



**Annual Town Meeting
April 6, 2024
9:00 am
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on April 6, 2024 there were 5,790 registered voters. There were 573 present.

Precinct 1 - 288
Precinct 2 - 285

William Bowler, Town Moderator, stated that the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting had been properly posted and a quorum was present. Mr. Bowler noted that an Assistant Moderator would be present in the cafeteria overflow room. Those present in the overflow room would be able to hear the meeting but would need to come into the main hall to speak in the microphones to be heard on an article.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by the National Anthem played on electric guitar.

Mr. Bowler introduced the following officials who were sitting at the front of Town Meeting: "Tom McEnaney (KP Law, Town Counsel), Carin Kale (Town Clerk), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager), Wendy Markiewicz (Finance Director), Shawn Farrell (Select Board, Chair), Tom Myers (Select Board), Bill Olson (Select Board), John McGrath (FinCom Chair), Alex Rindels (FinCom), Christina Schenk-Hargrove (FinCom), and John Pruellage (FinCom)."

Mr. Bowler spoke about Town Meeting procedures: To bring an agenda item before the meeting, he would recognize a member of the sponsoring board, committee, or individual so they could make a motion. If the motion is seconded, he will recognize the proponent to speak. When done, he will open discussion. He asked that voters wishing to speak be standing at the microphone and when recognized, state their name and street address. He said the rules are those used at every Town Meeting. Voters will have three minutes to make comments or ask questions

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about the motion. If a voter continues to speak once the time has elapsed, to maintain a fair and efficient meeting requires that he moves on to the next speaker. Comments and questions must be within the ‘the four corners of the motion.’ Mr. Bowler reminded voters that they are in a legislative session for the Town of Hamilton and that while spirited debate is welcome, being cordial and respectful is a priority for the efficiency of the Meeting. Every person who rises to debate a motion has an equal right to be heard. As such, he asked people refrain from making remarks of a personal nature about any Town or School official or any person who is in favor of or against the motion and just comment on the merits of the motion. To ensure that the Meeting is run efficiently, comments or questions must be directed to the Moderator rather than any individual or Town official. He asked that there be no applause, cheering, booing, or any other conduct that will disrupt or delay the Meeting. All motions to amend must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing and Town Counsel is available to provide some assistance. No more than one amendment may be pending at the same time. A vote is first taken on the amendment and then on the main motion.

Mr. Bowler spoke about the voting procedures: Votes will be counted using the electronic voting clickers. In the unlikely event that there is trouble with the technology, votes will be counted by raising paper voter cards. He will decide visually whether there is the necessary majority or two-thirds vote. If in doubt, or seven voters question the vote immediately after the outcome is declared, he will have the vote counted by tellers.

Representative Kristin Kassner was present. Ms. Kassner noted that over \$400,000 in grant applications had been approved for the district and tax reform had increased tax exemptions for various groups within the community. The Governor had signed the Hamilton Home Rule Petition Senior Tax Deferral into law. Ms. Kassner presented a citation of appreciation from the House of Representatives to Shawn Farrell for his nine years of service on the Select Board.

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 2024/4 1-2 Reports

To hear reports of Town Officers and selected committees and to take action thereon or relative thereto. Reports will appear in the Town Report for Fiscal Year 2023 and be posted to the Town of Hamilton website. Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell.

Motion of Shawn Farrell: “I move that the reports of Town Officers and Committees be received and placed on file.” Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell for a report. Mr. Farrell reported on the progress of the Town. The best AAA rating and zoning changes had been accomplished. A Town Master Plan had been completed. Mr. Farrell acknowledged Rick Mitchell who was retiring after 20 years on the Planning Board.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath for a report. Mr. McGrath acknowledged the work of Shawn Farrell. Mr. McGrath presented highlights from a seven year capital plan, FY’25-FY’31. Mr. McGrath described choices for the school building proposal in the future as well as potential water projects.

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Electronic Vote: 349 in favor; 16 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 1-3 Consent Agenda

To see if the Town will consolidate in one consent motion containing the motions for those articles that, in the opinion of the Moderator, are not controversial and can be passed without debate, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator read the list of articles to be taken up and voted on as one motion. If voters wanted to ask questions or make comments on an article, they would shout out 'Hold' as the list is read. Any article that held would be deleted from the Consent Motion and taken up and considered according to its place on the Warrant. Articles: 2-1, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-12, 2-16, and 3-2 would be approved under one motion. Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell.

Motion of Shawn Farrell: "I move that the articles included on the List of Articles for Consent Motion for this 2024 Annual Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting, be approved by one vote, each motion to be deemed a separate action under the Warrant Article having the same corresponding number." Seconded.

Electronic Vote: 316 in favor; 20 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2024/4-2-2 Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum of money to pay any unpaid bills incurred in prior years, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. *(Expected request \$0)*

Town Moderator said: "Hearing no motion, I will move to Article 2-3."

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-3 General Town Departmental Appropriations

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the expenses of schools and all other Town expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. *(Expected requests Town - \$14,986,402 and all educational expenses, including HWRSD and ENSATSD - \$25,240,225).*

Town Moderator said that this is our annual general Town and School omnibus appropriations article. Town Moderator recognized Eric Tracy (Superintendent of Schools) to report on the School Budget.

Eric Tracy reported on the School District Budget. The budget increased 1.13%. Full time positions that they have been unable to fill (6.48) have been eliminated from the budget. The elementary student population had increased to 847 students. More than \$773,000 was returned to the town for the third year. Hamilton's share of the \$44m operating budget is 66.29%. The Stabilization Fund and OPEB Fund had been funded from excess funds. Budget details were provided in the flyer given to residents.

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Town Moderator recognized Joe Domelowicz, Town Manager to report on the Town Budget. Joe Domelowicz reviewed the 2025 budget. The goal was to avoid a Proposition 2.5% override and improve efficiency. Union negotiations were completed. The budget increased \$2.7M or 6.83%. Capital spending decreased from last year, which was covered without raising taxes. Wendy Markiewicz, Finance Director, defined revenue sources to include the \$35.7M tax levy and \$1.8M in debt exclusion and \$250,000 in new growth. State aid was \$1.1M or 3% of the budget. Local receipts were \$2.8M or 7%. Transfers from free cash and the Water Enterprise funds were additional sources of funding, 3% of the budget. Ms. Markiewicz described the budget items. Mr. Domelowicz discussed capital expenditures (in a separate article).

Town Moderator read each appropriation and asked that any voter, who wanted to discuss the item separately, shout out 'Hold'.

\$ 2,631,702 for General Town Government

\$ 4,095,600 for Public Safety (a HOLD was requested).

\$ 24,813,866 for Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District

\$ 426,359 for Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District

\$ 2,398,505 for Department of Public Works

\$ 379,152 for Health and Human Services

\$ 1,189,806 for Culture and Recreation

\$ 4,291,637 for Unclassified

Totaling \$40,226,627.

Chris Fellows (184 Woodland Meade) who requested the Public Safety HOLD, questioned traffic management devices on Bay Road and Asbury St. Joe Domelowicz said Route 1A (Bay Road) was a state road and they would be responsible for street lighting and traffic management. Mr. Fellows was comfortable leaving the item in the Article.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath.

Motion made by John McGrath: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sums read by the Moderator for Schools and all other Town expenses which are set forth in the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget in Appendix B of the 2024 Appendix Book and Appendix C of the 2024 Appendix Book with the corrections read by the Moderator excepting those items held." Seconded.

John McGrath thanked the School and Town for their preparation of the Budget. Mr.

Domelowicz added that all information was in the Budget Book available on the website.

Electronic Vote: 421 in favor; 27 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-4 Capital Expenditures

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding capital expenditures and further, to authorize the Town Manager to administer and expend funds from said accounts, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$1,360,788*) Town Moderator recognized John McGrath.

Motion by John McGrath: "I move that the Town vote to: 1) transfer the sum of \$1,110,788 from Free Cash to fund the following purchases and projects identified in the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital

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Projects Book, which is set forth in Appendix D of the 2024 Appendix Book:

- 1) DPW Snow Blower with Attachment (\$210,000), DPW Chevy 2500 Pickup Truck (\$80,200), DPW GMC Dump Truck (\$95,000), DPW International Sander (\$220,000), Facilities PSB HVAC/Upgrades (\$50,000), Facilities Fuel Facility Canopy/Fire Suppression (\$167,000), Recreation HVAC Replacement (\$163,125), Library Exterior Paint and Shingle Repair (\$55,463), and Police SUV Cruiser (\$70,000).
- 2) Transfer \$250,000 from Overlay Reserve to fund Highway Roads and Sidewalk Repairs, including all incidental and related costs, as set forth in Appendix D of the 2024 Appendix Book.”

Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath, who said all items had been reviewed with Department Heads, Capital Committee, FinCom and Select Board.

Electronic Vote: 406 in favor; 28 opposed. A majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-9 Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will transfer \$82,781 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$82,781*). Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk Hargrove.

Motion made by Christina Schenk Hargrove: “I move that the Town transfer the sum of \$82,781 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund.” Seconded.

Christina Schenk Hargrove said the Article would move cash to the Stabilization Fund, which could not be part of the Consent Agenda as it required a 2/3 vote.

Electronic Vote: 408 in favor; 19 opposed. A 2/3 majority in favor was declared. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-10 Capital Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will transfer \$235,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$235,000*). Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk Hargrove.

Motion made by Christina Schenk Hargrove: “I move that the Town transfer the sum of \$235,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.” Seconded.

Christina Schenk Hargrove said the Article would transfer funds to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Electronic Vote: 382 in favor; 21 opposed. A 2/3 majority in favor was declared. Motion carries.

Senator Tarr was present to give a citation from the MA Senate to Planning Board member Rick Mitchell for his long service (22 years) to the Town and to Shawn Farrell for his service (9 years) on the Select Board.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-11 Town Center Comprehensive Plan

To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$125,000 to fund a Town Center Comprehensive Plan, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$125,000*). Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Motion made by Bill Olson: “I move that the Town approve Article 2-11 as printed in the Warrant.” Seconded.

Bill Olson said the plan would consider land within ½ mile of the MBTA station, which would allow increased density within that area. Consultants would be brought in to educate the Town of the options of available.

Town Moderator recognized Rick Mitchell, who said the proposal was for a form-based code zoning area near the railroad station. Design Standards were currently missing in the Business District. 40A Section 3A of the State Law would promote housing within the MBTA district. Up to 15 units per acre of multi-family housing would be allowed under the adoption of the State Law. The area included the Winthrop School site. The 3A law would not be adopted until the Town went through a public process that would define the layout of the district. The Hamilton Development Corporation would be funding a portion of the study. The goal is to propose a zoning bylaw to be voted on by Town Meeting.

Electronic Vote: 426 in favor; 50 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-13 Community Preservation – Affordable Housing Trust

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate \$310,945.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve Fund Account and \$189,055.00 from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund Balance, for a total appropriation of \$500,000, to the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust as a grant for the purpose of supporting development projects that will lead to the creation of affordable housing, and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust setting the terms for such grant, including a requirement that the owners of any dwellings subsequently receiving any of these appropriated monies from the Trust grant to the Town or Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust an Affordable Housing Restriction in said dwellings, and that such requirement be included in any grant agreement involving these funds; and further, to authorize the Select Board to accept such restrictions; or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Motion made by Jay Butler: “I move that the Town approve Article 2-13 as printed in the Warrant.” Seconded.

Jay Butler said the proposal was for the 40B development on Asbury St. 45 units would be available for families and seniors. The development would increase affordable units from 4.0% to 5.6% of the Town’s Housing stock against a goal of 10%. Affordability would be 60% or below average median income with a 70% local preference. The amount would be combined with funding from the Affordable Housing Trust to be offered to Harborlight Homes for the

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\$28M project. The Community Preservation Committee, Select Board and FinCom voted unanimously to support the Article.

Electronic Vote: 384 in favor; 91 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-14 Community Preservation – Housing Production Plan

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate \$40,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Fund Balance for the purpose of funding a Housing Production Plan, including all incidental and related costs; any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after April 6, 2026 will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Motion made by Jay Butler: “I move that the Town approve Article 2-14 as printed in the Warrant.” Seconded.

Jay Butler discussed the need for the Housing Production Plan. The Select Board, Community Preservation Committee and FinCom all voted to support the Article unanimously.

Jenny Beauregard (15 Hamilton Ave.) asked if the Plan would be in coordination with the Downtown Center Plan. Joe Domelowicz explained that the Housing Production Plan was produced each five years. Separate consultants would be hired, who would coordinate with each other.

Electronic vote: 400 in favor; 74 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-15 Community Preservation – Antique Fire Truck Building

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Fund Balance for the purpose of funding the design and construction of a building to store Chemical Engine No. 1, a historic Model-T fire apparatus, including all incidental and related costs; any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after April 6, 2026 will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Motion made by Jay Butler: “I move that the Town approve Article 2-15 as printed in the Warrant.” Seconded.

Jay Butler said the \$150,000 was for the construction of the 1916 fire truck building as the previous building was demolished when the Public Safety Building was reconstructed. The previous grant expired. The new building would be completed by 2025.

Electronic Vote: 324 in favor; 127 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

SECTION 3: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS.

ARTICLE 2024/4 3-1 Resolution – State Flag and Seal.

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To see if the Town will vote to approve the resolution in support of changing the State flag and seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts set forth in Appendix G, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Jamie Knudsen.

Motion made by Jamie Knudsen: "I move that the Town vote to approve Article 3-1 as printed in the Warrant." Seconded.

Jamie Knudsen gave a history of the flag and seal. The Human Rights Commission had requested the article. The original symbol showed violence against indigenous people. An inclusive symbol would be developed with the approval of the Article.

Electronic Vote: 390 in favor; 102 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2024/4 3-3 Citizens' Petition – Resolution on Use of Artificial Turf at the HWRS D Athletic Fields Project

To see if the Town will vote that it does not support the use of artificial turf for the proposed Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School athletic improvements project and therefore instructs the Hamilton representatives to the Regional School Committee to inform the Regional School Committee of the Town's position, and if the representatives are given the opportunity to vote on the matter, that the representatives announce the Town's wishes expressed above, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Bill Shields.

Motion made by Bill Shields: "I move that the Town vote to approve Article 3-3 as printed in the Warrant." Seconded.

Bill Shields (721 Bay Road) explained the issues related to having artificial turf used as a field surface. Mr. Shields noted that the previous Town Meeting did not provide information regarding the duration of use of the field or that when the use was over, the materials could not be recycled. All artificial turf contains PFAS which are forever chemicals. The Town was not told that other cities and towns had banned the use of artificial turf because of its dangers. New York has banned it outright and California allows cities and towns to ban artificial turf. Mr. Shields said the School Committee would not put the turf field concerns on the agenda for discussion, so they went for a three minute presentation to explain the dangers but the School Committee never responded. The Citizens Petition would allow the residents to make that decision. The Petition would not stop the improvement of the athletic fields or remove the funds but would let the School Committee know the Town does not want artificial turf and request the School Committee to take time for a decision before giving the Town toxic waste. Mr. Shields read quotes regarding the dangers of artificial turf from professionals.

Town Moderator recognized Anne Gero.

Anne Gero (821 Bay Road) spoke about the issues between grass and artificial turf. Ms. Gero referred to the Gale Associates Report (2015) based on the use potential of grass fields, which she felt was incorrect based on information from UMass Lowell as well as information from Scott Fields (Sports Fields Solutions), who opined that 1,200 to 1,300 hours of playing times per year could be used on grass fields. Ms. Gero reviewed the hours spend by various users: The football field 260, baseball 248 (including summer and spring babe ruth), and softball 712 (including little league play and middle school recess and physical education). The middle field

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had 540 hours, field 2 had 648 hours, and field 3 had 410 hours of use, all of which were well below what was feasible. Aeration and overseeding, water and fertilized were needed. State law indicates that athletic fields can be watered during water bans. Winter blankets would be needed in winter. The fields did not need the rest periods that the Town had been told, according to Ms. Gero. Resodding the heavily used areas would cost less than the turf field. All grass fields in Town should be maintained rather than moving more use to the high school. Neither artificial turf nor grass should be used after it rains. Drainage allows for quicker use. If a drainage field is not used for artificial turf, it is not usable either. Ms. Gero suggested using \$325,000 for drainage systems for each of three fields. The EPA is proposing the regulations for PFAS in drinking water, which would cost municipalities in the future. The Town should not be adding more PFAS to the water system. Neighboring towns have artificial turf fields, which had to be resurfaced already, one of which had a bordering well, which had already been affected by PFAS. The cost for clean up would be about \$10M.

Bill Olson (419 Highland St./Select Board) said the Select Board supported the fields as designed.

Peter Gourdeau (416 Bridge St.) asked if Town Counsel had reviewed the Citizens' Petition. Town Counsel responded that the Article 3-3 was a non-binding referendum question. Article 3-4 was problematic as the original vote in 2023 was to approve a vote taken by the regional school district commission to authorize a debt. Once the debt was authorized, written notice was given to member towns in the district. No debt could occur for 60 days but member towns held Town Meetings to approve the particular debt within that time. Once the 60 days expired, the issue comes to an end. Article 3-5 seeks a moratorium of installation of artificial fields. The project has already been authorized but a future moratorium would be upheld by the Attorney General's office. Bill Shields responded that he disagreed with Town Counsel.

Shawn Farrell explained that the first article was to get a sense of the room, the second article was unenforceable, and the third article would apply to future turf fields.

Kathy St. Pierre (743 Bay Road) and Peter Britton (466 Highland St.) spoke in favor of the Article. Jenny Beauregard (Hamilton Ave.) asked about replacement costs. Eric Tracy responded that the Stabilization Fund might be used for the replacement, which would be budgeted ahead of time. Eric Bond (22 Martel Road), Anna Siedzek (227 Highland St.), Steve Ozahowski (Willow St.), and Kelly Alberts (6 Settlers Lane) spoke against the article. Michele Horgan (141 School St.) wanted more information from Eric Tracy. Amy Laws (17 Postgate Road) clarified the composition of artificial turf. An unidentified resident said The Building Committee voted to use organic pine (Brockfill) infill. Rob Brown (22 Blueberry Lane) noted all artificial turf had PFAS and that funding could potentially be used for a grass field.

Tracy Lutz (39 Chestnut St.) asked what would happen to donations if the project was delayed. Michelle Horgan said private funds were raised (\$1.6M) for an artificial turf, which would need to be returned if the patrons requested it. The town would need to make up the money.

Motion made by Dana Allara (70 Echo Cove Road) to move to a vote. Seconded.

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Electronic vote to move the question: 461 in favor; 43 opposed. A 2/3 majority in favor was declared. Motion carries.

Main motion for Article 3-3 was called. Seconded.

Electronic vote: 189 in favor; 339 opposed. Motion fails.

ARTICLE 2024/4 3-4 Citizens' Petition – Amend Vote to Appropriate Funds for the HWRSD Athletic Fields Project

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote¹ under Article 2023/4: 5-2 of the Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by striking the period at the end thereof and by inserting thereafter the following: ‘and provided further that the design, construction, reconstruction, and improvements shall not include or contain artificial turf.’ or take any action thereon or relative thereto.” Town Moderator recognized Bill Shields

Motion made by Bill Shields: “I move that the Town vote to approve Article 3-4 as printed in the Warrant with one exception, replacing Article 2023/4 5-2 with Article 2023/4 2-14 of the Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.” Seconded.

Electronic Vote: 143 in favor; 347 opposed. Majority not in favor. Motion fails.

¹ That the Town approve the debt authorized by the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee (“School Committee”) in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing, reconstruction, making improvements to and equipping the athletic and recreational facilities located at the Hamilton Wenham Regional High School, 775 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that the vote taking hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town at an election to exclude from the limits imposed by Proposition 2 ½, the amounts needed to pay for the Town’s allocated share of the principal and interest on such debt, and further, that the expenditure of funds authorized to be borrowed hereunder shall be reduced by any grants or gifts received for such purposes and by any other amount or amounts that the School Committee may, from time to time, appropriate from the District Capital Stabilization Fund, including, but not limited to the \$1,690,000 the School Committee has indicated will be earmarked for the project in FY 2024.

ARTICLE 2024/4 3-5 Citizens' Petition – General Bylaw Amendment Moratorium on Artificial Turf Fields

To see if the Town will vote to amend the general by-laws to add a new by-law captioned “Moratorium on Artificial Turf” that imposes a three-year moratorium on the construction of artificial turf on all public land within the Town, including without limitation land leased or owned by the Town or the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District, as follows:

The use of artificial turf on athletic playing fields entails myriad public health and safety, environmental, and climate concerns. Hamilton must carefully evaluate whether such use, even privately funded, is consonant with Hamilton’s athletic needs, the health and safety of its children, residents in general, and the environment. This moratorium allows the Town the opportunity (a) to examine the extent to which artificial turf is injurious to public health and safety, the environment, and the climate compared to natural grass solutions, and (b) to

ADDENDUM – Consent Article

ARTICLE 2024/4 1-3 Consent Motion Articles included the following articles:

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-1 Compensation/Classification Table

To see if the Town will amend the Personnel Bylaw by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table as set forth in Appendix A, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-5 Water Enterprise Budget

To see if the Town will approve the FY2025 Water Enterprise Budget, as set forth in Appendix E, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$2,319,978*)

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-6 Annual Financial Actions

To see if the Town will authorize the following financial actions, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

- A. To transfer \$2,000 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to the General Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$503,647 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- C. To transfer \$6,351.21 from the interest of the Clark Fund to the Conservation Trust Fund for conservation related expenses.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-7 Hamilton Development Corporation

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 to the Hamilton Development Corporation, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$58,000*).

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-8 OPEB Trust Fund

To see if the Town will transfer the sum of \$125,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-12 Community Preservation Budget

To see if the Town will act on the Report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Preservation Budget and specified other projects and appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, as set forth in Appendix F, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2024/4 2-16 Opioid Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to transfer the sum of \$6,577.56 from Free Cash, the amount equivalent to that received by the Town for settlements of the nationwide opioid litigation matters, to a Special Opioid Revenue Fund approved by the Director of Accounts pursuant to said Chapter 77, which fund may be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those

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determine if natural grass solutions based on the use of the latest techniques for grass field construction and organic maintenance create viable alternatives for Hamilton. “Artificial turf” means any of various artificial, synthetic or partially synthetic carpet-like materials made to resemble grass, including the infill and lines, used as a surface for athletics, sports or other recreational activities. The Town of Hamilton shall neither install nor authorize or allow the installation of artificial turf on any public land within the town, including with limitation land leased or owned by the Town or the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District for a period of three years from the effective date of this moratorium or take any action thereon or relative thereto.” Town Moderator recognized Bill Shields

Motion made by Bill Shields: “I move that the Town vote to approve Article 3-5 as printed in the Warrant.” Seconded

Jeanne Maurand (21 Garfield Ave.) spoke in favor of the article.

Electronic Vote: 150 in favor; 323 opposed. Majority not in favor. Motion fails.

The Town Moderator mentioned that there is a lot of work that goes into a Town Meeting and he thanked those that contributed to making sure everything gets done especially Laurie Wilson (Town Manager’s office) and AJ Lease (HWRSD Fine and Performing Arts Department)

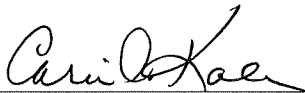
ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator said: “I will now accept a Motion to dissolve.” So Moved. Seconded.

Voice Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion carries.

This Annual Town Meeting is now dissolved at 12:33 pm on April 6, 2024.

A True Copy Attest:



Carin A. Kale
Town Clerk

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outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents; or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2024/4 3-2* Acceptance of G.L. c.32 s.4 (2)(b)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.32, §4(2)(b), which allows call firefighters and reserve police officers who subsequently become permanent members of the Fire Department or Police Department, and thus members of the Essex Regional Retirement System, to buyback and be credited for more than the five (5) years of service allowed by statute, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

* There was a typo in the Warrant that identified the article as “Article 2023/4 3-2” rather than 2024/4 3-2.

