

# **Town Meeting Warrant Narrative**

## **The Warrant Articles with Explanations**

Each year we prepare this “Narrative Warrant” as a companion to the Town Meeting Warrant to give detail to each Warrant Article that will be voted on and discussed. The hope is that this section will provide you, the voter, with a better understanding of what you are being asked to vote on at Town Meeting. Please also feel free to contact the Town Hall if you have additional questions. Also, additional information is available at the Town website as [www.hopkinton-nh.gov](http://www.hopkinton-nh.gov). We hope you find this information useful as you prepare for Town Meeting.

### **Ballot Articles:**

Articles 1 and 2 are voted by ballot either in-person or by absentee ballot. If you cannot be there in person, you should contact the Town Clerk’s Office (746-8274) in order to obtain an absentee ballot.

### **Voting will take place:**

Where: Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium, 297 Park Avenue, Contoocook

When: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 - Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Voter Registration:** If you are not registered to vote, you may do so on the day of voting, March 14, 2017. Please bring a photo ID and identification denoting your physical address. You cannot register to vote on Saturday, March 18.

**Article 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers by ballot and majority vote for the ensuing year as enumerated:** (Candidates who filed for an open office are listed here alphabetically.)

#### **Select Board – Two for a 3 year term**

Lester M. Cressy

Sabrina Dunlap

Jim O’Brien

#### **Town Treasurer – One for a 3 year term**

Bonita A. Cressy

#### **Budget Committee – Two for a 3 year term**

Arnold C. Coda

Richard C. Houston

Debbie Norris

#### **Library Trustee - Two for a 3 year term**

Emilie Burack

Elaine Loft

#### **Cemetery Trustee – One for a 3 year term**

Robert P. Gerseny

#### **Trustee of the Trust Funds – One for a 3 year term**

No candidate on ballot

**Article 2: To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendments to the Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following question:**

*(Proposed language shown in **BOLD** text, deleted text shown with ~~strikethrough~~.)*

**AMENDMENT 1.**

**Re-adopt Section XIII Growth Management and Innovative Land Use Control Ordinance for an additional five (5) years. The re-adoption includes updated statistical data as reported in subsection 13.3, utilizing the 2010 decennial Census, and other local, regional and state resources.**

Amendment is to allow the Planning Board to continue to monitor, evaluate and establish a temporary mechanism, when municipal services are strained, to reduce the rate residential growth.

**13.3 FINDINGS** The Town hereby finds that:

- (a) Between 1970 and 2010, the Town's population increased between ~~3.5~~ **4.68** and 28.4 percent a decade, a rate significantly higher than Merrimack County.
- (b) Hopkinton's share of Merrimack County's population increased 3.72 percent in 1970 to 3.82 percent in 2010.
- (c) From 2000 to 2010, Hopkinton's population increased by 4.7 percent. In the same period, ~~Hopkinton and its seven abutting towns~~ increased their population by 7.1 percent, Merrimack County grew by 7.5 percent and the State grew by 6.5 percent.
- ~~(d) From 2000 to 2010, the seven abutting towns grew by 26.9 percent and Hopkinton grew by 24.5 percent.~~
- (e) The 2010 US Census reported 2,381 year-round housing units **in Hopkinton**, an increase of 7.74 percent from 2000.
- (f) From 2000 to 2010, Hopkinton and its seven abutting towns added 14.1 percent more housing units. Merrimack County and the State experienced a slightly lower percentage increase in housing units **with Merrimack County adding 12.97 percent and the State 12.48 percent.**
- (g) In 2000, Hopkinton's **median** population per housing unit was ~~2.7~~ **2.31** percent. In 2010, it was ~~2.0~~ **2.32** percent. In Merrimack County, in 2000 the population per housing unit was ~~2.7~~ **2.39** percent; it was ~~2.9~~ **2.35** percent in 2010.
- (h) Based on building permits, the total housing units in Hopkinton in ~~2000~~ **2010** was ~~2,210~~ **2,381** an increase of 7.7 percent since ~~2010~~ **2000**. During the same time, Merrimack County experienced a ~~11.2~~ **12.97** percent growth.
- ~~(i) From 1978 through the writing of the 1987 Master Plan, the Town had a series of growth management ordinances which limited the amount of residential permits in order to plan and provide for the increased municipal services to accommodate the growth which occurred. In 1988, Hopkinton adopted a Growth Management and Innovative Land Use Control Ordinance.~~

- (~~ji~~) Hopkinton's population for 2010 was 5,589. The NH Office of Energy and Planning projects Hopkinton's population for 2020 to be ~~6,460~~ **5,528**. For the year 2030, it is projected to be ~~6,970~~ **5,779**.
- (~~k~~) ~~The projected population increase between 2010 and 2020 is 9.5 percent and between 2020 and 2030 an increase of 7.9 percent.~~
- (~~j~~) The NH Office of Energy and Planning estimates Hopkinton's population in 2020 as ~~6,460~~ **5,528** a ~~9.5~~ **1.09** percent ~~increase~~ **decrease** from 2010. From 2010 to 2020, Hopkinton and the seven abutting towns ~~is~~ **are** estimated to grow by 9.8 percent, the County by 9.7 percent and the State by 6.0 percent.
- (~~q~~) ~~The Maple Street School had needs for better library space, a music classroom, cafeteria, two additional classrooms, a computer lab, an art classroom and administrative space, as many of the student services for guidance, health and special education had consumed all available space. The entire facility also needed its heating and venting upgraded as well as a sprinkler system installed.~~
- (~~r~~) ~~The Hopkinton Middle/High School also needed a complete upgrade of its heating and ventilation system and a sprinkler system installed. There was also need for a new gymnasium, as the current space was no longer adequate, a new kitchen and cafeteria, a better entrance to the site and the facility, the library/media center needed to be expanded to accommodate emerging technologies, better administrative areas, additional classrooms and an upgrade of public access to meeting space.~~
- (j) Hopkinton's school enrollment for the 2003/2004 school year was 1,042. For the 2010/2011 school year, it was 975. The enrollment has fluctuated decreasing 6.4 percent or 67 students over eight years.
- (k) In 2003/2004, the Harold Martin Elementary School had an enrollment of 271 students in grades K-3. In 2010/2011 the enrollment was 289. The total increase of 18 students represents a 4.1 percent increase in student population. In 1988 the Harold Martin School had an addition to accommodate any previous class size or space concerns for the primary grade students.
- (l) In 2003/2004, the Maple Street Elementary School had an enrollment of 238 students in grades 4-6. In 2010/2011 the enrollment was 202. The enrollment has fluctuated decreasing 15.1 percent or 36 students over eight years.
- (m) In 2003/2004, the Hopkinton Middle/High School had an enrollment of 533 in grades 7-12. In 2010/2011 the enrollment was 484. The enrollment increased to 538 in 2006/2007. Each of the other eight years of enrollment decreased. The total decrease of 49 students represents a 9.4 percent decrease in population.
- (~~sn~~) In 1997/**1998**, the Town approved a \$6.9 million school construction bond for renovations and additions to the Maple Street Elementary and Hopkinton Middle/High schools. As a result, the 7-8 grades have been separated from the 9-12 grades through redesign of the facility. **Payment of the bond began in 1998 with the final payment anticipated in 2018.**
- (~~to~~) Between 2000 and 2010, the school share of the property tax ranged between 68.9 and 75.5 percent.

- (p) Between 2000 and 2010, Hopkinton's full value tax rate ranged between \$20.84 and \$25.95 according to the Department of Revenue Administration.
- (q) The full value tax rate of Hopkinton was 16 percent higher than the County and 30 percent higher than the State in 2010.
- (~~r~~) In 1990, the Town authorized an \$800,000 bond for the construction of the transfer station. The last payment occurred in 2009.
- (~~s~~) In 1996, the Town authorized a \$1,980,000 bond for the closure of the landfill. Payment of the bond began in 1998 with the final payment in 2018.
- (~~t~~) In 1997, the Town authorized a bond of \$388,000 for the construction of an access road and site preparation for playing fields on Town-owned land (former Houston property). Payment of the bond began in 1998 with the final payment in 2003.
- (~~au~~) In 1997, the Town authorized a bond of \$1.6 million for the construction of the library, and authorized a \$850,000 bond to be paid beginning in 1998. The final payment occurred in 2007.
- (~~vv~~) In 2003, the Contoocook Village Precinct made its last annual payment on a \$1.1 million bond for the construction of a water filtration plant/pipeline replacement.
- (~~ab~~) ~~In 2012, the Town will be asked to appropriate funds for a study to evaluate the need for an addition to or replacement of the Contoocook Fire Station and the Town may incur future expenses with respect thereto.~~
- (~~ew~~) In June 2012, the Highway Garage was totally destroyed by fire. In 2013, the Town authorized a bond of \$1.3 million for the planning, design, construction and equipping of a new Highway Garage and authorized the expenditure of \$769,434 of insurance settlement proceeds. The Town authorized not more than \$530,566 of bonds to be paid beginning in 2014. The final payment is anticipated in 2023. The new building is more efficient and should serve the needs of the Town for 20 or 30 years.**
- (~~bx~~) In 2014, the Town authorized a bond of \$2,995,041 million for planning, design, construction and equipment of a renovation to the Contoocook Fire Station. Payment of the bond began in 2015 with the final payment anticipated in 2029. The Fire Station was originally constructed in 1974. The number of personnel, size of equipment, rules and regulations and onsite medical care for residents warranted the need for renovations and additions. The population, number of fire calls, number of EMS calls have greatly increased since 1974. It is estimated that the Contoocook Fire Station will serve the needs of the Town for 40 years.**
- (~~dy~~) In 2016, the Town authorized a bond of \$2.2 million for the planning, design, rehabilitation, and construction of existing town roads, bridges and culverts. Payment of the bond will begin in 2017 with the final payment anticipated in 2026. The plan called for engineering and rehabilitation of six (6) culverts, two (2) bridges and reconstruction of several roads.**

**13.9 SUNSET** This Ordinance shall expires at the Annual Town Meeting in ~~2017~~ **2022** unless re-adopted at that meeting. The Planning Board shall make recommendations as to the necessity and desirability of re-adopting this Ordinance prior to said Annual Town Meeting.

## **AMENDMENT 2.**

- a. **Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses by inserting 3.6.H.19 Accessory Dwelling Unit and 3.12 Accessory Dwelling Unit. Permitting one attached accessory dwelling unit in all zoning districts that allow single-family detached units, subject to compliance with standards outlined in new 3.12, which also outlines the authority, purpose, and definition.**  
Amendment is to bring the Town's ordinance into compliance with recently adopted statute RSA 674:71-73.

3.6 TABLE OF USES	R-4	R-3	R-2	R-1	B-1	M-1	VR-1	VB-1	VM-1	W-1
H. Accessory Uses										Section XII Wetlands Conservation District (Overlay)
4. Home Occupation in accordance with Section III, paragraph 3.7.5.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
5. Telecommuting in accordance with Section III, paragraph 3.7.5.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
6. <b>Accessory Dwelling Unit in accordance with Section III, paragraph 3.12.</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	

## **3.12 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT**

**3.12.1 Authority:** This Ordinance is adopted by the Town of Hopkinton on June 1, 2017, in accordance with the authority granted in New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 674:21 and 674:71 – 73.

**3.12.2 Purpose:** These regulations have been enacted in order to establish guidelines for Accessory Dwelling Units, in an effort to maintain neighborhood aesthetics while fulfilling the following goals:

- (a) Increase the supply of affordable housing and workforce housing without the need for more infrastructure or further land development.
- (b) Provide flexible housing options for residents and their families.
- (c) Integrate affordable housing and workforce housing into the community with minimal negative impact.
- (d) Provide aging residents with the opportunity to retain their homes and age in place.

## **3.12.3 Definitions:**

- (a) **Accessory Dwelling Unit:** A residential living unit that is subordinate and within or attached to a single-family dwelling, and that provides independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel of land as the principal dwelling unit it accompanies. Every accessory dwelling residence shall be deemed a residence of workforce housing for purposes of satisfying the obligations under NH RSA 674:59.

**3.12.4 Standards:** Applicant proposing an Accessory Dwelling Unit, as defined in Section III, 3.12.3 (a), must agree to and demonstrate compliance with the following conditions in order to receive a building/use permit:

- (a) A maximum of one (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be permitted.
- (b) The Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be located within or attached to the principal single-family dwelling.
- (c) New construction for an accessory dwelling unit shall comply with all standards for a single-family detached dwelling including, but not limited to, setbacks, height limits and lot coverage, and shall not increase any non-conforming aspect of any existing structure. The architecture of the Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be the same as the principal dwelling unit so to match provide aesthetic continuity as a single-family dwelling. This includes appearance, design, colors, and materials.
- (d) The accessory dwelling and principal dwelling units shall comply with all applicable State Building Codes and Fire Codes for construction.
- (e) The Accessory Dwelling Unit shall consist of not more than 750 square feet of living area with the total area not to exceed 850 square feet and include no more than two (2) bedrooms.
- (f) The Accessory Dwelling Unit shall contain fully self-sufficient living quarters, consisting of adequate sleeping, bathing, and eating accommodations.
- (g) An Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be considered an additional dwelling unit for purposes of determining minimum lot size or development density of the property.
- (h) An interior door shall be provided between the principal dwelling unit and the Accessory Dwelling Unit. There is no requirement that the interior door remain unlocked.
- (i) An independent exterior means of ingress and egress shall be provided. The ingress and egress shall not be on the same side of the building as the principal dwelling unit.
- (j) Either the principal dwelling unit or the accessory dwelling unit must be owner-occupied. The owner must demonstrate that one of the units is their principal place of residence and legal domicile. Both the principal and accessory dwelling units must remain in common ownership.
- (k) There shall be a minimum of two (2) parking spaces for each dwelling unit with no additional curb cut from that which is for the principal dwelling unit.
- (l) The applicant for a permit to construct an accessory dwelling unit shall make adequate provisions for water supply and sewage disposal for the accessory dwelling unit in accordance with RSA 485-A:38, but separate systems shall not be required for the principal and accessory dwelling units.

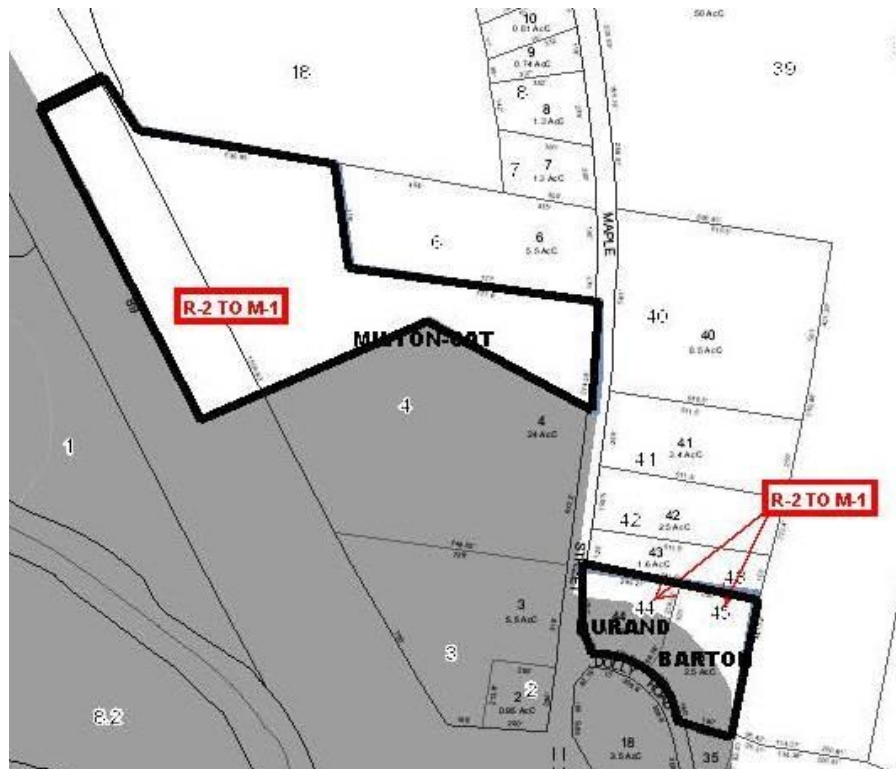
### **AMENDMENT 3.**

**Amend Section III, 3.6.D.2 Farming, including dairying, livestock, animal and poultry raising, and crop production, including customary accessory structures and uses by permitting the use in the R-2 (Medium Density Residential) district, rather than requiring a Special Exception.** Amendment is to provide continuity in the Ordinance when establishing agricultural and farming uses. Both uses will be permitted in the R-2 district.

3.6 TABLE OF USES	R-4	R-3	R-2	R-1	B-1	M-1	VR-1	VB-1	VM-1	W-1
D. Accessory Uses										
1. Agriculture, horticulture and floriculture, except a greenhouse or stand for retail sale, including customary accessory structures and uses.	P	P	P	S	S	P	S	S	P	Section XII Wetlands Conservation District (Overlay)
2. Farming, including dairying, livestock, animal and poultry raising, and crop production, including customary accessory structures and uses.	P	P	<del>S</del> P	S	S	P	S	S	P	
3. Year-round greenhouse or farm stand.	S	S	S	S	S	P	S	P	P	

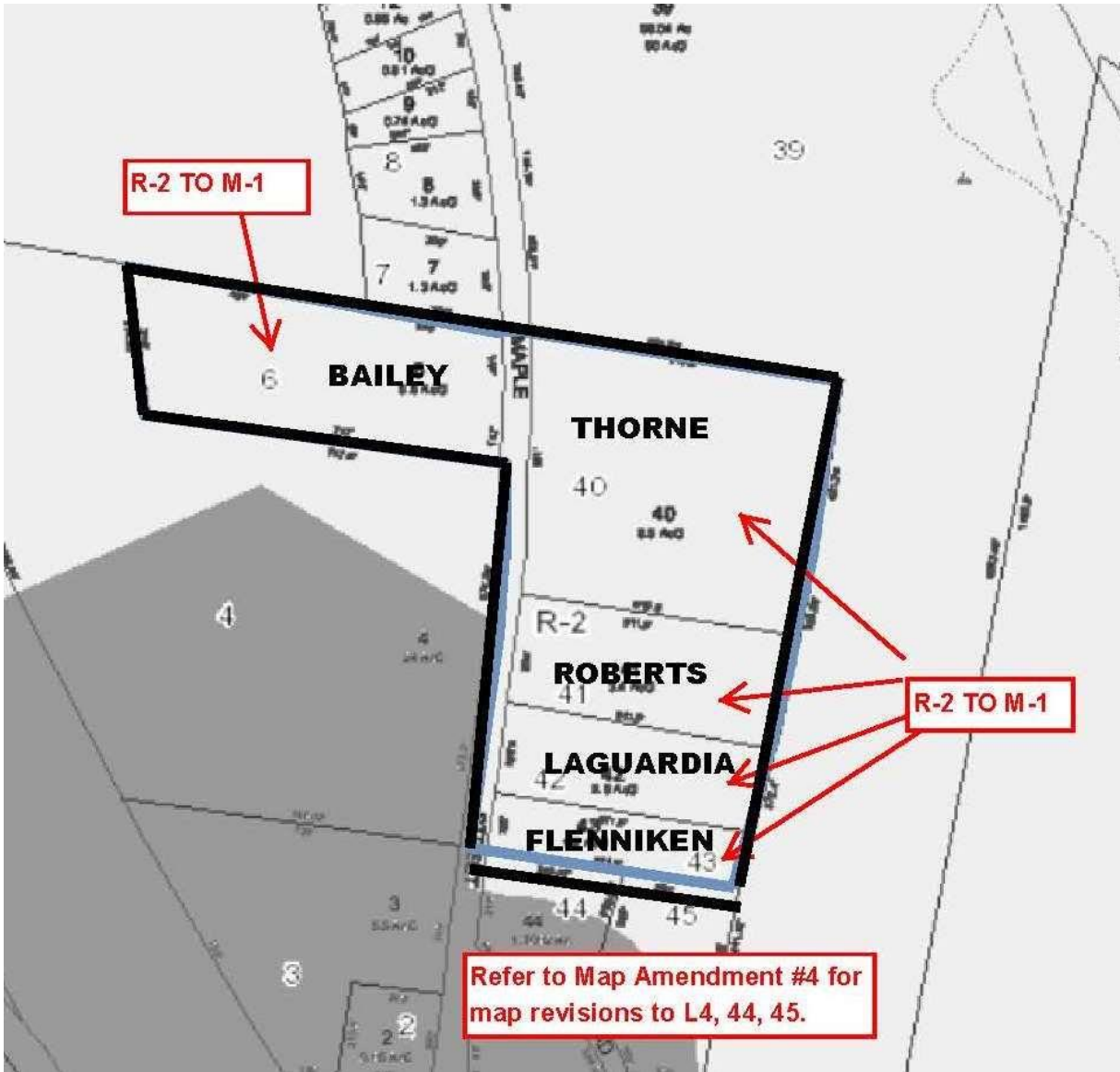
### **AMENDMENT 4.**

**Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopkinton, New Hampshire by rezoning from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to M-1 (Industrial) three (3) parcels of land comprising of approximately 28.21 acres, located as follows: 554 Maple Street, shown on Tax Map 227 as Lot 4, 633 Maple Street, shown on Tax Map 227 as Lot 44, and 25 Dolly Road, shown on Tax Map 227 as Lot 45. The three (3) parcels, with buildings, that are being used for commercial or industrial purposes are presently partially zoned R-2 (Medium Density Residential). Amendment is to correctly zone the parcels according to their uses, M-1 (Industrial).**



#### **AMENDMENT 5.**

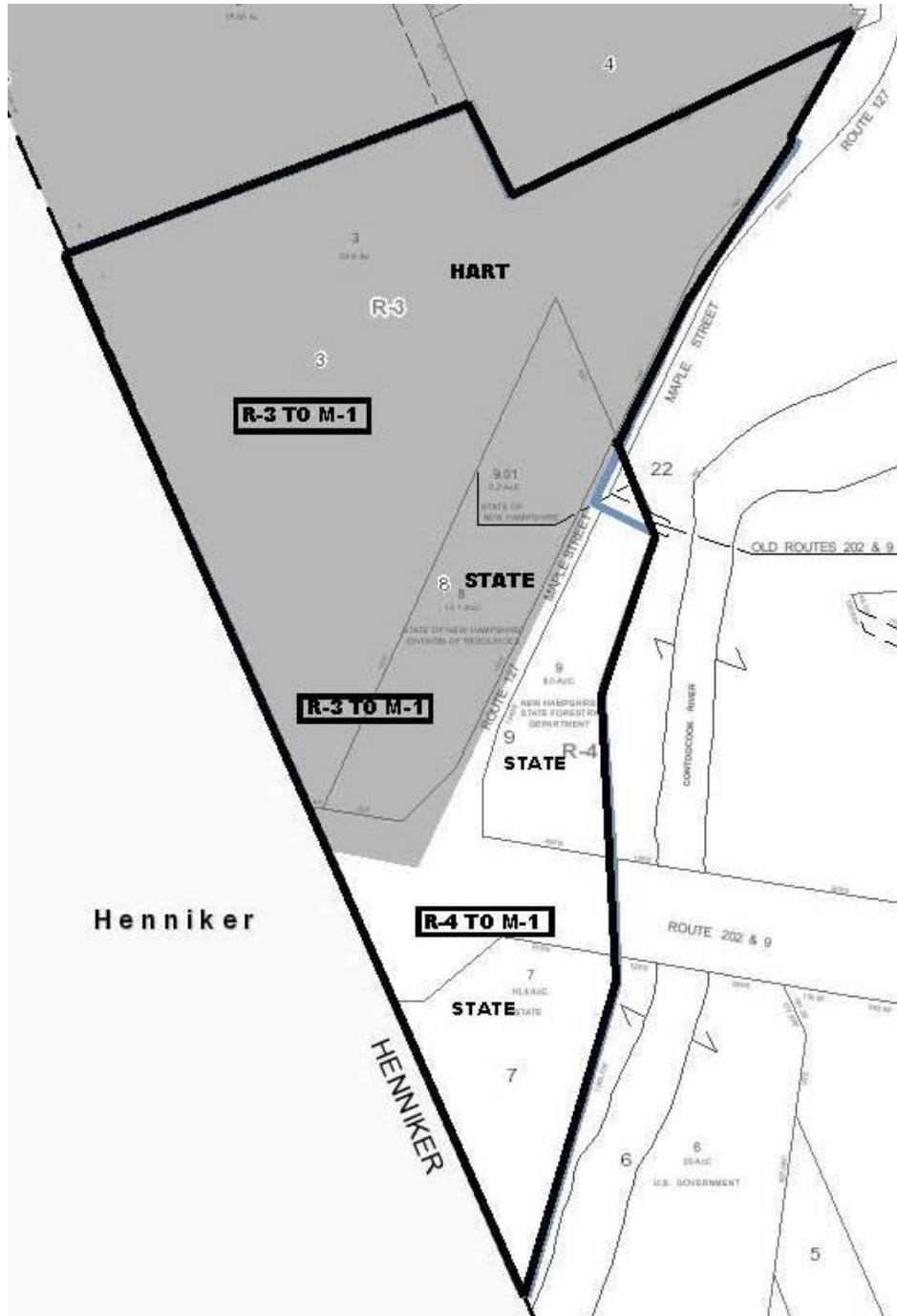
4. Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopkinton, New Hampshire by rezoning from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to M-1 (Industrial) five (5) adjoining parcels of land comprising of approximately 16 acres, located on the West side of Maple Street, shown on Tax Map 227 as **Lots 6, 40, 41, 42 and 43**. The five (5) parcels, with buildings, abut or are across the street from property used for commercial or industrial purposes that is presently zoned M-1 (Industrial). Amendment will expand the uses allowed on these parcels to include industrial and limited commercial. Allowing commercial or industrial use of these parcels will contribute to Hopkinton's commercial/industrial tax base.





## **AMENDMENT 6.**

Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopkinton, New Hampshire by rezoning from R-3 (Low Density Residential) to M-1 (Industrial) two (2) parcels of land comprising of approximately 67.9 acres, and rezoning from R-4 (Residential/Agricultural) to M-1 (Industrial) three (3) parcels of land compromising of approximately 18.6 acres. All parcels are located near the Henniker/Hopkinton Town Line, along Maple Street (Route 127) or Route 202/9, shown on Tax Map 210 as Lot 3 and Tax Map 211 as Lots 7, 8, 9 and 9.01. Amendment will expand the uses allowed on these parcels to include industrial and limited commercial. Allowing commercial or industrial use of these parcels will contribute to Hopkinton's commercial/industrial tax base.



## **Town Meeting Gathering – Deliberative Session**

### **This meeting will take place:**

Where: Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium, 297 Park Avenue, Contoocook

When: Saturday, March 18, 2017

Hours: Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### **Summary of Tax Rate Impact**

The Budget Committee has unanimously voted to present the Select Board's operating budget to the Town Meeting. The Committee is also recommending unanimously the money related Warrant Articles being proposed. With the Select Board's recommended use of a portion of the Unassigned Fund Balance, the estimated 2017 Town portion of the tax rate is \$7.09 per thousand which is the same as the 2016 rate. So, passage of all Warrant Articles proposed will result in a level Town portion of the tax rate in 2017.

### **Article 3: Operating Budget**

**To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$ 6,990,096 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.**

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (10-0)).*

This article is the funding for the operating budget for the Town not including any other warrant articles. The proposed amount of \$6,990,096 is an increase of \$573,505 over last year which is an 8.94% increase. There are 6 major drivers to this increase. The first \$249,279 payment for the road bond is new in 2017. This increase is offset compared to last year, by the \$250,000 that was appropriated to do road work. This year there is no additional amount beyond the bond payment. \$87,562 equivalent to a 4% wage increase is added to the budget for employee merit pay increases and the corresponding benefit changes. All increases are based on merit so this is the entire amount to be allocated to all employees. There is a \$67,394 increase in the Workers' Compensation line not because of an increase in rates, but due to there being a substantial credit last year. The health insurance increase is \$66,682 despite a plan to increase the employee share of the costs. We presently are working to see if more cost effective plans are available. NH Retirement is increasing by \$21,172.

## Proposed Budget Detail

<i>Account</i>	Approved Budget 2016	Actual Expense 2016	Budget Committee & Select Board Proposed Budget 2017	\$ Change 2016 vs 2017 Budget	% Change 2016 vs 2017 Budget
Executive	\$216,788	\$210,466	\$216,809	\$21	0.01%
IT Services	41,000	39,608	41,000	-	0.00%
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	217,990	208,452	203,751	(14,239)	-6.53%
Election Administration	-	-	4,210		
Financial Administration	114,666	111,070	117,855	3,189	2.78%
Assessing	70,200	66,179	70,100	(100)	-0.14%
Legal	25,000	19,634	25,000	-	0.00%
Personnel Administration	613,452	592,545	835,585	222,133	36.21%
Planning and Zoning	108,350	105,538	108,791	441	0.41%
Cemeteries	16,397	10,348	15,056	(1,341)	-8.18%
Property/Liability Insurance	73,364	73,364	69,404	(3,960)	-5.40%
Police	674,743	630,034	692,705	17,962	2.66%
Ambulance	607,681	610,838	603,146	(4,535)	-0.75%
Fire	261,061	329,897	304,020	42,959	16.46%
Emergency Management	1	11,840	1	-	0.00%
Highway Administration	563,734	583,811	719,955	156,221	27.71%
Highway & Streets	743,500	724,593	712,500	(31,000)	-4.17%
Street Lighting	2,341	2,320	2,101	(240)	-10.25%
Transfer Station	544,430	541,085	548,858	4,428	0.81%
Solid Waste-Landfill	31,800	23,847	40,500	8,700	27.36%
Solid Waste-Community Well	13,071	7,494	12,000	(1,071)	-8.19%
Animal Control	7,084	6,288	6,834	(250)	-3.53%
Community Health	14,675	14,675	15,675	1,000	6.81%
Human Services Administration	60,983	60,231	61,180	197	0.32%
Welfare Vendors	50,000	49,941	50,000	-	0.00%
Recreation	110,105	105,566	112,181	2,076	1.89%
Buildings & Grounds	195,892	201,532	82,080	(113,812)	-58.10%
Library	281,095	281,059	286,066	4,971	1.77%
Patriotic Purposes	3,250	2,904	3,250	-	0.00%
Conservation Committee	1	-	1	-	0.00%
Economic Development	500	247	31,500	31,000	6200.00%
Principal on Bonds/Notes	505,920	497,503	722,801	216,881	42.87%
Interest on Bonds/Notes	145,989	153,112	170,778	24,789	16.98%
TAN	2,000	-	2,000	-	0.00%
OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL	\$6,317,063	\$6,276,021	\$6,887,693	\$566,420	8.97%
Sewer Disposal	\$99,528	\$116,645	\$102,403	\$2,875	2.89%
TOTAL	\$6,416,591	\$6,392,666	\$6,990,096	\$573,505	8.94%

#### **Article 4: Appropriation to Capital Reserve Funds**

**To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$487,000 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:**

<b>New &amp; Replacement Equip. &amp; Vehicles for Public Works &amp; Highway Dept.</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>Replacement &amp; Equipping of Ambulance</b>	<b>75,000</b>
<b>Police and Fire Radio and Related Equipment Replacement</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Transfer Station Equipment &amp; Facilities</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>Library Replacement Building</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Dam Maintenance and Construction</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Sewer System Equipment and Sludge Removal</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Renovations to the Town Hall</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Revaluation of Property</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 487,000</b>

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (10-0)).*

For many years the Town has maintained Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) accounts to help to level the impact of major expenditures by putting funds aside annually. Replacement equipment for the next 20 years has been estimated and reviewed to create a spreadsheet indicating the required amount to be put in each fund each year in order to maintain as constant an expenditure level as possible. \$ 487,000 is requested this year, an amount that is \$ 92,000 lower than last year.

New and Replacement Equipment and Vehicles for the Public Works and Highway Department – established to purchase vehicles and equipment used by the Public Works Department. The big expense in 2017 from this fund is the replacement of the grader at about \$300,000.

Replacement and Equipping of Ambulance – established by Town Meeting in 2011 to replace and equip ambulances when required. We are scheduled to purchase a new ambulance in 2018 replacing the 2010 vehicle. Both Warner and Webster contribute toward the purchase of a new ambulance.

Police and Fire Radio and Related Equipment Replacement – this fund begins to fund the replacement of radios received six years ago through a federal grant. The life expectancy of the equipment is 10-12 years and the estimated replacement cost is \$ 80,000.

Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions – major Fire Department equipment and vehicles are purchased through this fund. The 1995 pumper is due to be replaced in 2020 at a cost estimated at \$600,000. This Reserve Fund was not funded last year.

Transfer Station Equipment and Facilities – established to purchase equipment used at the Transfer Station and amended to also include facility upgrades. The loader used at the facility is scheduled to be replaced in 2017.

Library Replacement Building Systems – established to replace building systems such as the heating system at the library.

Dam Maintenance and Construction – established to fund required work on Town owned dams. The Town owns several dams. The State Dam Bureau is requiring the Town to bring the dam on Main Street, by Tavern No. 5 Restaurant into compliance. It is expected that the engineering work will be around \$ 40,000 and then there will be some structural work done to the dam itself.

Sewer System Equipment and Sludge Removal – established to pay for the removal of sludge from the system and to upgrade equipment. This year completion of the manhole covers replacement project is scheduled

Renovation to the Town Hall – established to renovate Town Hall. Improvement to the parking and accessibility to the building is the scheduled project this year. Funds are being used to gradually update the offices and make the building fully handicap accessible.

Revaluation of Property – the NH Department of Revenue mandates that each town in the State be reassessed every five years. 20% of the properties in town are reviewed each year to assure that the assessing data is correct. In the fifth year, a complete statistical update is done using recent sales of property. This fund was established to cover the fifth year costs of \$99,000.

#### **Article 5: Appropriation to Expendable Trust Funds**

**To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,000 to be added to previously established General Trust Funds as follows:**

<b>Town Facilities Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b>Recreational Facilities Maintenance</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Hopkinton Library Technology</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Library Building Maintenance</b>	<b><u>7,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 49,000</b>

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (10-0)).*

Town Facilities Maintenance – established to cover the cost of large maintenance items on town owned buildings. Over the last five years the fund has been used to replace roofs on the Town Hall, and Horseshoe Tavern and for the new well at George's Park which has taken a substantial burden off the Contoocook Precinct water system and saved the Town substantially in water costs. The roof on the Sewer Department building is due to be replaced this year.

Recreational Facilities Maintenance – established to help pay for the cost of maintaining our recreational facilities. Examples are the docks at Kimball Pond, Spirit Skateboard Park, and various nets used on the fields.

Hopkinton Library Technology Fund – established to purchase computer for the library for both public and staff use.

Library Building Maintenance – this trust is used for building and window painting.

**Article 6: Digitalization of Town Records**

**To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of digitalizing town assessing and property records.**

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (10-0)).*

This individual Warrant Article is to pay to convert the 16 file cabinets of town property records into digital format. In 2016 state requirements changed make the PDF-A format an acceptable form to store documents. Prior to this change, only paper copies and microfiche were allowable formats for record storage. Digitalizing these documents will save substantial staff time and allow greater public access to these public records.

**Article 7: Authorization to Expend from Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund**

**To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$102,710 for the purpose of offsetting the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste and such other direct costs as budgeted annually, with said funds to come from the Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.**

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0))*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (10-0)).*

When the Pay-by-Bag program was started by the Town Meeting in 2010, the warrant article required that all revenue from the sale of bags go into the Pay-by Bag Special Revenue fund. Monies in this fund can only be expended to offset the cost of solid waste collection and disposal and can only be expended with Town Meeting approval. This article will allow the funds collected in 2016 to be used to offset Hopkinton costs at the Transfer Station.

**Article 8: Rescind Pay-by-Bag**

To see if the town will vote to rescind Article 19 as amended that was approved at the March 2010 Hopkinton Town Meeting. Passage of this new 2017 Warrant Article will end the so called "Pay by Bag" trash disposal program in its entirety. Cancellation of "Pay by Bag" will become effective on April 21, 2017.

*(By Petition).*

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board **does not** recommend this article (4-1)).*

This petition warrant article if passed would end the Pay-by-Bag program adopted by the Town Meeting in 2010. The article includes an effective date of April 21, 2017

**Article 9: Authorization to Expend from Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund**

**To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,227 for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Senior Center with said funds**

**to come from the Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund No Funds to be raised by taxation.**

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (10-0)).*

At the Town Meeting in 2009 the Town established the Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund requiring all revenues from the rental of the senior center to go into this fund. Monies in a Special Revenue Fund cannot be expended without Town Meeting approval so this article authorizes the Select Board to expend from this fund to offset operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Senior Center.

**Article 10: Adoption of All Veteran Tax Credit**

**Shall the Town of Hopkinton vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500.00, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Hopkinton under RSA 72:28.**

*(By Petition).*

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board does not recommend this article (3-1)).*

This Warrant Article appears by petition and comes about because of the change in the NH statutes. Up until this year, only veterans serving during specific times of war were eligible for the \$500 Veteran's Tax Credit. The new law allows towns to vote to extend this credit to all veterans meeting the requirements as outlined in the Warrant Article. The potential cost to the Town is estimated at \$85,000.

**Article 11: Discontinue the Expansion of the Highway Garage Capital Reserve Fund**  
**To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Expansion of the Highway Garage Capital Reserve Fund created in 2010. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the town's general fund.**

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (5-0)).*

This article is basically a "housekeeping" item. In 2010, Town Meeting established this fund to pay for the expansion of the highway garage. This expansion happened, but then the fire destroyed the entire building. There is no money remaining in the fund and it is not needed in the foreseeable future so it needs to officially be discontinued.