

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF HOPKINTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES AND MOTIONS

Monday, October 26, 2026

7:00 PM

**Hopkinton Middle School Auditorium
88 Hayden Rowe**

The Middle School is accessible. If accessibility accommodations/modifications are needed, please contact the Town Manager's office at 508-497-9701 or [complete this form](#) by October 19, 2026.

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ARTICLE: 1 Periodic Charter Review: Report and Recommendations

Sponsor: Charter Review Committee

To hear the Report of the Charter Review Committee, submitted pursuant to Section 8-2 of the Town's Home Rule Charter, and to see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee as set forth in a proposed Charter, copies of which are available for inspection in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Motion (Charter Review Committee): *We move that the Town receive the Report of the Charter Review Committee.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority.

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: The Town Charter requires that a Committee be formed at least once in every ten years to review the Charter and report to Town Meeting any proposed amendments that are determined to be necessary or desirable. A vote to adopt the Charter amendments is anticipated to take place at the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE: 2 Unpaid Bills from Prior Fiscal Years

Sponsor: Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, § 64.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Required Recommendation: Select Board recommends _____.
Appropriation Committee recommends _____.

Motion (Appropriation Committee): *We move that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$7,854.25 (SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS), from Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$8,232.90 (EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY TWO DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS), and from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$720.00 (SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS) for the following bills incurred in a previous year, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 64 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as follows:*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
School	Harrington Heep LLP	\$5,360.20
Finance	FedEx	\$81.30
Finance	Harpers Payroll Services	\$1,145.50
Finance	Pryor Learning	\$94.00
Facilities	Metrowest Drains Inc	\$350.00
Police	Hiller's Cleaners	\$823.25
Sewer	Whitewater	\$8,232.90
Water	Police Detail	\$720.00

Vote Needed: Nine-Tenths Majority.

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: Funds appropriated at Town Meeting for one Fiscal Year cannot be spent on a previous year's expenditures without Town Meeting approval per General Laws Chapter 44, § 64. This article (if approved) would pay for these outstanding bills that are presently known to be unpaid from prior Fiscal Years.

**ARTICLE: 3 FY2026 Supplemental Appropriation and
Transfers**

*Sponsor: Chief Financial
Officer*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to supplement operating budgets and various accounts for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026 for costs associated with the payment of bonds issued in relation to Article 28, *Wood Street Pump Station Improvements*, of the May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting and Article 16, *Hayden Rowe Water Main Replacement*, of the May 7, 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Required Recommendation: Select Board recommends _____.
Appropriation Committee recommends Approval.

Motion (Appropriation Committee): *We move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$29,208 (TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHT DOLLARS) from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to supplement the FY2026 Water Enterprise Fund Operating Budget and transfer a separate sum of \$347,952 (THREE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO DOLLARS) from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to supplement the FY2026 Sewer Enterprise Fund Operating Budget.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: In June 2026, an additional principal and interest payment for

the Hayden Rowe Water Project in the amount of \$56,887.36 was not included in the estimated debt payment schedule. The payment has been made and now requires appropriation from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings. Since there was a residual balance of \$27,680.05, only the difference of \$29,208 needs to be appropriated.

Moreover, in FY26, we paid off a bond issued in 2013. After receiving the payoff notification, it was determined that the bond was solely for Sewer projects, not the general fund. As such, we need to appropriate \$347,952 from the Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings, which includes the debt service amount of \$435,514.89, plus a residual balance.

ARTICLE: 4	FY2027 Supplemental Appropriation and Transfers – Capital Improvements
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Sponsor: Director of Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to supplement operating budgets and various accounts for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2027 for costs associated with following projects:

1. Emergency Water Main Replacement at Claflin Place;
2. Replacement of Filter Screens and Flow Meters at the Fruit Street Wastewater Treatment Facility;
3. Replacement of a Backup Generator at the Wood Street Wastewater Pump Station; and
4. Installation of a Vehicle Undercarriage Pressure Washer at the Department of Public Works Facility.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Required Recommendations: Select Board recommends _____.
Appropriation Committee recommends Approval.
Capital Improvement Committee recommends Approval.

Motion 1 (Appropriation Committee): *We move that the Town vote to transfer from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings \$102,500 (ONE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS) to cover costs associated with the emergency water main replacement at Claflin Place; said sum to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager.*

Motion 2 (Appropriation Committee): *We move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings \$100,000 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) and re-appropriate the previously approved but unexpended \$350,000 (THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the Sewer Main Replacement Design voted in Article 23 of the May 5, 2025, Annual Town Meeting, for replacement of filter screens and flow meters, and associated costs, at the Fruit Street Wastewater Treatment Facility; said sum to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager.*

Motion 3 (Appropriation Committee): *We move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings \$100,000 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the replacement of a backup generator at the Wood Street Wastewater Pump Station; said sum to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager.*

Motion 4 (Appropriation Committee): *We move that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash \$35,000 (THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) to provide supplemental funding for the Department of Public Works' Vehicle Undercarriage Pressure Washer, which was voted on and authorized by Article 13 of the May 2, 2026, Annual Town Meeting; said sum to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: The projects identified in this article are those requiring funding due unanticipated issues, such as sudden failure or submitted bids exceeding design estimates. The Claflin Place existing water main failed in July 2026 and required emergency repairs. Components of the Fruit Street Wastewater Treatment Facility failed earlier than anticipated and require emergency repairs. The Wood Street Pump Station generator suffered a damaging fire in August 2026 and needs emergency repairs. The bid for the Vehicle Undercarriage Pressure Washer was higher than the original authorized amount and the Town would like to install the washer before the winter.

ARTICLE: 5 Amend FY 2027 Operating Budget
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<i>Sponsor: Town Manager</i>

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget approved in Article 6 of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 2, 2026, by amending the General Fund to align with actual costs.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Required Recommendation: Select Board to make recommendations at Town Meeting.
Appropriation Committee to make recommendations at Town Meeting.

Motion (Appropriation Committee): Motion to be made at Town Meeting.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 6 Amend Bylaw to Add Sealer of Weights and Measures Fees

Sponsor: Director of Land Use, Planning and Permitting

To see if the Town will vote amend Chapter 24, "Department of Municipal Inspections", of the General Bylaws of the Town of Hopkinton by inserting the following new Section 24-5, "Sealer of Weights and Measures Fees," to be inserted into the Chapter after Section 24-4, "Recommendations for appointment of staff":

§24-5. Sealer of Weights and Measures Fees

Fees for the Sealer of Weights and Measures within the Town of Hopkinton are hereby established by the Select Board through notification and a public hearing on the matter, to cover the costs incurred for the service.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

Motion (Select Board): *We move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Hopkinton, as set forth in Article 6 of the October 26, 2026, Special Town Meeting Warrant.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: This article would enable the Select Board to establish fees for services provided by the Sealer of Weights and Measures. The Town has temporarily contracted with the Massachusetts Division of Standards to provide these services due to an unexpected passing. They advised the Town to adopt this bylaw to help offset expenses.

ARTICLE: 7 Accept Gift of Land: Parcel U17-41-0

Sponsor: Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase or gift, a fee interest in an approximately 0.0083 acre parcel of land located on Ash Street, Hopkinton Assessors Map U17 Block 41 Lot 0.

Pass any vote or take any other act related thereto.

Required Recommendations: Select Board recommends _____.
Capital Improvements Committee recommends Approval.

Motion (Select Board): *We move that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase or gift, a fee interest in a certain parcel of land consisting of an*

approximately 0.0083 acre parcel of land located on Ash Street, Hopkinton Assessors Map U17 Block 41 Lot 0.

Vote Needed: Two-thirds Majority

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: This small parcel is within the Center School driveway, surrounded on all sides by Town property. As a separate parcel within the Town property, it may complicate future renovation and re-use of the property. The owner is willing to donate it to the Town.

ARTICLE: 8	Acceptance of Certain Private Ways as Public Ways
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Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to direct and authorize the Select Board, Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Town Manager, and all other appropriate Town boards, officers, and employees to identify all non-driveway, non-publicly accepted ways within the Town of Hopkinton that provide access to residential properties, are open to public use, and are not maintained by a homeowners association, condominium association, or similar private governing entity; and to take all actions necessary and appropriate, including preparation of layouts, surveys, title examinations, easements, engineering plans, instruments of acceptance, and other documents, to cause such eligible ways to be laid out and accepted as public ways of the Town to the fullest extent permitted by law; and further to require the requisite boards and departments to undertake and expedite in under 1 calendar year any additional votes, layouts, appropriations, instruments, or approvals required for completion of such acceptances to Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the following duties, to be carried out through the Department of Public Works and other departments under the Town Manager's direction and supervision:*

- 1) to identify every private way, as defined in Chapter 174, § 174-23 of the General Bylaws, that provides access to residential properties, is open to public use, and is not maintained by a homeowners association, condominium association, or similar private governing entity;*
- 2) for each such way, to assess whether it satisfies the prerequisites for possible acceptance as a public way and to report the status of its title, existing easements and plans, drainage, and physical condition; the work, if any, needed to maintain it safely as a public way, stated separately from any work needed to reconstruct it to current Town standards; and the estimated cost of each;*
- 3) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, the layout plans, surveys, title examinations, easements, and other documents reasonably necessary for the Select Board to consider laying out each way that appears eligible for acceptance under Chapter 82 of the General Laws;*

- 4) *to deliver to the Select Board and file with the Town Clerk a written interim report, including the inventory required by clause (1), no later than January 15, 2027, and a final written report, together with the documents required by clause (3), no later than October 26, 2027, and to make each report available to the public; and*
- 5) *if the Town Manager determines that funds in addition to those already appropriated are required to complete these duties, to state the amount and purpose in the interim report and to submit a request for such funds to the Select Board for consideration for inclusion in the warrant for the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 9	Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6C – Snow and Ice Removal on Private Ways	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6C, in the manner provided by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6D, thereby authorizing the Town to appropriate and expend public funds for the removal of snow and ice from non-public ways within the Town that are open to public use and without a governing HOA; and further to authorize and require the requisite Boards, Town Manager, Department of Public Works, and other appropriate Town officials to establish policies and procedures necessary to implement such authority; or take any other action relative thereto with expediency.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the duty to prepare, through the Department of Public Works, and to deliver to the Select Board no later than January 15, 2027: (1) proposed eligibility criteria and procedures for the Select Board's designation of private ways open to public use for the removal of snow and ice under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6C; (2) a list of private ways that potentially qualify under those criteria; and (3) an estimate of the annual cost of such removal, so that the program may be implemented for the first winter following acceptance of said Section 6C by the voters in the manner provided by Chapter 40, Section 6D; and further, upon such acceptance, to include the funds necessary for such removal in the next proposed Town budget or, if necessary, to submit a supplemental appropriation request for consideration at the next available Town Meeting.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 10 Amendment of Private Way Repair Bylaw – Increase of Minor Repair Limit	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 174, Article VI, Section 174-22, "Minor Repairs," of the General Bylaws of the Town of Hopkinton by deleting the words and figure: "\$1,000" and inserting in place thereof: "\$100,000" so that, upon the request of the Director of Public Works, Planning Board, or owners of properties abutting a private way, and upon the recommendation and certification required by said section, the Select Board may authorize the Town to make minor repairs to a private way in a sum not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) in total on any such way in any one fiscal year; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 174, Article VI, § 174-22, "Minor repairs," of the General Bylaws by striking the phrase "to a sum not to exceed \$1,000 in total on any way in any one fiscal year" and replacing it with "to a sum not to exceed \$100,000 in total on any way in any one fiscal year."*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 11 Comprehensive Review of Town Meeting Bylaws and Procedures	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Meeting Bylaw and Procedures Review Committee for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of all Town bylaws, rules, practices, procedures, deadlines, notice requirements, and other provisions relating to the conduct and administration of Annual and Special Town Meetings; said Committee shall review and shall make recommendations for amendments to the Charter, General Bylaws, Town Meeting rules, or administrative procedures and report such recommendations to the Select Board and Town Meeting within twelve months of its establishment; and for a quinquennial review/recommendations by committee thereafter, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new section:*

§ 47-___. *Town Meeting Procedures Review Committee.*

- A. *There shall be a Town Meeting Procedures Review Committee of five registered voters of the Town, appointed by the Moderator except as otherwise provided by the Charter, for terms of three years, provided that initial appointments shall be made so that the terms of as nearly equal a number of members as possible expire each year. The Town Clerk, or the Town Clerk's designee, shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member. Initial appointments shall be made within sixty days after the effective date of this section, and vacancies shall be filled by the Moderator for the unexpired term.*

- B. *The Committee shall conduct a comprehensive review of the provisions of the Charter and the General Bylaws, and of the rules, practices, procedures, deadlines, and notice requirements relating to the conduct and administration of Annual and Special Town Meetings; shall hold at least one public hearing in the course of each review; and shall report its findings and any recommended amendments to the Charter, the General Bylaws, Town Meeting rules, or administrative procedures in writing to the Select Board and to Town Meeting.*
- C. *The Committee shall file its initial report with the Select Board and the Town Clerk no later than twelve months after the effective date of this section, and shall thereafter conduct a new comprehensive review and file a report at least once every five years.*

and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 12 Establishment of Biannual Fall and February Town Meeting Dates	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, and to initiate such Charter amendments as may be necessary, to establish a regular and predictable bi-annual Town Meeting calendar consisting of a Town Meeting held during the fall of each calendar year and a Town Meeting held during the month of February of each calendar year; and further to establish a filing and review schedule under which proposed capital expenditures, borrowing authorizations, major infrastructure projects, and other articles requiring substantial appropriations shall be submitted sufficiently in advance of the Fall Town Meeting to permit review by the Appropriation Committee, Capital Improvements Committee, Select Board, other appropriate Town boards or committees, and Citizen Petition for eventual final vote of a budget in February, and further to direct the Select Board, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Counsel to prepare and present such amendments to the General Bylaws and the Hopkinton Home Rule Charter as are necessary to implement a permanent fall-and-February Town Meeting calendar; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws as follows, effective for Town Meetings held on or after January 1, 2028:*

- 1. *By striking § 47-2 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:
§ 47-2. Date and time of Annual Town Meeting and elections. The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hopkinton shall be held on the first Monday in February of each year at 7:00 p.m. The annual Town election for the election by ballot of Town officers and voting on questions required by law to be placed upon the official ballot shall be held on the*

third Monday in May, with the polls open during such lawful hours as the Select Board shall determine. Separate warrants shall be issued where required by law.

2. By striking § 47-3 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

§ 47-3. Consideration of business. All business of the Annual Town Meeting, except the election of officers and the determination of matters required by law to be determined by ballot, shall be considered at the Annual Town Meeting held pursuant to § 47-2.

3. By inserting the following new section:

§ 47-___. Fall Town Meeting; review of capital articles.

A. A Fall Town Meeting shall be held each year on the fourth Monday in October at 7:00 p.m. and shall be called and warned in the manner provided by law for special town meetings.

B. To the extent consistent with the Charter and applicable law, any Town-sponsored article for consideration at the following Annual Town Meeting that proposes a capital appropriation or borrowing authorization of \$250,000 or more shall be filed with the Select Board no later than the date on which the warrant for the preceding Fall Town Meeting closes. The Select Board shall refer each such article to the Appropriation Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee, each of which shall report its preliminary review to the Fall Town Meeting. This subsection shall not limit the statutory right of voters to submit citizen-petition articles and shall not apply to an article made necessary by an emergency or by circumstances that could not reasonably have been foreseen before that date.

and further, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the duty to prepare and submit to the Select Board no later than December 1, 2026, for consideration for inclusion in the warrant for the 2027 Annual Town Meeting, a budget calendar and any further amendments to the General Bylaws or the Charter necessary to implement the Town Meeting calendar established by this vote; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Petitioners Note: *The \$250,000 threshold is a proposed policy choice and may be revised before final submission.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 13 Weekday Requirement for Town Meetings

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws, and any other applicable provision of the General Bylaws, to require that the business sessions of Annual and Special Town Meetings be scheduled on weekdays, Monday through Friday, and not on Saturdays or Sundays, except when continuation to a weekend date is made necessary by

emergency circumstances or other requirements of law; and further to establish an evening starting time reasonably calculated to permit participation by working residents and families; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new section:*

§ 47-___. Weekday sessions.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, every session of an Annual or Special Town Meeting at which business other than the election of officers and the determination of ballot questions is transacted shall be held on a weekday, Monday through Friday, other than a legal holiday, and shall convene no earlier than 6:30 p.m. and no later than 7:30 p.m.; except where a session on another day or at another hour is required by law, or where continuation to another day is made necessary by emergency circumstances as determined by the Moderator.

and further, if Article 12 of this warrant is not adopted, to amend § 47-2 by striking the words “on the first Saturday in May of each year, with the starting time to be set between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. by the Select Board” and inserting in place thereof “on the first Monday in May of each year at 7:00 p.m.”; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 14 Police Chief Eligibility – Brady/Giglio Disclosure and Disqualification	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws, personnel requirements, appointment standards, and other applicable policies to provide that no individual shall be appointed or confirmed as Chief of Police of the Town of Hopkinton if that individual has been formally or previously been identified by a prosecuting authority as a law-enforcement officer whose credibility, truthfulness, bias, misconduct, or other history requires disclosure to criminal defendants pursuant to Brady v. Maryland, Giglio v. United States, or related constitutional or statutory disclosure requirements; and further to require, prior to appointment or confirmation of any candidate for Chief of Police, a documented review of available Brady/Giglio disclosure information, disciplinary history, certification history, and Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission records to the extent permitted by law; provided that this article shall be implemented consistently with applicable state and federal law, collective bargaining obligations, civil service requirements, due-process rights, and other controlling legal authority; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by*

inserting the following new section:

§ __-__. Appointment of Chief of Police; pre-appointment review.

- A. Before any person is appointed or confirmed as Chief of Police, the appointing authority shall obtain and review, to the extent permitted by law: (1) the candidate's certification and disciplinary records maintained by the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission; (2) the candidate's disciplinary history with each law enforcement agency that has employed the candidate; and (3) shall make written inquiry of the District Attorney for Middlesex County, and of the prosecuting authority for each other jurisdiction in which the candidate has served, asking whether the candidate is the subject of any current determination that information concerning the candidate's credibility, truthfulness, bias, or misconduct must be disclosed to criminal defendants under Brady v. Maryland, Giglio v. United States, or related constitutional or statutory requirements, and shall review any response received within a reasonable period established by the appointing authority.*
- B. No such appointment or confirmation shall take effect until the appointing authority has certified in writing to the Select Board and the Town Clerk that the review and inquiries required by subsection A have been completed, and has stated in that certification whether the candidate is known, based on the information reasonably available to the appointing authority, to be the subject of any such current disclosure determination.*
- C. If the candidate is the subject of such a current disclosure determination, no appointment or confirmation shall take effect unless the appointing authority, after giving the candidate notice and an opportunity to respond, has made written findings that the determination does not materially impair the candidate's ability to perform the duties of Chief of Police, including the ability to testify credibly in criminal proceedings. Such findings shall be made public to the extent permitted by law.*
- D. This section shall be implemented consistently with applicable state and federal law, collective bargaining obligations, civil service requirements, and due-process rights, and shall not apply to any appointment made before its effective date.*

and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

**ARTICLE: 15 Surveillance Technology – Town Meeting
Authorization and Public Disclosure**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw regulating the acquisition, funding, installation, deployment, or material expansion of surveillance technology by the Town of Hopkinton or any Town department, agency, board, commission, office, or other municipal entity; and to provide that no Town funds, grants, gifts, purchase orders, contracts,

departmental funds, revolving funds, forfeiture proceeds, or other resources under municipal control shall be used to purchase, lease, acquire, install, or materially expand surveillance technology without prior public disclosure and authorization by Town Meeting, except where otherwise required by law or where temporary emergency deployment is necessary to address an imminent threat to life or public safety; For purposes of this article, "surveillance technology" shall include, but not be limited to: video surveillance systems; automated license plate readers; facial recognition systems; biometric identification systems; persistent location-tracking systems; remotely operated cameras; networked camera systems; aerial surveillance systems; artificial-intelligence-enabled monitoring systems; and other technologies primarily designed or deployed to systematically monitor, identify, locate, track, or record persons or vehicles; and further to require publication of the purpose, cost, location or general area of deployment where legally permissible, data-retention practices, information-sharing practices, and responsible municipal department before such technology is placed into routine use; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by inserting the following new chapter:*

Chapter __. Municipal Surveillance Technology.

§ __-1. Definitions. "Surveillance technology" means any device, system, or software primarily designed or deployed to systematically monitor, identify, locate, track, or record persons or vehicles, including video surveillance systems, automated license plate readers, facial recognition systems, biometric identification systems, persistent location-tracking systems, remotely operated cameras, networked camera systems, aerial surveillance systems, and artificial-intelligence-enabled monitoring systems. "Materially expand" means to increase the number of devices or locations of a surveillance technology by more than ten percent, to add a new capability to it, or to share data collected by it with any agency or entity with which such data was not previously shared. "Municipal entity" means the Town and any Town department, agency, board, commission, office, or other municipal entity.

§ __-2. Authorization required. Except to the extent otherwise authorized or required by state or federal law, no municipal entity shall use Town funds, grants, gifts, purchase orders, contracts, departmental funds, revolving funds, forfeiture proceeds, or other resources under municipal control to purchase, lease, acquire, install, or materially expand surveillance technology unless (a) the responsible municipal entity has published the disclosure required by § __-3 at least thirty days before the vote of Town Meeting, and (b) Town Meeting has authorized the acquisition or expansion by vote under an article in the warrant.

§ __-3. Public disclosure. The disclosure shall state, to the extent permitted by law: the purpose of the technology; its acquisition cost and estimated annual operating cost; the location or general area of its deployment; its data-retention practices; its information-sharing practices, including any sharing with other agencies or private entities; and the municipal entity responsible for it. The disclosure shall be published on the Town's website and kept current for so long as the technology is in routine use.

§ __-4. *Exceptions. This chapter shall not apply where otherwise required by law or to temporary deployment necessary to address an imminent threat to life or public safety, provided that the deployment ends when the threat ends and that the responsible municipal entity reports the deployment in writing to the Select Board within thirty days. Nothing in this chapter shall require public disclosure or separate Town Meeting authorization for the case-specific use of surveillance technology that was otherwise lawfully acquired, when such use is conducted pursuant to a warrant or court order in a specific criminal investigation.*

§ __-5. *Existing technology. This chapter shall not require authorization for surveillance technology acquired and in use before its effective date, but shall apply to any material expansion of such technology. Within one hundred twenty days after the effective date, each municipal entity shall publish the disclosure described in § __-3 for each surveillance technology it then uses.*

§ __-6. *Severability. If any provision of this chapter is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.*

and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 16 Term Limits for Elected Town Officials
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<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>

To see if the Town will vote to initiate and approve term limits for elected Town officeholders; and providing that no person shall be eligible for election to the same elected Town office after serving two consecutive full terms in that office until a period of five years has elapsed following the conclusion of the person's second consecutive term; provided that service completing an unexpired term resulting from a vacancy shall not constitute a full term unless otherwise required by law; and further providing that after completion of the five-year period, such person shall again become eligible to seek election to that office; and to direct the Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Manager, and Town Counsel to undertake all steps required by Massachusetts law to place such Charter amendment before the voters or otherwise obtain the approvals necessary for its adoption; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to recommend that the Charter Review Committee, as part of its ongoing review of the Hopkinton Home Rule Charter, consider and develop a proposed Charter amendment establishing term limits for elected Town officials substantially as described in this Article, and report its findings and recommendation concerning such amendment to the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

**ARTICLE: 17 Public Records, Policies, Procedures, and
Online Government Transparency**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw requiring the Town to maintain a centralized, searchable, publicly accessible online repository containing current municipal policies, procedures, regulations, rules, administrative directives, public forms, and other generally applicable governance documents; and further requiring every Town department, board, committee, commission, and office, to the extent permitted by law, to provide current copies of its formally adopted policies and procedures for inclusion in such repository; and further requiring the repository to include, where applicable: the date each policy or procedure was adopted; the date of its most recent amendment; the Town board, department, officer, or other authority responsible for its adoption; prior superseded versions when reasonably available; public records request procedures including exact eligibility of fee waivers, redaction policy; such other information as is reasonably necessary to permit residents to identify and understand the rules and procedures governing municipal operations; provided that nothing herein shall require publication of information exempt from disclosure under Massachusetts law; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by inserting the following new chapter:*

Chapter __. Online Policy and Records Repository.

§ __-1. Repository. No later than six months after the effective date of this chapter, the Town Manager shall establish, and shall thereafter maintain on the Town's website, a centralized, searchable, publicly accessible online repository of the Town's current policies, procedures, regulations, rules, administrative directives, public forms, and other generally applicable governance documents.

§ __-2. Submissions. Every Town department, board, committee, commission, and office shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide to the Town Manager for inclusion in the repository current copies of its formally adopted policies and procedures within one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this chapter, and thereafter within thirty days after the adoption or amendment of any such policy or procedure.

§ __-3. Contents. For each document, the repository shall state, where applicable: the date it was adopted; the date of its most recent amendment; the board, department, officer, or other authority responsible for its adoption; and prior superseded versions, when reasonably available. The repository shall also include the Town's procedures for public records requests under G.L. c. 66, including the name and contact information of each records access officer, applicable public-records fee provisions, the criteria for fee waivers, and the Town's practices concerning redaction and withholding; and such other information as is reasonably necessary to permit residents to identify and understand the rules and procedures governing municipal operations.

§ __-4. Exemptions. Nothing in this chapter shall require the publication of any record or information exempt from disclosure under G.L. c. 4, § 7(26) or other applicable law.

and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 18 Dedicated Municipal Transparency and Access Officer	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to establish, fund, or otherwise provide for a dedicated municipal Transparency and Access Officer separate from the Office of the Town Clerk and to be appointed by the Select Board, whose primary responsibilities shall include coordinating responses to requests made under the Massachusetts Public Records Law, maintaining public-records request logs, assisting municipal departments with records compliance, maintaining the Town's public-records guidance and online records resources, coordinating responses with records custodians, and promoting timely and consistent compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66 and Chapter 4, Section 7; and further to direct the Town Manager and Select Board, acting within their respective authority and consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66, Section 6A, to designate an appropriate Town employee or establish an appropriate municipal position to perform such duties; and further to appropriate or transfer such sum as may be necessary for implementation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Required Recommendations: Select Board recommends _____.
Appropriation Committee recommends _____.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by inserting the following new chapter:*

Chapter ____. Office of Municipal Transparency and Access.

§ ____-1. Establishment. There is hereby established an Office of Municipal Transparency and Access, administratively separate from the Office of the Town Clerk. No later than ninety days after the effective date of this chapter, the Town Manager, acting under the Charter, shall appoint or designate from among the employees of the Town a Transparency and Access Officer and shall submit the designation of that person as a records access officer under G.L. c. 66, § 6A to the Select Board for ratification to the extent required by the Charter.

§ ____-2. Duties. The Transparency and Access Officer shall coordinate responses to requests under the Public Records Law that involve more than one department or records custodian; maintain a Townwide log of public records requests and their disposition; assist Town departments and records access officers with compliance; maintain the Town's public-records guidance and online records resources; and promote timely and consistent compliance with G.L. c. 66 and G.L. c. 4, § 7(26). The Officer shall report in writing to the Select Board at least annually on the Town's compliance,

including any recurring issues identified.

§ __-3. Construction. Nothing in this chapter shall diminish the duties of the Town Clerk or of any records access officer under applicable law.

and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 19 Townwide Sidewalk Master Plan

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, transfer, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for the preparation of a comprehensive Townwide Sidewalk Master Plan; and to authorize the Town Manager, Department of Public Works, Planning Department, Planning Board, and other appropriate Town departments and boards to conduct or commission a comprehensive study of existing and proposed sidewalks, pedestrian routes, crossings, accessibility deficiencies, school walking routes, connections to Town facilities, commercial areas, parks, trails, neighborhoods, and public transportation facilities; and that said study shall identify and prioritize a 10 year action plan to address: missing sidewalk connections; unsafe pedestrian corridors; routes serving schools and municipal facilities; Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility improvements; necessary crosswalk and intersection improvements; opportunities to connect existing sidewalk networks; estimated project costs; potential state and federal funding sources; and a phased implementation schedule for construction and improvement of a connected Townwide pedestrian network; and further to require that the resulting Sidewalk Master Plan be presented to Town Meeting and made available to the public; or take any other action relative thereto.

Required Recommendations: Select Board recommends _____.
Appropriation Committee recommends _____.
Capital Improvement Committee recommends _____.

Motion A (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to appropriate \$[_____] from [_____] for the preparation of the Townwide Sidewalk Master Plan described in Article 19 of this warrant, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager; and further, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the duty to cause said Plan, including its prioritized ten-year implementation schedule, to be completed, published on the Town's website, and presented to Town Meeting no later than the 2028 Annual Town Meeting.*

Motion B (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the duty (1) to prepare, through the Department of Public Works and the Planning Department, a scope of work and cost*

estimate for the Townwide Sidewalk Master Plan described in Article 19 of this warrant; (2) to include the cost of preparing the Plan in the capital budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2028 submitted by the Town Manager, and to apply for any state or federal grants or technical assistance available for it; and (3) upon the appropriation of funds, to cause the Plan to be completed, published on the Town's website, and presented to Town Meeting.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 20 Hoffman Road Culvert and Drainage Project Sponsor: Citizen Petition – Fiscal Year 2027 Funding

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow pursuant to applicable law, or otherwise provide a sum of money sufficient to design, permit, construct, repair, replace, rehabilitate, or otherwise complete the necessary culvert and associated drainage improvements serving Hoffman Road; including costs for engineering, surveying, design, environmental review, permitting, easements, construction, drainage improvements, roadway restoration, project administration, contingencies, and all other incidental and related costs; and to authorize and require the Select Board, Town Manager, Department of Public Works, and other appropriate Town officials to apply for and accept any state, federal, regional, or private grants or reimbursements available for the project; with the intent that funding be made available for the project during Fiscal Year 2027 and that the project proceed as promptly as engineering, permitting, procurement, and applicable law permit; or take any other action relative thereto.

Required Recommendations: Select Board recommends _____.
Appropriation Committee recommends _____.
Capital Improvement Committee recommends _____.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to take no action on this article.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 21 Periodic Review of Zoning Bylaw and Zoning Map Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw or otherwise require the Planning Board to undertake a quinquennial comprehensive review of the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Bylaws, Official Zoning Map; and that such review shall include, at a minimum: existing zoning districts and district boundaries; residential, commercial, industrial, mixed-use, and institutional zoning; housing production and housing needs assessment; identify economic development opportunities; infrastructure capacity; transportation and pedestrian connectivity; environmental and natural-resource protection; open-space preservation; municipal and school infrastructure;

consistency with the Town's Master Plan and other long-range planning documents; changes in applicable state and federal law; and proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map warranted by the review; and further to require that the Planning Board conduct a public process as part of such review and issue a written report containing its findings, proposed zoning amendments, and proposed updated zoning maps for consideration by Town Meeting; provided that nothing herein shall restrict the Planning Board or Town Meeting from proposing or adopting zoning amendments at any time between such comprehensive reviews; and as part of each quinquennial review, the Planning Board shall prepare, maintain, and recommend for adoption a comprehensive Zoning Use Table identifying all principal and accessory land uses and specifying, for each zoning district, whether each use is permitted by right, permitted by special permit, or prohibited. The Use Table shall be reviewed and updated as necessary as part of each quinquennial zoning review and whenever an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw materially changes permitted land uses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Required Recommendation: Planning Board recommends ____.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 4-3(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Planning Board the duty to conduct, at least once every five years, the comprehensive review of the Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map described in Article 21 of this warrant, including a public process and a written report of its findings, proposed zoning amendments, and proposed updated zoning maps for consideration by Town Meeting, the first such report to be issued no later than the 2029 Annual Town Meeting; and further, as part of each such review, to prepare, maintain, and recommend for adoption the comprehensive Zoning Use Table described in said Article, which shall be reviewed and updated as part of each review and whenever an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw materially changes permitted land uses; provided that nothing in this vote shall restrict the Planning Board or Town Meeting from proposing or adopting zoning amendments at any time.*

Vote Needed: Two-Thirds Majority

ARTICLE: 22 Town Employee Housing Preference in Chapter 40Y Districts	Sponsor: Citizen Petition
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To see if the Town will vote to establish, to the fullest extent permitted by law, a housing preference program for residential units constructed within any Starter Home Zoning District adopted pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40Y, whereby eligible employees of the Town of Hopkinton and Hopkinton Public Schools shall receive a right of first offer or first refusal upon the initial sale and subsequent resale of such homes; and further to require that such preference, where legally permissible, be established through deed restrictions, affordability restrictions, development agreements, or other enforceable instruments designed to preserve the preference for future resales; and to authorize the Select Board, Planning Board, Town Manager, and Town Counsel to develop and implement regulations necessary to

effectuate this policy consistent with Chapter 40Y and applicable state and federal law; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the duty, in consultation with Town Counsel, the Planning Board, and the Select Board, to prepare and deliver to the Select Board no later than January 15, 2027, and to present to the 2027 Annual Town Meeting, a written report evaluating lawful means to establish the Town and School employee housing preference described in this Article, including: (1) whether and to what extent such preference may lawfully be implemented within a Starter Home Zoning District under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40Y; (2) whether a lawful local preference may be applied to affordable homes associated with such a district, subject to any required approval of the Commonwealth; and (3) if Chapter 40Y does not permit the proposed preference, what other local authority, deed restriction, affordability restriction, development agreement, special legislation, or other legally permissible mechanism would be required to implement substantially the same employee-housing objective; together with the text of any recommended warrant article or legislative proposal.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 23 Recreation Building Demolition, Town Hall Parking, and Community Center Study	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to direct the appropriate Town officials to undertake the demolition and removal of the existing Parks and Recreation building adjacent to Town Hall and to convert the resulting area, to the maximum extent practicable, to additional parking serving residents, visitors, and Town employees. And further, to authorize and fund a feasibility study for the establishment of a new Town community center designed to serve residents of all ages and abilities, which study shall evaluate, at a minimum: expanded indoor recreation facilities; dedicated senior programming and activity space; dedicated facilities and programming space for residents with disabilities and special needs; indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities; offices and support space for present and future Parks and Recreation staff; and appropriate parking, accessibility, and supporting infrastructure. The study shall evaluate potential locations, conceptual designs, estimated capital and operating costs, potential funding sources, and a recommended implementation plan for consideration by a future Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Section 3-2(b) of the Home Rule Charter, to assign to the Town Manager the duty to prepare a scope of work and cost estimate for the community center feasibility study described in Article 23 of this warrant, addressing each of the facilities, programs, and evaluation criteria listed in said Article, and to include the cost of that study in the capital budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2028 submitted by the Town Manager.*

Petitioner Note: *If an appropriation amount and funding source are identified before*

Town Meeting, this motion may instead be replaced by an appropriation motion for the study.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 24 Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Registration and Safety Program	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to establish a Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Registration and Safety Program applicable to developed or developable property located within commercial or industrial zoning districts that remains wholly or substantially vacant or unoccupied. Owners of covered property shall register such vacancy with the Town and provide current ownership, list of management, emergency contact, building-access, occupancy, and other information reasonably required for public-safety purposes. The Town shall maintain current vacancy and occupancy information and make such information available to the Fire Department and other appropriate emergency-response personnel. A quarterly vacancy registration and inspection fee shall be imposed upon covered properties remaining vacant beyond a reasonable initial grace period, with such fee increasing progressively for each successive period of continued vacancy, until the property is lawfully occupied, placed into active development, or otherwise qualifies for an exemption established by regulation. The Select Board shall establish reasonable fee schedules, definitions, exemptions, inspection requirements, and administrative procedures necessary to implement this Article, with fees reasonably related to the Town's costs of administration, inspection, monitoring, code enforcement, emergency planning, and public-safety services associated with vacant commercial and industrial property; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by inserting the following new chapter:*

Chapter __. Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Registration and Safety Program.

§ __-1. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to protect public safety by ensuring that the Fire Department and other emergency responders have current ownership, contact, access, and condition information for vacant commercial and industrial buildings.

§ __-2. Definitions. "Covered property" means any building located in a commercial or industrial zoning district of which more than half of the gross floor area has not been lawfully occupied for more than ninety consecutive days. "Owner" means the owner of record of the covered property.

§ __-3. Registration. The owner of a covered property shall register it with the Town within thirty days after it becomes a covered property, or within ninety days after the effective date of this chapter, whichever is later, on a form provided by the Town Manager, stating the current ownership; the names of those responsible for its management; a twenty-four-hour emergency contact; building-access information; occupancy status; and such other information reasonably required for public-safety purposes as the Select Board may prescribe by regulation. The owner shall update the

registration within ten days after any change. The Town shall maintain current registration information and make it available to the Fire Department, the Police Department, and other appropriate emergency-response personnel.

§ __-4. Fees. A quarterly registration and inspection fee shall be imposed on each covered property that remains a covered property after an initial grace period established by regulation. The Select Board shall establish the fee schedule, after a public hearing, in amounts reasonably related to the Town's costs of administration, inspection, monitoring, code enforcement, emergency planning, and public-safety services associated with vacant commercial and industrial property. The fee may increase for successive periods of continued vacancy only to the extent that such costs increase with the duration of vacancy. The fee shall cease when the property is lawfully occupied, placed into active development under a valid building permit, or otherwise qualifies for an exemption.

§ __-5. Regulations; exemptions. No later than ninety days after the effective date of this chapter, the Select Board shall adopt regulations establishing definitions, the initial grace period, exemptions, including for property under active construction or redevelopment under a valid building permit and property recently damaged by fire or other casualty and under repair, inspection requirements, and administrative procedures necessary to implement this chapter. The Town Manager shall administer the program.

§ __-6. Severability. If any provision of this chapter is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 25 Completion of Town Meeting Warrant
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<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws to provide that no motion, the effect of which would be to dissolve or adjourn a Town Meeting sine die, shall be in order until every article contained in the warrant has been duly considered and acted upon; provided that nothing herein shall prohibit postponement of consideration of an article to an adjourned session of the same Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new section:*

§ 47-__. Completion of warrant.

A. No motion the effect of which would be to dissolve a Town Meeting, or to adjourn a Town Meeting without day, shall be in order until every article in the warrant has been called and acted upon. A vote to take no action on, to postpone indefinitely, or to refer an

article shall constitute action on that article for the purposes of this section.

B. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the postponement of consideration of an article to an adjourned session of the same Town Meeting, or shall apply where the law requires the meeting to conclude its business by a date certain.

and further to amend § 47-12(A)(1) by inserting after the words "To adjourn" the words ", subject to § 47-__"; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to assign section numbers and make other non-substantive editorial changes necessary to conform the foregoing to the numbering and format of the General Bylaws.

Vote Needed: Simple Majority

ARTICLE: 26 Random Order of Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws to require that, following the close of the warrant for each Annual or Special Town Meeting, the order of substantive warrant articles shall be determined by a publicly conducted random drawing administered by the Moderator at Town Meeting; and articles required by law to appear in a particular position, routine organizational articles, the annual operating budget, or other categories expressly designated by bylaw may be placed in a fixed order prior to the random drawing; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion (Petitioner): *I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws by striking § 47-6 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:*

§ 47-6. Order of articles.

- A. At the opening of the first session of each Annual or Special Town Meeting, before the first substantive warrant article is called, the order in which substantive warrant articles are taken up shall be determined by a random drawing conducted in public by the Moderator.*
- B. Before the drawing, the Moderator may place in a fixed position articles required by law to be considered in a particular order; routine organizational and administrative articles; the annual operating budget; articles included in a consent agenda; articles whose adoption depends on action taken under another article, which may be kept together; and any other category of articles expressly designated by bylaw.*
- C. The articles shall be taken up in the order so determined unless otherwise decided by a majority vote of the meeting.*

Vote Needed: Simple Majority