels of land:

1775 Washington Street, Parcel 18-7

The alteration of MFOD sub-district boundaries must be approved at Town Meeting by an amendment to this Zoning Bylaw and the Zoning Map.

6.17.3 Applicability of Water Resource Protection District

- A. **Water Resources Protection District.** Any MFOD project shall comply with Section 6.800 Water Resource Protection Overlay District (consisting of several Well Protection Zones and an Aquifer Protection Zone).

6.17.4 Definitions

For purposes of this Section 6.17.0, the following definitions shall apply.

- A. **Affordable unit.** A multi-family housing unit that is subject to a use restriction recorded in its chain of title limiting the sale price or rent or limiting occupancy to an individual or household of a specified income, or both.
- B. **Affordable housing.** Housing that contains Affordable Units as defined by this Section 6.17.0.
- C. **Applicant.** A person, business, or organization that applies for a building permit, Site Plan Review, or Special Permit.
- D. **Area Median Income (AMI).** The median family income for the metropolitan statistical region that includes the Town of Hanover, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- E. **As of right.** Development that may proceed under the Zoning in place at time of application without the need for a special permit, variance, zoning amendment, waiver, or other discretionary zoning approval.
- F. **Building coverage.** The maximum area of the lot that can be attributed to the footprint of the buildings (principal and accessory) on that lot. Building Coverage does not include surface parking.
- G. **Compliance Guidelines.** Compliance Guidelines for Multi-Family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act as further revised or amended from time to time.
- H. **DHCD.** The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, or any successor agency.
- I. **EOHLC.** The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, DHCD's successor agency.

- J. **Lot.** An area of land with definite boundaries that is used or available for use as the site of a building or buildings.
- K. **Mixed-use development.** Development containing a mix of residential uses and non-residential uses, including, commercial, institutional, industrial, or other uses.
- L. **Multi-family housing.** A building with three or more residential dwelling units or two or more buildings on the same lot with more than one residential dwelling unit in each building.
- M. **Multi-family zoning district.** A zoning district, either a base district or an overlay district, in which multi-family housing is allowed as of right.
- N. **Open space.** Contiguous undeveloped land within a parcel boundary.
- O. **Parking, surface.** One or more parking spaces without a built structure above the space. A solar panel designed to be installed above a surface parking space does not count as a built structure for the purposes of this definition.
- P. **Residential dwelling unit.** A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.
- Q. **Section 3A.** Section 3A of the Zoning Act.
- R. **Site Plan Review Authority.** The Site Plan Review Authority shall be the Planning Board.
- S. **Special Permit Granting Authority.** The Special Permit Granting Authority shall be the Planning Board.
- T. **Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI).** A list of qualified Affordable Housing Units maintained by EOHLC used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law.

6.17.5 Permitted Uses

- A. **Uses Permitted as of Right.** The following uses are permitted as of right within the MCMOD.
 - 1. Multi-family residential of 15 units per acre.
- B. **Uses Permitted by Special Permit.** The following uses require a Special Permit from the Special Permit Granting Authority.
 - 1. Mixed-use development. As of right uses in a mixed-use development are as follows:

Ground Floor

Community space.
Educational uses.
Personal services.

Retail.

Experiential retail, including retail associated with dance or exercise studios, music studios, photography studios, or other combination of education, services, and retail.

Restaurant, café, and other eating establishments without a drive-through.

Office, professional office, and co-working space

Artists' studios, maker space, and small-scale food production no more than 5,000 SF, and retail associated with each use.

Any Floor

Residential (required component).

C. **Accessory Uses.** The following uses are considered accessory as of right to any of the permitted uses in subsection 1.

1. Parking, including surface and structure parking such as an above ground or underground parking garage on the same lot as the principal use.

D. **Prohibited Uses.** Any use(s) not expressly allowed either under subsection 1 or within the underlying zoning districts and overlay districts shall be prohibited unless the Building Inspector determines that such use is substantially similar in both its characteristics and its impact on abutting properties to a use listed as permitted as of right under subsection 1 or within the underlying zoning district(s).

6.17.6 Dimensional Standards and Other Requirements

A. **Table of Dimensional Standards.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Zoning, the dimensional requirements applicable in the MFOD are as follows:

<u>Maximum Lot Coverage</u>	40%
<u>Maximum Building Coverage</u>	25%
<u>Minimum Open Space</u>	60%
<u>Maximum Height</u>	3 stories (35 feet)
<u>Front Setback</u>	75 feet
<u>Side Setback</u>	15 feet
<u>Rear Setback</u>	25 feet

B. **Density requirements.** New residential development or residential components of mixed-use development shall be constructed at a density of 15 units per acre.

C. **Two or More Buildings on One Lot.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Zoning Bylaw, more than one (1) building or structure, including those intended solely for use as residential dwellings, shall be permitted on any lot within the MFOD.

6.17.7 Off-Street Parking

These parking requirements are applicable to development in the MFOD.

- A. **Number of parking spaces.** The following **maximum** numbers of off-street parking spaces shall be permitted by use, either in surface parking or within garages or other structures:

Use	Maximum Spaces
Multi-family	2 spaces per dwelling unit
Non-residential uses	See Section 9.000 "Parking and Loading Requirements"

- B. **Number of bicycle parking spaces.** The following **minimum** numbers of covered bicycle storage spaces shall be provided by use:

Use	Minimum Spaces
Multi-family	1 space per dwelling unit
Non-residential uses	1 space for every 10 parking spaces

- C. **Bicycle storage.** For a multi-family development of 25 units or more, or a mixed-use development of 25,000 square feet or more, covered parking bicycle parking spaces shall be integrated into the structure of the building(s).
- D. **Shared Parking within a Mixed-Use Development.** Parking requirements for a mix of uses on a single site may be adjusted through the Site Plan Review process, if the applicant can demonstrate that shared spaces will meet parking demands by using accepted methodologies.
- E. **EV charging stations.** For all uses within the MCMOD, electric charging stations are required with one EV space required for every twenty (20) parking spaces, rounded up to the next highest number of EV stations.

6.17.8 Site Plan Review

- A. **Applicability.** All projects developed using the MFOD shall be subject to the Site Plan Review procedures as detailed in Section 10.000. The Site Plan Review and Approval Authority for the MFOD shall be the Planning Board.

6.17.9 Affordability Requirements

A. **Purpose.**

1. Promote the public health, safety, and welfare by encouraging a diversity of housing opportunities for people of different income levels;
2. Provide for a full range of housing choices for households of all incomes, ages, and sizes; and
3. Increase the production of affordable housing units to meet existing and anticipated housing needs.

- B. **Applicability.** This requirement is applicable to all residential and mixed-use developments with ten (10) or more dwelling units, whether new construction, substantial rehabilitation, expansion, reconstruction, or residential conversion (Applicable Projects). No project may be divided or phased to avoid the requirements of this section.
- C. **Affordability requirements.** All units affordable to households earning 80% or less of AMI created in the MFOD under this section must be eligible for listing on EOHLC's Subsidized Housing Inventory.
- D. **Provision of Affordable Housing.** In Applicable Projects, not fewer than ten percent (10%) of housing units constructed shall be Affordable Housing Units. For purposes of calculating the number of units of Affordable Housing required within a development project, a fractional unit shall be rounded down to the next whole number. The Affordable Units shall be available to households earning income up to eighty percent (80%) of the AMI.
- E. **Development Standards.** Affordable Units shall be:
1. Integrated with the rest of the development and shall be compatible in design, appearance, construction, and quality of exterior and interior materials with the other units and/or lots;
 2. Dispersed throughout the development;
 3. Located such that the units have equal access to shared amenities, including light and air, and utilities (including any bicycle storage and/or Electric Vehicle charging stations) within the development;
 4. Located such that the units have equal avoidance of any potential nuisances as market-rate units within the development;
 5. Distributed proportionately among unit sizes; and
 6. Distributed proportionately across each phase of a phased development.
 7. Occupancy permits may be issued for market-rate units prior to the end of construction of the entire development provided that occupancy permits for Affordable Units are issued simultaneously on a pro rata basis.
- F. **Administration.**
1. The Community Development & Municipal Inspections shall be responsible for administering and enforcing the requirements in this section.

6.17.10 Severability

- A. If any provision of this Section 16.17.0 is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of Section 16.17.0 shall not be affected but shall remain in full

force. The invalidity of any provision of this Section 16.17.0 shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Town of Hanover's Zoning.

Planning Board

Advisory Committee Commentary: We support the motion of the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 42. AMEND THE ZONING BYLAWS - SECTION 10.00 PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws under Section 10.020 – Purpose and Applicability by adding the following;

N. Development in the Multi-family Overlay District in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.17.0 of this Zoning Bylaw.

or take any other action relative thereto:

Planning Board

Advisory Committee Commentary: We support the motion of the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 43. AMEND ZONING BYLAWS – ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws relative to the Family Accessory Dwelling Units under Sections 2.100 and 6.000 as follows; or take any other action relative thereto.

Bold & Underline denotes new language for insertion:

Under Section 2.100

Family Accessory Dwelling Unit, **attached**: An ~~Family~~ **attached** Accessory Dwelling Unit is a self-contained housing unit incorporated within a single-family dwelling, (not within accessory structures in accordance with this By-law) that is clearly a subordinate part of the single-family dwelling and complies with the criteria stated in Section ~~6.020.C~~ **6.010.J**.

Accessory Dwelling Unit, detached: A detached Accessory Dwelling Unit is a self-contained housing unit within an accessory structure that is clearly subordinate to the single-family dwelling and complies with the criteria stated in Section 6.040.B.

Under Section 6.010

J. Attached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) provided it satisfies all of the following criteria and meets the purpose of Section 6.040.B.1:

- 1. The attached ADU shall comply with all State and Local Building Codes.**
- 2. The attached ADU shall have and shall maintain a separate entrance from the principal dwelling, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor that leads to the outside that is shared with the principal dwelling and that is sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress;**
- 3. The attached ADU shall not be larger in floor area than 33% the floor area of the principal single-family dwelling or 800 square feet, whichever is smaller;**
- 4. The attached ADU shall be restricted to two bedrooms;**

5. The attached ADU shall have at least one dedicated parking space on the same lot and shall use the same driveway that is used for the principal dwelling and there shall be at least two parking spaces for the principal dwelling;
6. The attached ADU entrance and parking shall maintain the single-family residential appearance of the property and, if the entrance for the Interior ADU is not shared with the principal dwelling, the entrance(s) for the Interior ADU shall be less visible from the street view of the principal dwelling than the main entrance for the principal dwelling;
7. At all times, the principal dwelling or the attached ADU shall be owner-occupied;
8. The Board of Health must document to the Building Inspector that sewage disposal for the property will be satisfactorily provided for in accordance with the provisions of Title 5 and Board of Health regulations, including provisions for an appropriate reserve area on the site;
9. No commercial use, except for a permitted home occupation, shall be allowed on a property on which there is an ADU. A home occupation shall be allowed in either the ADU or the principal dwelling, but not both at the same time; and
10. Before any Certificate of Occupancy is issued for an ADU under this bylaw, a restrictive covenant shall be recorded against the property. The covenant shall run to the Town and be enforceable by the Town through injunctive relief and with the property owner required to pay the Town's reasonable legal fees and costs for successful enforcement of any violation of the restrictive covenant. The restrictive covenant shall, at a minimum, include the following provisions:
 - a. The lot may not be subdivided such that the ADU and the principal dwelling are no longer on the same lot.
 - b. The owner(s) of the property on which the ADU is created must continue to occupy at least one of the dwelling units as their primary residence, except for bona fide temporary absences.
 - c. The ADU shall not be sold separate or apart from the principal structure to which it is an accessory use.
 - d. There may be only one ADU on any residential lot.
 - e. No commercial use, except for a permitted home occupation, shall be allowed on a property on which there is an ADU. A home occupation shall be allowed in either the ADU or the principal dwelling, but not both at the same time.

Under Section 6.040

B. Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit subject to all of the requirements, regulations, provisions and procedures of subsections 1 through 4.

- 1. Purposes. ADU units shall be allowed as set forth below for the following purposes:**
 - a. To encourage housing options for persons of all income levels and all ages;
 - b. To allow a single-family homeowner(s) the opportunity to derive rental income to allow the homeowner the financial ability to stay in place;
 - c. To allow a single-family homeowner(s) the opportunity to accommodate other family members in an ADU;
 - d. To encourage the availability of moderately priced year-round rental units and promote greater housing diversity in the Town and to promote greater availability of affordable housing for young adults and senior citizens; and
 - e. To maintain the residential character of the lot on which any ADU is located.

2. Applicability. A maximum of one ADU per lot shall be allowed whether as of right or by special permit as follows:
 - a. ADUs shall comply with all State and Local Building Codes
3. General Requirements. An ADU may be permitted in a detached structure ("detached ADU") on the same lot as the principal single-family provided that the Planning Board finds that it satisfies all of the following criteria:
 - a. The detached ADU shall not be larger in floor area than 800 square feet. If the detached ADU is part of a larger accessory structure, the owner may designate which distinct portion of that structure's floor space will be used as an ADU.
 - b. The detached ADU shall be restricted to two bedrooms;
 - c. The detached ADU shall have at least one dedicated parking space on the same lot and shall use the same driveway that is used for the principal dwelling and there shall be at least two parking spaces for the principal dwelling;
 - d. At all times, the principal dwelling or the detached ADU shall be owner-occupied;
 - e. The Board of Health must document to the Building Inspector that sewage disposal for the property shall be satisfactorily provided for in accordance with the provisions of Title 5 and Board of Health regulations, including provisions for an appropriate reserve area on the site;
 - f. A detached ADU shall be designed so that, to the maximum extent practical, the appearance of the property on which it is to be located remains that of a single-family residential property and shall satisfy all applicable setbacks and shall not be located in front of the principal dwelling and any addition or new construction shall be consistent in design with the principal single-family dwelling, considering the following: architectural details, roof design, building spacing and orientation, door and window location and building materials, with the design and location of the detached ADU to be subject to Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board.
 - g. A detached ADU shall be used only as a rental unit, except that the owner of the property may reside in the ADU while renting the principal single-family dwelling. Either the principal dwelling or the ADU, but not both, may be used as a rental unit at any given time; and
 - h. No commercial use, except for a permitted home occupation, shall be allowed on a property on which there is an ADU. A home occupation shall be allowed in either the ADU or the principal dwelling, but not both at the same time.
4. Administration. Before any Certificate of Occupancy is issued for an ADU under this bylaw, a restrictive covenant shall be recorded against the property. The covenant shall run to the Town and be enforceable by the Town through injunctive relief and with the property owner required to pay the Town's reasonable legal fees and costs for successful enforcement of any violation of the restrictive covenant. The restrictive covenant shall, at a minimum, include the following provisions:
 - a. The lot may not be subdivided such that the ADU and the principal dwelling are no longer on the same lot.
 - b. The owner(s) of the property on which the ADU is created must continue to occupy at least one of the dwelling units as their primary residence, except for bona fide temporary absences.
 - c. The ADU shall not be sold separate or apart from the principal structure to which it is an accessory use.

- d. There may be only one ADU on any residential lot.
- e. No commercial use, except for a permitted home occupation, shall be allowed on a property on which there is an ADU. A home occupation shall be allowed in either the ADU or the principal dwelling, but not both at the same time.

Delete in its entirety Section 6.020.C Family Accessory Dwelling Units

Planning Board

Advisory Committee Commentary: We support the motion of the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 44. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (\$20,000 Bond Premium Receipts Reserved)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$20,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Fire Chief
Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000 from the Bond Premium Receipts Reserved Fund for the purposes set forth in this Article.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Self-contained breathing apparatuses are necessary pieces of equipment for firefighters when they enter hazardous environments allowing them to breath clean air. Our current equipment has passed its useful life and is out of compliance with National Fire Protection Association standards. The aim of this \$20,000 is to cover Hanover's 5% match of a federal grant which has already been submitted by the Town. Hopefully we will get the grant (the fire department has been historically quite successful with their grant applications) however, if we are not awarded the grant, we will not be able to replace our apparatuses in FY25 and would therefore require a request for the full amount (\$400,000) next Annual Town Meeting. Hanover's Finance Director has identified rebated funds from previous years' borrowing which were generated from Hanover municipal bond proceeds and will be used to fund this project.

ARTICLE 45. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – AMBULANCE (\$475,000 Debt)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$475,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip an ambulance, or take any other action relative thereto.

Fire Chief
Town Manager

We move that the sum of \$475,000 be appropriated to purchase and equip an ambulance; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town

therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, and each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Advisory Committee Commentary: This purchase would replace a 2015 ambulance that has been driven more than 132,000 miles and has 7,083 operating hours. The 2015 ambulance would be traded-in or sold. The Fire Department ambulances are the workhorses of the service. Annual increases in overall calls for medical assistance, combined with more frequently occurring simultaneous and multiple call situations, put a demand on always having safe and reliable ambulances in service. This new ambulance will include updated safety and technology features that will improve safety for both patients and emergency medical personnel.

Previously the Town would have waited another year to request funding to replace the 2015 ambulance; however, the production, design, and ultimate delivery of ambulances nationwide has increased from an average of 8 months to 30 months. Given these delays with the supply chain the Fire Department is being proactive with this request so the 2015 ambulance does not reach a point where it is a cost-burden due to increased maintenance needs and/or completely out of service.

Hanover's ambulances typically last 10–12 years so the Town plans to take out a 10-year note to pay for this piece of equipment. The repayment of this debt will come directly from Ambulance Receipts and therefore will not directly impact property taxpayers. In addition to this vehicle being used for its day-to-day purposes, during emergency events it is imperative that the Town's front-line vehicles in DPW, HPD, and HFD are properly sized and fully functioning.

And you are hereby ordered to serve this Annual Town Meeting Warrant posting attested copies thereof fourteen days, at least, before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 1st day April, 2024.

HANOVER SELECT BOARD

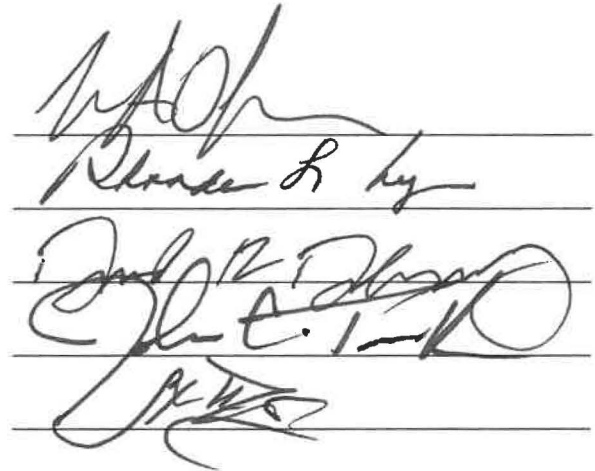
Vanessa A. O'Connor, Chair

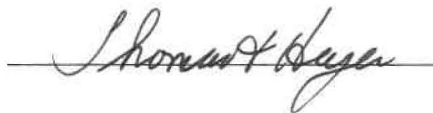
Rhonda L. Nyman, Vice Chair

David R. Delaney

John C. Tuzik

Steven R. Louko, Jr.



, Constable

Posted this 11 day of April, 2024

NOTICE FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street
On **SATURDAY, THE 18th OF MAY, 2024**
Then and there to act on the following:

To bring in their votes for each of the following:

For a term of five years:	One Planning Board Member
For a term of three years:	One Board of Assessors Member One Board of Health Member Two School Committee Members Two Select Board Members One Trustee of the Public Library
For a term of one year:	One Town Moderator

Question 1: Levy Limit Override (G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g)):

Shall the Town of Hanover be allowed to assess an additional \$6,002,330 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of the General Fund Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2024?

Yes _____ No _____

Polls open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise ordered by the Town.

And you are hereby ordered to serve this Warrant posting attested copies thereof seven days at least before the time of said meeting.


Given under our hands this 1st day of April, 2024.

SELECT BOARD

Vanessa A. O'Connor, Chair



Rhonda L. Nyman, Vice-Chair

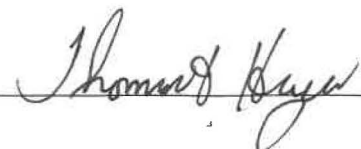


John C. Tuzik



David R. Delaney

Steven R. Louko, Jr.

, Constable

Posted this 11 day of April, 2024