

***NOTE:** Select Board proposed changes to these Warrant Articles is attached at the end of this original Warrant

**Town of Hopkinton
New Hampshire
Warrant 2020**

To the inhabitants of the TOWN OF HOPKINTON in the county of Merrimack in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING DAY: You are hereby notified to meet at the Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium, 297 Park Avenue, Contoocook, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, beginning at 7:00 a.m. to act on Articles 1 and 2, the election of officers and zoning amendments. **The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

BUSINESS SESSION: You are hereby notified to meet at the Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium, 297 Park Avenue, Contoocook, on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. to act upon Articles 3 to 18.

Article 1: Election of Officers

To choose all necessary town officers by ballot and majority vote for the ensuing year as enumerated:

2 Select Board Members	3 Year Term
1 Moderator	2 Year Term
1 Treasurer	3 Year Term
1 Supervisor of the Checklist	6 Year Term
2 Budget Committee Members	3 Year Term
2 Library Trustees	3 Year Term
1 Cemetery Trustee	3 Year Term
1 Trustee of Trust Funds	3 Year Term

Article 2: Zoning Amendments

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 questions:

1. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 1** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, changing Table of Uses 3.6.A.3 Multi-Family Dwelling, 3.6.A.7 Congregate Care Housing, 3.6.D.3 Year-Round Greenhouse or Farm Stand, 3.6.E.3 Childcare Daycare Nursery, Childcare Group Daycare Center, Childcare Preschool Program, and Childcare School-Age Program, 3.6.E.5 Non-Profit Lodges, Fraternal and Membership Organizations, 3.6.E.10 Non-

Profit Country, Hunting, Fishing, Tennis, or Golf Club without Liquor License, 3.6.F.16 Indoor and Outdoor for Profit Recreation Establishment or Clubs, and 3.6.F.21 Self-Service Storage Facility from a use permitted by special exception to a permitted use in the B-1 (Commercial) district.

Yes No

2. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 2** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, changing Table of Uses 3.6.A.8 Affordable Housing and 3.6.C.3 Commercial Riding Stables and Riding Trails from a non-permitted use to a permitted use in the B-1 (Commercial) district:

Yes No

3. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 3** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, changing Table of Uses 3.6.A.2 Two-Family Dwelling and 3.6.F.20 Adult Uses from a use permitted by special exception to a non-permitted use in the B-1 (Commercial) district.

Yes No

4. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 4** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, changing Table of Uses 3.6.C.5 Recreational Camping/Tenting Parks and Recreational Camping Vehicles from a non-permitted use to a use permitted by special exception in the B-1 (Commercial) district.

Yes No

5. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 5** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend Section III Establishment of Districts and Uses, Table of Uses 3.6.G.10 by omitting the comma in words Laundry, Dry Cleaning Plant, so that it now reads Laundry Dry Cleaning Plant, and to change the use from permitted by special exception to non-permitted in the B-1 (Commercial) district.

Yes No

6. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 6** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopkinton, New Hampshire by rezoning from M-1 (Industrial) to B-1 (Commercial) land located near Rowell Bridge, along Maple Street (Route 127), shown on Tax Map 210 as Lots 18, 18.01, 19, 19.01, 20, 21, 24, 25.1, 25.2 and 26.

Yes No

7. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 7** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Hopkinton, New Hampshire by rezoning from M-1 (Industrial) to B-1 (Commercial) land located near the Henniker/Hopkinton Town Line, along Maple Street (Route 127) and Route 202/9, shown on Tax Map 210 as Lot 3 and Tax Map 211 as Lots 7, 8, 9 and 9.01.

Yes No

8. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 8** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend the Zoning Ordinance by inserting a new Section XIX entitled Commerce and Community Overlay District (CCOD). The overlay district is to include properties located near the Henniker/Hopkinton Town Line, along Maple Street (Route 127) and 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 require changing the numerical sequence of the remaining sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

Yes No

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 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 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 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 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	5,500
TOTAL	\$ 71,500

(Majority vote required).

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

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

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 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)).

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 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 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)).

Article 18: Other Legal Business

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands and seal this 18th day of February 2020,

We certify and attest that on or before February 24, 2020, a true and attested copy of this Warrant was posted at the place of meeting and at the Town Hall, made available on the town website, and the original was delivered to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector.




Jim O'Brien, Chair



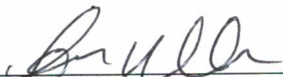
Ken Traum, Vice Chair



Sabrina Dunlap



Steven Whitley



Anna Wells

Select Board, Hopkinton, New Hampshire

Attest:



Jim O'Brien, Chair



Ken Traum, Vice Chair



Sabrina Dunlap



Steven Whitley



Anna Wells

Select Board, Hopkinton, New Hampshire

Select Board-Proposed Changes to its Originally Proposed Warrant

Given these times and the fact that the Town has more complete information available now that it is more than 6 months through its fiscal year, the Select Board has voted to support adjusting several of its originally proposed Warrant Articles. These adjustments lower the proposed amounts to maintain a level town portion of the tax rate in 2020. The proposal now estimates an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes of \$63,568 (1.31%) which is offset by the new buildings added to the tax rolls during the last year, *meaning that the estimated town tax rate remains \$6.25 per \$1000, the same as in 2019.*

The proposed changes to the original Articles are available in detail on the Town Meeting page of the Town website (<https://bit.ly/HopkintonTownMeeting-Information>), and are summarized here:

- **Article 3 - Road Bond** – The Select Board proposes a bond in the amount of \$1,800,000, a decrease of \$400,000 from the original proposal of \$2,200,000. This decrease is due to the replacement of the Kearsarge Avenue culvert coming in below budget and being able to be paid for out of the operating budget. The bond, if passed, does not affect the 2020 tax rate but will affect the tax rate beginning in 2021 (estimated to be approximately \$_.32/\$1000 in 2021).
- **Article 5 – Operating Budget** – The Select Board now proposes an Operating Budget of \$7,520,646, a decrease of \$183,090 from the amount originally proposed (\$7,703,736). This decrease is obtained by cuts to the originally proposed operating budget. These cuts came from almost every department. They also came from obtaining a favorable price for oil and electricity, and a lower than expected increase in health insurance premiums.
- **Article 6 – Capital Reserve Funds (CRF)** - Decreased from the original proposal of \$819,000 by \$142,500, the Select Board proposes an appropriation of \$676,500 to be placed in Capital Reserve Funds. The proposed decreases for this year’s CRF are as follows: the Road and Bridge CRF (\$70,000); the Fire Vehicle Replacement CRF (\$15,000 due to securing a “demo” fire truck); the Highway Vehicle Replacement CRF (\$35,000 by receiving an excellent price on a loader); Town Hall Renovation CRF (\$12,500 down to \$0); and the Dam Maintenance CRF (\$10,000).
- **Article 13 – Modify Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Percentage to Conservation Fund** - Currently, 35% of the revenue from the LUCT goes to the Conservation Fund. Originally, the Select Board proposed increasing that amount to 100%, thereby decreasing the amount of revenue received in the General Fund by approximately \$15,000. While supportive of the concept, the Select Board determined that this year is not the year to make this change and voted to table this Article, so the Select Board recommends the amount from the LUCT going to the Conservation Fund remain at 35%.

The Select Board also decreased the amount to be used from the Undesignated Fund Balance from the originally proposed amount of \$350,000 to \$315,000 to leave more available in 2021 to offset taxes in anticipation of another difficult budgeting year.