



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – www.hopkinton-nh.gov

**SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
FINALIZATION OF THE TOWN MEETING DRIVE-THROUGH BALLOT
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Select Board Chair Sabrina Dunlap called this special meeting of the Select Board to order at 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020 via Zoom.

Members Present: Sabrina Dunlap, Ken Traum, Steven Whitley, Anna Wells, and Jeffrey Donohoe

Others Present: Bruce Ellsworth, Town Moderator (at the beginning and the end of the meeting)

Staff Present: Neal Cass (Town Administrator)

Chair Dunlap read the following statement:

As Chair of the Hopkinton Select Board, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # **1-312-626-6799** and Meeting ID: **867 8931 4545**, or by clicking on the following website address: : <https://bit.ly/HopkintonTownMeeting-ZOOM>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on the Town of Hopkinton's website at: www.hopkinton-nh.gov and on the Town Hopkinton's Facebook page.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access;

If anybody has a problem, please call (603) 746-8242 or email at:

townadmin@hopkinton-nh.gov .

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

In the even the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Sabrina Dunlap – Present and alone

Ken Traum – Present and alone

Steven Whitley – Present and alone

Anna Wells – Present and alone

Jeffrey Donohoe – Present and alone

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Comment</u>
PAYROLL MANIFEST	-	-	-
PPE 7/18/2020	7/20/2020	Approve	CH# 33928-33933 - \$4,126.44, Dir Dep. \$80,622.28 TOTAL = \$84,748.82
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			
CH 64517-64559	7/20/2020	Approve	\$194,422.43
BUILDING PERMITS			
225-044-000 89 Amesbury Road	7/20/2020	Approve	Construct an 18X33 above ground pool with deck
104-069-000 574 Main Street	7/20/2020	Approve	Construct a shed, above ground pool and decks
223-061-000 32 Winter Drive	7/20/2020	Approve	Construct 3X6 lean-to on existing shed
ABATEMENT			
225-038-000 Hardship Abatement	7/20/2020	Approve	\$1,702.97
236-057-001 - Wrong Account Billed			\$3,517.46
RIGHT TO BURY			
MackKnight	7/23/2020	Approve	Contoocook Village F-320-1&2
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT			

Veteran's Credit - 100% Disabled	7/20/2020	Approve	Magnin
LAND USE CHANGE TAX ASSESSMENT			
254-022-001 - 860 Sugar Hill Road	7/20/2020	Approve	Removed .75 acres
OTHER			
GIS Internet Services Annual Maint. Agreement	7/1/2020	Approve	CAI Technologies \$2,400
PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property Response	7/20/2020	Approve	Will not be using PA-28 in 2021
Application for reimbursement for Forest Land	7/20/2020	Approve	Contoocook State Forest, Goodwin-Chandler State Forest, Mast Yard Forest, Page's Corner State Forest

Mr. Traum moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and to authorize Select Board Member Jeffrey Donohoe to sign all the items listed on behalf of the Board. Mr. Whitley seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

OPENING OF HOUSTON FIELDS RESTROOMS

Chair Dunlap informed the Board that she had been contact by Hopkinton Soccer Club inquiring whether the restrooms at Houston Fields could be open while their club is holding its soccer camp. After discussion the Board determined that the restrooms would not be opened because the Town is not able to keep them properly cleaned during this COVID-19 time and if they are opened for one group, they would need to be open for all. All groups using the fields are providing their own port-potties.

TOWN MEETING

The Board commented to Moderator Ellsworth that they thought the Monday First Virtual Town Meeting session went well. Comments have now been received with the deadline to comment just prior to this meeting. This meeting will be to review all submissions from the voters during the comment period and to finalize the ballot for voting on Saturday. The final ballot will be available by 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Ms. Dunlap suggested, and the other members agreed that the Board would acknowledge all comments and carry out their work this evening “faithfully and impartially” as required by their oath of office. The Board will use the following three standards to look at amendments:

1. Did the request or Monday’s Zoom meeting identify something that we overlooked or misapprehended?
2. Did anything else that has happened out in the world since the warrant was posted (February 24,2020) i.e. COVID-19 or anything else, make you think that the article should be different?
3. Do you feel that a majority of the town residents support making a change to the article?

If the answer to any of these is yes, that may be grounds to amend the article.

According to Town Counsel, each article must be acted upon so there is not an option to “table” any article.

No further public comment is being taken at this meeting because as clearly advertised, the comment period ended prior to this meeting. All comments received have been posted on the town website.

All comments submitted are included under the appropriate article in these minutes.

Chair Dunlap shared some general comments:

1. Dear Moderator Ellsworth,

Thank you very much to you, Mr. Cass, and the Select Board for the work and creativity that have gone into developing a process for Town Meeting during this public health crisis. I have consistently felt that our elected officials and Town employees have made every effort to maximize public participation. We are very lucky to have all of you at the helm.

I do not support additional amendments (beyond those proposed to by the Select Board) to the 2020 warrant. The Select Board has already done an outstanding job finding ways to save during difficult financial times.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Mattson Dustin
517 Dustin Road

2. Mr. Moderator:

Here are my responses relative to the Warrant as presented and discussed via the Zoom meeting on July 20,2020.

1. For any discussion on Articles 5,6, and 7, address each Article individually. Do not consolidate them, as was done on July 20. Consolidation makes understanding and addressing difficult.
2. Hold speakers to the set time limit. Also, as has been custom at past in-person Town Meetings, instruct speakers to present new thoughts, comments, etc., and not to repeat information, comments, questions presented by previous speakers.
3. Has Town Counsel determined how the BOS is to present article amendments on the ballot? Must all be listed? In what order? If not, all must be listed, how will BOS select which will?

Arnold C. Coda
400 Gould Hill Road
Hopkinton NH 03229

3. Hello Mr. Moderator,

I am writing to support the proposed town budget as well as looking into selling the Bates building. I am not in favor of SB2.

Thank you for all the hard work you and the Select Board and Neal have done. You are all appreciated! Neal, could you please forward my message to the Select Board. Thank you!

Elizabeth Sides
265 Crowell Rd

Article 3: Bond Issue for Road, Bridge, and Culvert Rehabilitation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$2,200,000 (gross budget) for the planning, design, rehabilitation, and construction of existing town roads, bridges, and culverts, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,200,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

(2/3 Ballot vote required).

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

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

ARTICLE 3 – Comment/Amendments**Comments:**

- Submitted by:
Scott Zipke
188 West Ridge Circle

It is unconscionable to me that the town select board is asking for a 2nd road bond of approximately \$2mil within 4 years of the initial bond - all during the time of massive upheaval with the school budget. These two budgets do NOT live in vacuums, incomparable to each other. Fact of the matter is that this road bond will increase my tax rate by about 30 cents for just a handful of road repairs while the ENTIRE (pared down) school budget would increase my tax rate by only about 7 cents.

To ask for, or to vote for, fixing of culverts to the tune of millions of dollars when the townspeople refuse to fund even a very basic and pared down school operating budget is the height of hypocrisy.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Zipke

- Mr Moderator,

I find it mind-boggling, unfathomable, and sad that Hopkinton has reached a situation where we are proposing a zero-year solution for our schools, while at the same time proposing a 100-year solution for our road culverts.

Josh Kattf
Moran Rd.

Amendments:

- Mr. Moderator:

Here are my responses relative to the Warrant as presented and discussed via the Zoom meeting on July 20,2020.

- Even without the report titled "A Status Hopkinton's Roads (Update 1.20.20 dbh)" and that contains Dan Blanchette's information, it is evident that a number of Town roads are badly in need of repair and/or rebuilding. The Town has deferred addressing the need for years. We now are at the point that need can no longer be ignored. In considering a bond issue, we need additional information:

- Some roads require complete reconstruction that includes drainage work. Gould Hill Road is prime example of this situation. Yet, the referenced report does not specify "reconstruction" or

- drainage. There is the category “RECLAIM AND REBUILD”. The BOS needs to explain what that means. Is needed drainage included?
- b. The review of roads and cost estimates now are some 9 months old. Should they be updated? Should the Town retain a consultant for this work?
- c. Is our DPW is equipped to do some/all the work. Moreover, it has and will have other work and projects to undertake. Will it have time to undertake the listed work. Is the work going to be bid to road contractors? All or some?

- 2. I present two amendments to Article 3 and request that both be presented to voters on the ballot:
 - a. I move to amend Article 3 as follows: Increase the amount to be bonded by \$3,200,000, with the total then being \$5,000,000.
 - b. I move to amend Article 3 as follows: Increase the amount to be bonded by \$400,000, with the total then being \$2,200,000.

Arnold C. Coda
 400 Gould Hill Road
 Hopkinton NH 03229

Ms. Wells stated that she did not think the comments concerning the school were wrong. Given the need for the roads and the concern for the taxpayers, the \$1.8 million bond seems to be the appropriate middle ground. Mr. Traum noted that the Budget Committee has approved the \$1.8 million amount. The Board noted that there were many comments last fall about the state of the roads and the need for improvement. It was also noted that increasing the amount of the bond at this time does not seem to match the concern for the taxpayers while we are in a pandemic. Ms. Wells said she would like to see more in-depth 1, 2, 5-year plan for road work.

Mr. Donohoe moved, and Ms. Wells seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 3 will read:
Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum \$1,800,000 (gross budget) for the planning, design, rehabilitation, and construction of existing town roads, bridges, and culverts, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,800,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.
(2/3 Ballot vote required) (Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend this article)

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

It was noted that this article will be on its own ballot that will go into a separate ballot box as required by RSA 33:8-a, II.

Article 4: Adoption of Official Ballot Referendum Form of Meeting

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Hopkinton on the second Tuesday of March?

(By Petition).

(3/5 Ballot vote required).

(The Select Board does not recommend this article (5-0)).

ARTICLE 4 – Comments/Amendments

Comments:

1. Dear Mr. Ellsworth:

My name is Patricia Sangillo and I live at 8 Winter Drive in The Meadows in Contoocook NH. I attended last night's Virtual Town Meeting via YouTube.

Regarding SB2 I am against it. However, I also sympathize with the elderly and disabled being unable to endure the length of our face-to-face town meetings. Next year would it be possible to have a hybrid meeting (face-to-face with live streaming)? I realize the issue would be how those on stream would then vote—but we have a year to figure that out. Also, under the current statutes, would NH state law allow such a meeting—with or without the ability to vote?

Thank you for a well-run and informative meeting last night.

Blessings,
Pat Sangillo

The language of this article is set by RSA, so no changes were made to the original wording.

Article 5: Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$ 7,703,736 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)).

ARTICLE 5 – Comments/Amendments

Amendments:

1. I am making a **Motion to Amend Article 5:**

Move to reduce the Operating Budget of \$7,703,736 by **\$74,739**, thus removing the Merit Increases completely. The new budget number under this motion would then be **\$7,628,997**.

Given that many of our townspeople have lost or have seen a severe reduction in income, it hardly seems fair to grant raises to town employees. Most industries have either eliminated raises or have given only a token raise (1%).

Kind Regards,
Judi Case
1030 Briar Hill Road
Hopkinton NH 03229

The Board noted that they had presented an operating budget amount of \$7,520,656 on Monday as part of their plan to have a level town portion of the tax rate in 2020. The proposed amendment is above the Board recommended amount.

The Board had an extensive discussion on the Merit Raise line in the budget. It was noted that the raises have already been given and there was consensus that they should not be changed at this time. It was noted that as the 2021 budget is prepared this will all be taken into consideration.

Mr. Donohoe moved, and Ms. Wells seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 5 will read:

**Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$7,520,656 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.
(The Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend this article)**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Article 6: Appropriation to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$819,000 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

Police/Fire Radio Replacement	\$ 12,000
New & Replacement Equip. & Vehicles for Public Works & Highway Dept.	235,000
Road/Bridge Rehabilitation	100,000
Police Vehicle Replacement	27,000
Town Hall Renovations	12,500
Replacement & Equipping of Ambulance	75,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions	277,500
Library Building Systems	20,000
Recreation Facilities	20,000
Sewer Equipment/Sludge Removal	30,000
Dam Maintenance and Construction	10,000
TOTAL	\$ 819,000

(Majority vote required).

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

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

ARTICLE 6 – Comments/Amendments

Comments:

- 1. Good morning. I have a question on **Article 6**: Should the town vote against selling the Bates Building, would the \$12,500 listed for Town Hall Renovations still be needed?

Kind Regards,
 Judi Case
 1030 Briar Hill Road
 Hopkinton NH 03229

- 2. Mr. Moderator:

Here are my responses relative to the Warrant as presented and discussed via the Zoom meeting on July 20,2020.

C. Article 6: Appropriation to Capital Reserve Funds for Library Building Systems, \$20,000

Library Director Donna Dunlap has given me the list of items included in this request. I believe that these items should have been included in work done after the lightning strike fire, whether or not they were covered by insurance recovery. There were generous contributions from citizens toward costs at that time. Quite possibly, contributors would have kicked in another \$20,000. If so, there would not be a tax burden now. Please have the BOS address this Article with specificity.

Arnold C. Coda
 400 Gould Hill Road
 Hopkinton NH 03229

It was noted that Town Hall Renovation has already been removed from the Select Board recommended amount as presented on Monday evening as part of the Board plan to have the town portion of the tax rate remain level in 2020. Also, the library did receive donations during the renovation process after the fire, but those funds have now been completely used.

Mr. Whitley moved, and Mr. Traum seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 6 will read:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$676,500 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

- Police/Fire Radio Replacement - \$12,000**
- New & Replcment Equip. & Vehicles for Public Works & Highway Dept. - \$200,000**
- Road/Bridge Rehabilitation - \$30,000**
- Police Vehicle Replacement - \$27,000**
- Replacement & Equipping of Ambulance - \$75,000**
- Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions - \$262,500**
- Library Building System - \$20,000**
- Recreation Facilities - \$20,000**
- Sewer Equipment/Sludge Removal - \$30,000**

(The Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend this article)

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Article 7: Appropriation to Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,500 to be added to previously established Expendable Trust Funds as follows:

Library Building & Grounds	\$ 41,000
Town Facilities Maintenance	25,000
Recreation Facilities	<u>5,500</u>
TOTAL	\$ 71,500

(Majority vote required).

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

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

ARTICLE 7 – Comments/Amendments

Comments:

1. Mr. Moderator:

Here are my responses relative to the Warrant as presented and discussed via the Zoom meeting on July 20,2020.

D. Article 7: Appropriation to Expendable Trust Funds for Library Building and Grounds, \$41,000

Per Director Dunlop, this is for re-staining the exterior. The exterior has not been done since original construction in 1998. Why? This is akin to Town roads not being maintained routinely. Is there no plan for routine maintenance - staining/painting, included? Is there such a plan now?

Arnold C. Coda
 400 Gould Hill Road
 Hopkinton NH 03229

The painting of the library is included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Traum moved, and Mr. Donohoe seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 7 will read:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,500 to be added to previously established Expendable Trust Funds as follows:

Library Building & Grounds - \$41,000

Town Facilities Maintenance - \$25,000

Recreation Facilities - \$5,500

(The Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend this article)

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Article 8: Authorization to Sell the Bates Building

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell the Bates Building (Former Bates Library) at 846 Main Street, identified on the Town Tax Maps at Map 101, Lot 085-000, with sufficient land; further, that the Select Board shall be authorized to sell such lot upon such terms and conditions which they deem to be in the best interest of the Town and as determined by the Probate Court.

(Majority vote required).

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

ARTICLE 8 – Authorization to Sell the Bates Building

Comments:

1. Hi Bruce

Listening to the discussion last night, I am convinced there are very few people that want to see the Bates Building sold. There is really no viable plan to replace the vault for the Town Records, and we do not have a good solution for the Town Clerk/ Tax collector office. The Town Hall is not a suitable building to transform into a modern office building, and what has already been done has ruined the historical value of the building. Parking is not suitable with using the side of Main St. especially in the winter. The Town Clerk has asked to be moved back to the Bates Building several times, but the Select Board ignores her issues. The supervisors of the checklist need a place to work, and keep their records, which is not available in the Town Hall. I think we need to listen to the people that are going to be affected, not people that just want to see a change.

I urge you and the Select Board to pass over this article for now, and let the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector, Supervisors of The Checklist, and the Historical Records Committee work on a solution for these issues. My idea , next year is to plan ahead and start saving for a new Town Office building, starting a Capitol Reserve Fund, and within a few years build a modern office building with a concrete/steel vault for the records, and an energy efficient building that would serve this town for years to come. The ideal location would be in the open field in front of the Library on Houston Drive, where there is plenty of room for both building and parking.

This issue came about due to REACTION instead of being PROACTIVE to an issue, and in my mind has caused a lot of problems that were not thought thru.

Other than this, I want to tell you that you seem to have adapted to the new and improved way of conducting town meeting, which proves an old saying isn't always true, "that you can't teach an old dog new tricks"! Enjoy your retirement!

Thank you

Lester Cressy
341 Park Ave
Contoocook NH 03229

2. Dear Mr. Ellsworth:

My name is Patricia Sangillo and I live at 8 Winter Drive in The Meadows in Contoocook NH. I attended last night's Virtual Town Meeting via YouTube.

Article 8

Even though I am not in favor of selling the Bates building at this time, regarding the secure storage of the Town's archival materials:

Is it possible to build a fireproof vault somewhere in the new Hopkinton Library building? Since the new library is on a hill and if it has a basement and the basement is beneath the hill, would it be easier to put a secure vault there?

Thank you for a well-run and informative meeting last night.

Blessings,
Pat Sangillo

3. Mr. Moderator, my name is Roland Dubois, 146 Penacook Road, Contoocook. I have the following comments related to Warrant Article 8.

1. A commenter at the recent zoom meeting suggested that the Town of Hopkinton owns a number of properties in addition to the Bates building that could potentially be sold to generate revenue, without impacting existing Town uses. Such properties may have been acquired through donation, or as a result of non-payment of taxes, or otherwise. Aside from the property adjacent to Kimball Pond that is currently rented, and the Kimball cabins and associated land, please identify these properties, if they exist, and explain if there is a particular reason why the Select Board has focused on selling the Bates building rather than these other properties.

2. Historically, the High School and Columbia Hall, together with the Bates building and the Fire Station, represented a considerable Town presence in the center of downtown Contoocook. With two of these four buildings now gone, the Bates building takes on added importance for the Town. The building could be put to myriad beneficial uses in the future as the Town develops. The potential uses are not all knowable at this time, but the building can and should be retained by the Town as a strategically-located resource that can be adapted to future needs.

4. Mr. Moderator:

Here are my responses relative to the Warrant as presented and discussed via the Zoom meeting on July 20,2020.

Do not sell the building until there is a secure and totally fireproof area, whether a vault or room, for storage of records currently existing and future records that are required to be kept and those the Town wishes to keep. Is there NH statute that defines requirements for such a space?

Arnold C. Coda
400 Gould Hill Road
Hopkinton NH 03229

5. Ralph Case

1030 Briar Hill Road
Hopkinton, NH 03229

Regarding Article 8, I would like more financial information to make an informed decision on authorizing the sale of the Bates Building.

What is the current financial impact to the town of carrying the building?

- Annual operating and other expenses

- Rent and other income received

What is the expected financial impact from the sale?

- Net proceeds from the sale
- Costs associate with the sale (subdivision, etc.) and with adapting to continuing town business without the building (moving the safe, finding other spaces for meetings, etc.)

Thank you

6. Mr Moderator: I would like to ask that Article 8 be tabled by the Selectman. There is a lack of planning both at Bates and the Town Hall. The building was given to the town and a very well-constructed vault was built for all of the valuable old records of the Town. If the property is subdivided and sold it also eliminates parking spaces used by the events in the village and the churches.

It is time to stop chopping up our beautiful Town Hall and put the offices back, so they are accessible not squeeze more into the building.

Sue Strickford
801 Main Street

The Select Board reviewed the comments received and discussed those given at the Monday evening meeting. It was noted that Town Counsel has said that articles cannot be tabled, so action must be taken on the article. The Board discussed the following items:

- The archive storage is a huge issue, but not an insurmountable one.
- It seems clear that people either want to move forward or want to keep the building and there is no real compromise that would work.
- Mr. Traum said at a minimum the Board should vote on whether to recommend the article.
- Mr. Donohoe said that the article gives permission to sell and the Board would not do this until all the issues are worked out. No Board member want to put the archives in jeopardy.
- There was agreement that a good solution for the archives and a space for the Supervisors of the Checklist is needed, and that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector will remain at the Town Hall.
- Renovations are needed at the Town Hall no matter what, and the sale of the Bates Building is the best way to help fund this.

Mr. Traum suggested that the article be amended to reflect the need to solve the archive and Supervisor of the Checklist issue. The Board discussed this and came to a consensus.

Mr. Traum moved, and Ms. Wells seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 8 will read:
Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to sell the Bates Building (Former Bates Library) at 846 Main Street, identified on the Town Tax Maps at Map 101, Lot 085-000, with sufficient land; further, that the Select Board shall be authorized to sell such lot upon such terms and conditions which they deem to be in the best interest of the Town and as determined by the Probate Court, and provided adequate accommodations can be made for the safe storage of the Town Archives and adequate space can be provided for the Supervisors of the Checklist, as determined in the sole discretion of the Select Board, in consultation with the Town Archives Committee and the Supervisors of the Checklist. (The Select Board Recommends this article)

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

There were not comments on Articles 9, 10, and 11 so the Board reviewed them together.

Article 9: Modification of Elderly Exemptions

Shall the Town modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hopkinton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65-74 years of age, \$120,000; for a person 75-79 years of age, \$145,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$170,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

(Majority Vote Required).

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

Article 10: Adoption of Disabled Exemption

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$100,000. To qualify the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled, have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, and own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. The exemption may apply only to property that is occupied as the principal place of abode of the disabled person. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

(Majority Vote Required).

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

Article 11: Modification of Optional Service-Connected Total Disability

Shall the Town modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:35 optional tax credit on residential property for a Service-Connected Total Disability by increasing the amount of the credit to \$4,000? This tax credit is only available to a person who has been honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from the military service of the United States and who has total and permanent service-connected disability, or who is a double amputee or paraplegic because of service-connected injury, or the surviving spouse of such a person. This tax credit may be applied only to property which is occupied as the principal place of abode by the disabled person or the surviving spouse.

(Majority Vote Required).

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

Mr. Whitley moved, and Mr. Donohoe seconded a motion that the ballot questions for Articles 9, 10, and 11 will read:

Article 9 - Modification of Elderly Exemptions

Shall the Town modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hopkinton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65-74 years of age, \$120,000; for a person 75-79 years of age, \$145,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$170,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person’s spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person’s residence.

(The Select Board Recommends this article)

Article 10 - Adoption of Disabled Exemption

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$100,000. To qualify the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled, have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, and own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person’s spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. The exemption may apply only to property that is occupied as the principal place of abode of the disabled person. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person’s residence.

(The Select Board Recommends this article)

Article 11 - Modification of Optional Service-Connected Total Disability

Shall the Town modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:35 optional tax credit on residential property for a Service-Connected Total Disability by increasing the amount of the credit to \$4,000? This tax credit is only available to a person who has been honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from the military service of the United States and who has total and permanent service-connected disability, or who is a double amputee or paraplegic because of service-connected injury, or the surviving spouse of such a person. This tax credit may be applied only to property which is occupied as the principal place of abode by the disabled person or the surviving spouse.

(The Select Board Recommends this article)

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Article 12: Modification of Solar Exemption

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property’s assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value up to \$25,000 of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes.

(Majority Vote Required).

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

ARTICLE 12 – Comments/Amendments

Amendments:

1. Gary Garvin, 515 Bound Tree Road

Dear Mr. Moderator,

After listening to Steven Whitney’s presentation of Article 12: Modification of Solar Exemption, at the Zoom meeting Monday evening, I question why the Select Board would be increasing the tax exemption for solar energy systems. I was under the impression that many town budgets were cut or reduced this year due to the uncertainty of taxpayers’ ability to pay property taxes. If the tax exemption for solar installations increases, it means the tax rate will have to rise to make up the difference. I do understand that the original exemption may be low, but increasing it to a value of five times greater seems excessive and unfair to tax payers who may not be able install solar due to location/lack of sun exposure or price of installing a system. In order to help those who have already invested or are planning to install a solar energy system, I would like to make a motion to amend Article 12 to increase the exemption from \$5000 to \$10,000. The Article would read as follows:

Article 12: Modification of Solar Exemption

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property’s assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value up to \$10,000 of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes.

It would also be helpful to know how many taxpayers have applied for the solar energy system exemption. With that information a tax impact could be figured before and after a modification to the warrant article passes.

Candie Garvin, 515 Bound Tree Road seconded the motion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Garvin

The Board reviewed the proposed amendment. Given the times we are in, adopting the proposed amendment is consistent with other changes that have been made. It is more affordable and is still a doubling of the exemption.

Mr. Whitley moved, and Mr. Traum seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 12 will read:

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property’s assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount

**equal to 100% of the assessed value up to \$10,000 of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes.
(The Select Board Recommends this article)**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Article 13: Modify LUCT Percentage Allocated to Conservation Fund

To see if the Town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5. III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the town meeting.

(Majority Vote Required).

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

ARTICLE 13 – Comments/Amendments

Amendments:

1. Hi Bruce. I would like to propose the following amendment to Article 13: in place of “100%”, substitute “50%”.

Thank you.
Mark Zankel
485 Crowell Road
Hopkinton, NH 03229

The Board discussed this, and the amendment was determined to be a good compromise.

Ms. Dunlap moved, and Mr. Whitley seconded a motion that the ballot question for Article 13 will read:

**Shall the Town authorize 50% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5. III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the town meeting.
(The Select Board Recommends this article)**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes

Donohoe Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

There were no comments on article 14-17 and the Board recommended no changes so the four articles were addressed together.

Article 14: Clarifying Amendment to Hart's Corner TIF District Plan

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hart's Corner Tax Increment Finance District and Plan of 2018 as presented at Public Hearing on February 18, 2020 and posted. The amendment clarifies that development may include multi-family residential development.

(Majority Vote Required).

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

Article 15: Authorization to Expend from Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 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)).

Article 16: Authorization to Expend from Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,380 for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser 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)).

Article 17: New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Districting

To see if the Town will urge that the New Hampshire General Court which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular parties or candidates.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the town of Hopkinton's state legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

(By Petition).

(Majority vote required).

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

Mr. Whitley moved, and Mr. Donohoe seconded a motion that the ballot questions for Articles 14, 15, 16, and 17 will read:

Article 14 - Clarifying Amendment to Hart's Corner TIF District Plan

Shall the Town amend the Hart’s Corner Tax Increment Finance District and Plan of 2018 as presented at Public Hearing on February 18, 2020 and posted. The amendment clarifies that development may include multi-family residential development.

(The Select Board Recommends this article)

Article 15 - Authorization to Expend from Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 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.

(The Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend this article).

Article 16 - Authorization to Expend from Slusser Center Rental Special Revenue Fund

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,380 for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Center with said funds to come from the Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.

(The Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend this article)

Article 17 - New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Districting

Shall the Town urge that the New Hampshire General Court which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular parties or candidates.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the town of Hopkinton’s state legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

(By Petition). (The Select Board Recommends this article).

The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Chair Dunlap thanked all those who commented and weighed in on the articles. She reviewed the process for the rest of the week with a Zoom meeting on Friday evening, and voting on Saturday.

Bruce Ellsworth the Town Moderator reviewed the process for the Friday meeting with the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Traum moved to adjourned, seconded by Mr. Donohoe. The roll call vote was as follows:

Dunlap	Yes
Traum	Yes
Whitley	Yes
Wells	Yes
Donohoe	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal A. Cass, Town Administrator