



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON**

**MINUTES SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, October 26, 2022 CENTER SCHOOL**

STABILIZATION: \$544,154.92

MUNICIPAL CAPITAL STABILIZATION: \$177,645.65

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the voters of the Town of Hubbardston assembled at the Center School cafeteria to act on the articles in said warrant. Present were Moderator: René Lafayette; Select Board members: Jeffrey Williams (Chair), Kathryn (Katie) Young, Peter Walker and Kris Pareago; Town Clerk: Kristin Foster; Finance Committee members: Susan Rayne (Chair), and Peter Russell; Interim Town Administrator: Sandra Nason; and representative for Town Counsel: Carolyn Murray. Select Board member, Heather Munroe, was absent, as well as Finance Committee members, Joshua Lerner and Charles Reed. A total of 72 registered voters were checked in by Lynn Wilkinson and Shonna Larson. A quorum of 50 voters were present throughout the meeting.

Moderator, René Lafayette, declared a quorum present and called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:08 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ARTICLE 1.** **Motion, Jeff Williams,** that the Town vote to approve the reductions in the Fiscal Year 2023 operational budget for various Town Departments, as printed in the attached Appendix A, for a total budget reduction in the amount of \$81,050 and that the sum of \$33,422 be raised and appropriated from the tax levy and the sum of \$68,808 be transferred from Free Cash to supplement funds previously appropriated under Article 8 of the June 2022 Annual Town Meeting for a new Fiscal Year 2023 budget total of \$4,206,867.00.

<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
General Government (100+500+600 Series)	795,634.00
Public Safety (200 Series)	1,521,647.00
Public Works (400 Series)	874,400.00
State and Other Assessments (800 Series)	82,073.00
Indirect Costs (900 Series)	689,250.00
Debt (700 Series)	243,863.00
<b>Total General Fund and Operating Budget</b>	<b>4,206,867.00</b>

Recommended by: Select Board & Finance Committee  
**Second: Katie Young**

**Finance Committee Presentation:** Susan Rayne distributed a handout to the voters regarding the budget changes. She explained the benefits of Free Cash, what it's typically used for, and the consequences of spreading this resource too thin. She then detailed the proposed means for meeting the budget's needs through the combined efforts of department reductions and Free Cash. She also detailed the consequences of this revised budget not passing.

**Discussion:** Susan Breagy offered the question of what we can do about a budget that seems to be increasing when the number of students appears to be decreasing. Susan Rayne encouraged addressing that question at the budget meeting at Quabbin in March. Tim Hawley spoke briefly to the formula used by Quabbin to determine their budget and the individual responsibilities of the regional towns. He mentioned that the number of students in Hubbardston is increasing 11% from what it was last year. Susan Flagg spoke of the possibility of our town reaching out to the MDC [DCR] regarding an agreement from many years ago that was made by them to help keep up the value of the land in Hubbardston. Debra Chamberlain, a member of the School Committee, spoke to the committee's efforts to make sense of Quabbin's budget. She encouraged people to attend their open meetings and seek more details on the school's website.

**Motion Passes: Yes-70; No-2**

**ARTICLE 2. Motion, Katie Young,** that the Town authorize payment of prior fiscal year invoices for Palmer Paving Corporation and Scanlon & Associates, and to meet that appropriation, that the sum of **\$19,107.40 be transferred** from Free Cash.

Vendor	Description	Invoice Number	Amount
Palmer Paving Corp	June Escalation	1005156	\$ 107.40
Scanlon & Associates	Fiscal Year 2021 Audit	January 18, 2022	\$19,000.00

Submitted by Interim Town Administrator  
Recommended by Select Board and Finance Committee

**Second: Jeffrey Williams**  
**(9/10 vote required) Motion Passes: Unanimous Affirmative Vote**

**ARTICLE 3. Motion, Peter Walker,** that the Town vote to authorize payment of a Fiscal Year 2023 invoice for The Engineering Corporation for Construction Phase Services for the Town Center Project in the amount of \$10,000. And to meet that appropriation, that the sum of \$10,000 be transferred from Free Cash.

Vendor	Description	Amount
The Engineering Corp	Construction Phase Services	\$10,000.00

**Second: Katie Young**

**(Majority vote required) Motion Passes: Yes-68; No-4**

Having completed the evening's business, the Moderator declared Special Town Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin S. Foster  
Town Clerk

(Town Seal)