



TOWN OF HAWLEY
 MASSACHUSETTS 01339

TOWN OFFICE:
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Hawley
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
Monday, May 13, 2024

FRANKLIN SS:

To George Rice, Constable of the Town of Hawley, GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Hawley qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Hawley Town Office in said Hawley on Monday, the thirteenth day of May, 2024, at seven o'clock in the evening to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To act on the reports of the Town Officers, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of the following offices of the Town as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Salaries to be voted on are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Chairman of Selectboard | 2,060.00 |
| Selectboard members (2) | 1,845.00 |
| Town Clerk | 9,475.00 |
| Chairman of Assessors | 1,495.00 |
| Assessors members (2) | 1,275.00 |
| Auditor | 135.00 |
| Moderator | 135.00 |

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following non-school general operation appropriations, or take any other action in relation thereto. Total for Article 3 is **\$614,292.45**. (This budget can be voted on in its entirety; by Department; or by line. Any balances remaining in these appropriations will close to Surplus Revenue at the end of the year).

| <u>line #</u> | <u>Department/Acct Name</u> | <u>FY24 Budget</u> | <u>FY25 Proposed</u> | <u>% change</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Moderator | 130.00 | 135.00 | 3.85% |
| 2 | Salaries & wages | 130.00 | 135.00 | 3.85% |
| 3 | Board of Selectmen | 26,840.00 | 26,890.00 | 0.19% |
| 4 | Salaries & wages | 21,030.00 | 21,665.00 | 3.02% |
| 5 | Expenses | 3,560.00 | 3,575.00 | 0.42% |
| 6 | Drug & Alcohol testing | 500.00 | 400.00 | -0.20% |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 7 | Legal Service (see art. 10) | 500.00 | | |
| 8 | Town Reports | 750.00 | 750.00 | 0.00% |
| 9 | Board of Health expenses | 500.00 | 500.00 | 0.00% |
| 10 | Finance Committee | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00% |
| 11 | Expenses | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00% |
| 12 | Town Auditor | 130.00 | 135.00 | 3.85% |
| 13 | Salaries & wages | 130.00 | 135.00 | 3.85% |
| 14 | Board of Assessors | 13,530.00 | 14,145.00 | 4.55% |
| 15 | Salaries & wages | 3,930.00 | 4,045.00 | 2.93% |
| 16 | Expenses | 9,600.00 | 10,100.00 | 5.21% |
| 17 | Treasurer | 45,090.00 | 46,350.00 | 2.79% |
| 18 | Salaries & wages | 42,180.00 | 43,450.00 | 3.01% |
| 19 | Expenses | 2,910.00 | 2,900.00 | -0.34% |
| 20 | Collector | 10,408.01 | 11,292.00 | 8.49% |
| 21 | Salaries & wages | 7,010.00 | 7,220.00 | 3.00% |
| 22 | Expenses | 3,398.01 | 4,072.00 | 19.83% |
| 23 | Technology/Internet | 6,000.00 | 3,100.00 | -48.33% |
| 24 | Expenses | 6,000.00 | 3,100.00 | -48.33% |
| 25 | Town Clerk | 11,100.00 | 13,975.00 | 25.90% |
| 26 | Salaries & wages | 10,200.00 | 12,475.00 | 22.30% |
| 27 | Expenses | 900.00 | 1,500.00 | 66.67% |
| 28 | Town Buildings | 8,775.00 | 8,875.00 | 1.14% |
| 29 | Purchased Services | 750.00 | 750.00 | 0.00% |
| 30 | Repairs & Maintenance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| 31 | Expenses | 8,025.00 | 8,125.00 | 1.25% |
| 32 | Employee Benefits | 73,539.00 | 77,968.00 | 6.02% |
| 33 | Insurance | 33,237.00 | 36,200.00 | 8.91% |
| 34 | Retirement | 40,302.00 | 41,768.00 | 3.64% |
| 35 | Sick Pay fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| 36 | Police Department | 1,510.00 | 1,550.00 | 2.65% |
| 37 | Salaries & wages | 1,260.00 | 1,300.00 | 3.17% |
| 38 | Expenses | 250.00 | 250.00 | 0.00% |
| 39 | Fire Department | 38,160.00 | 43,790.00 | 14.75% |
| 40 | Salaries & wages | 7,710.00 | 7,940.00 | 2.98% |
| 41 | Purchased Services | 3,100.00 | 3,100.00 | 0.00% |
| 42 | Repairs & Maintenance | 7,750.00 | 9,750.00 | 25.81% |
| 43 | Expenses | 8,200.00 | 8,300.00 | 1.22% |
| 44 | EMS | 10,500.00 | 13,500.00 | 28.57% |
| 45 | Capital outlay | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 0.00% |

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 46 | Emergency Mgmt | 1,355.00 | 1,390.00 | 2.58% |
| 47 | Salaries & wages | 1,105.00 | 1,140.00 | 3.17% |
| 48 | Purchased Services | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00% |
| 49 | Expenses | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00% |
| 50 | Franklin Reg Co of Govts | 11,014.00 | 10,838.00 | -1.60% |
| 51 | FRCOG Assessments | 11,014.00 | 10,838.00 | -1.60% |
| 52 | DPW - Highway | 274,900.00 | 279,550.00 | 1.69% |
| 53 | Salaries & wages | 147,700.00 | 153,000.00 | 3.59% |
| 54 | Repairs & Maintenance | 48,000.00 | 47,000.00 | -2.08% |
| 55 | Expenses - Roads | 72,500.00 | 72,500.00 | 0.00% |
| 56 | Expenses - Garage | 4,700.00 | 5,050.00 | 7.45% |
| 57 | DPW Capital Outlay | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| 58 | Care of Cemeteries | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00% |
| 59 | Solid Waste | 26,852.00 | 28,402.00 | 5.77% |
| 60 | Expenses | 26,852.00 | 28,402.00 | 5.77% |
| 61 | Animal Inspector | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00% |
| 62 | Expenses | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00% |
| 63 | Animal Control Officer | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00% |
| 64 | Expenses | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00% |
| 65 | Veterans Services | 3,050.00 | 3,157.45 | 3.52% |
| 66 | District assessment | 950.00 | 1,007.45 | 6.05% |
| 67 | Veterans Benefits | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00% |
| 68 | Veterans expenses | 100.00 | 150.00 | 50.00% |
| 69 | Boards, Committees | 4,350.00 | 3,400.00 | -21.84% |
| 70 | Conservation Comm Expenses | 500.00 | 150.00 | -70.00% |
| 71 | Planning Board Expenses | 1,000.00 | 400.00 | -60.00% |
| 72 | Zoning Bd of Appeals Expenses | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00% |
| 73 | Council on Aging - Grant match | 400.00 | 400.00 | 0.00% |
| 74 | Tyler Memorial Library | 2,400.00 | 2,400.00 | 0.00% |
| 75 | Unclassified | 35,650.00 | 38,900.00 | 9.12% |
| 76 | Prop & Liability insurance | 27,500.00 | 30,000.00 | 9.09% |
| 77 | Surety bonds | 900.00 | 900.00 | 0.00% |
| 78 | Mass. Unemployment | 750.00 | 500.00 | -33.33% |
| 79 | FICA/Medicare | 6,500.00 | 7,500.00 | 0.00% |
| 80 | TOTAL | \$592,833.01 | 614,292.45 | 3.62% |

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following school general operation appropriations, or take any other action in relation thereto. Total for Article 4 is **\$606,958.00**. (This budget can be voted on in its entirety; by Department; or by line. Any balances remaining in these appropriations will close to Surplus Revenue at the end of the year).

| line # | Department/Acct Name | FY24 Budget | FY25 Proposed | % Change |
|--------|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 79 | School - Vocational | 96,000.00 | 104,500.00 | -6.80% |
| 80 | Transportation | 46,000.00 | 40,000.00 | -13.04% |
| 81 | Tuition | 60,000.00 | 64,500.00 | 7.50% |
| | (note: additional \$20,000 from Stabilization for tuition) | | | |
| 82 | School - Hawlemont | 291,668.00 | 255,999.00 | -12.23% |
| 83 | Operating assessment | 282,969.00 | 255,999.00 | -12.23% |
| 84 | Transportation | 8,699.00 | | |
| 84 | Capital outlay | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| | (note: Transportation included in FY25 Operating) | | | |
| 85 | School - MTRSD | 206,950.00 | 246,459.00 | 19.09% |
| 86 | Operating assessment | 188,477.00 | 241,551.00 | 19.53% |
| 87 | Transportation | 13,603.00 | | |
| 88 | Capital outlay | 4,870.00 | 4,908.00 | 0.78% |
| | (note: Transportation included in FY25 Operating) | | | |
| 89 | TOTAL | \$594,618.00 | \$606,958.00 | 2.08% |

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Vocational Stabilization Fund to the FY25 Vocational Expenses account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide \$773 for capital projects at Mohawk Trail Regional School, such funds to be used to upgrade telephone infrastructure to support enhanced 911 emergency communications at such school, including costs incidental or related thereto. Said sum is to be expended under the approval of the School Committee's Building Subcommittee.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to carry forward any balance in the FY24 Vocational Tuition and Vocational Transportation accounts to the FY25 respective accounts, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Legal Services account, with any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year to be carried into future years, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the Continuing Education for Town Officials account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to the Assessors Revaluation account, to be used for the FY2025 revaluation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150 for the Internet Access (installation and equipment) account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the Town Building Repair and Maintenance account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the Accrued Sick Pay Fund account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the Highway Department Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the sum of \$10,000 from the Highway Department Stabilization Fund to the DPW Equipment Purchase account for the purchase of a rotary mower, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,000 for the Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,000 for the Independent Audit account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Free Cash to the Fire Department Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Free Cash to the Highway Department Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Free Cash to the Vocational Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to licensing and care of dogs will be deposited into the fund and expended to purchase dog tags; pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other related dog control expenses, under the direction of the Town Clerk, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 will be limited to \$2,000, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept a sum in Chapter 90 road funds available subject to conditions detailed by Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue or grant reimbursement for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, section 4, and to renew any note or notes for the period of less than two years in accordance with provisions of MGL Chapter 44, section 17, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Articles 25-27: The Mohawk Trail Regional School District is presenting three amendments to the district agreement. The purpose of the amendments, in aggregate, is to alter the way each member town's enrollment is counted for the purpose of calculating operating and capital assessments. Currently, assessments are based, in general, on the number of town students who are attending District schools. The proposed amendments would instead use each town's Foundation Enrollment, which includes all students for whom the town is financially responsible under Massachusetts law.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education uses Foundation Enrollment for the purpose of determining all types of enrollment-based education funding, including c.70 state aid to education. Foundation enrollment is also used by many other regional districts as the basis for town assessments. For the full text of these amendments, see the town website or ask for copy at the Town Office.)

The first proposed amendment would base the five-year rolling average enrollment calculation on Foundation Enrollment for the purposes of both operating and capital assessments. It also sets forth the mechanics of the five-year transition period.

The second proposed amendment would apply the switch to the Foundation Enrollment methodology to formulas for determining tuitions paid to the Mohawk Trail District for students attending Mohawk Trail schools under tuition agreements.

The final proposed amendment simply states the effective date for these changes.

Article 28: (Requested by voter petition.) To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution in Support of Changing the Flag and Seal of Massachusetts:

Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts

Whereas the symbolism of the flag and seal of Massachusetts, which show a settler's hand holding a Colonial sword over the head of an Indigenous person, with a Latin motto commonly translated as "She seeks a Quiet Peace under the Sword, but Peace with Liberty" has long been the subject of concern by Indigenous leaders of Massachusetts, who for centuries suffered from wars of conquest, the appropriation of their cultural symbols, loss of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their lifeways;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth, which gave rise to the long chain of warfare and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor, which for the first time brought together Indigenous leaders of the Commonwealth to consult with legislators, historians, and representatives of the Secretary of State and recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, issued its final report in November of 2023, finding that our current flag, seal and motto are causing harm today and need to be totally revised;

Whereas the land area now known as the Town of Hawley shares a rich Native history with modern tribal nations such as the Abenaki, the Mohawk and the Nipmuc, who inhabited this area long before the first colonial settlers arrived, in 1760;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Hawley hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the aforementioned Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, and **in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth** that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Nick Collins and Rep. Antonio Cabral, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on State Administration, and Sen. Paul Mark and Rep. Natalie Blais, with the request that they strongly support the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and advocate for a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

Article 29: To transact any other business that legally may come before the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands this Ninth Day of April 2024.

Williams Cosby Chair
Selectboard, Town of Hawley

Hussain Hamden

Robert MacLean

A true copy. Attest:

George A. Rice, Constable

Date: