BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Hooksett Town Hall
35 Main Street
Thursday, January 15, 2026
6:30 pm
Public Hearing 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER
A. Shaine called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE
Ernie Bencivenga, Michael Kowak, William Lynch, Germano Martins, Darren Greenberg, Alyssa Ehl, Elizabeth Spitzer, Wayne Goertel, School Rep, and Abigail Shaine.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. Ehl motioned to approve the minutes of December 18, 2025. Seconded by D. Greenberg. Vote unanimously in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT
No comments

BUSINESS
Review of Warrant Articles
Municipal
Andre G. Garron and Christine Tewksbury reviewed Article3, 4, and 9.

Article 3: Tax Increment Bond for Sewer Expansion Exit 10
To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to raise and appropriate the sum of **$12,500,000.00** (gross budget) for sewer and related infrastructure improvements within the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District established in March 2017, for economic and environmental benefit within that district; and of that amount:

- **$860,000.00** to be appropriated from existing TIF District funds
- **$2,100,000.00** to be appropriated by the Board of Sewer Commissioners, and
- No more than **$9,540,000.00** to be financed through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act RSA 33, as amended

and to authorize the Town Council to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest, maturity, and other terms thereof;

and to authorize the Town Council to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds available for this project in order to reduce the amount required to be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes;

and furthermore to raise and appropriate **$240,000.00** from TIF District funds for bond issuance costs and first-year debt service payments;

provided, however, that bonds shall be issued only when sufficient TIF District funds are available to pay all associated costs and debt service, and that all bonds shall be repaid entirely from TIF District funds, with no use of general tax revenues.
(3/5 ballot vote required) Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No)

Voters' Guide Explanation:
This article is supported by the **Hooksett Sewer Commission**, the **Tax Increment Finance Committee**, and the **Economic Development Committee**.

This project represents the next phase of the overall Exit 10 sewer system improvements and includes:

- Upgrades to the Martins Ferry force main;
- Upgrades to the Martins Ferry Pump Station;
- Construction of a new double-barrel sewer force main beneath the Merrimack River; and
- Construction of a new Kimball Drive Pump Station.

This article does not include the installation of sewer pipes to individual businesses in the Route 93, Exit 10 area. Any such connections would require future authorization under a separate project.

Several existing businesses within the district are currently experiencing septic system limitations. This project is intended to address those limitations, protect environmental resources, and allow for orderly future development within the TIF District.

Key Clarifications

- This article **does not authorize spending in advance of available revenue**. Infrastructure work may proceed only as TIF revenues are generated.
- **No general fund or town-wide tax revenues are used** for this project.
- All borrowing and debt service are **limited exclusively to TIF District funds** and Sewer Commission appropriations.
- Bonds will be issued only when sufficient TIF funds are available to cover all associated costs.
- Future phases of the Exit 10 sewer system would require **separate authorization.**

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not approved, the

Town would be unable to proceed with this phase of sewer and infrastructure improvements within the TIF District under the current financing framework. This would limit the Town's ability to address existing septic system constraints, environmental concerns, and future economic development opportunities within the district.

Estimated cost: The estimated cost of this phase of the project is **$12,500,000.00**, funded as follows:

- **$2,100,000.00** previously authorized by the Sewer Commission
- **$860,000.00** from existing TIF District funds
- **Up to $9,540,000.00** financed through TIF-backed bonds
- **$240,000** from TIF District funds for bond issuance costs and first-year debt service

Project Cost Allocation

Project Component	**Estimated Cost**
Martins Ferry Force Main Upgrades	$5,250,000
Martins Ferry Pump Station Upgrades	$2,500,000
New Double-Barrel Force Main (Merrimack River)	$1,250,000
New Kimball Drive Pump Station	$3,500,000
Total Estimated Cost	**$12,500,000**

Note: Installation of sewer piping from the Kimball Drive Pump Station to Exit 10 businesses is not included in this article and would be part of a future project.
New TIF revenue is continually generated as development occurs within the district. Borrowing will occur only as those revenues become available.

If the full bonding amount of $9,540,000.00 were issued over 20 years at an estimated interest rate of 4.30%, the total interest cost over the life of the bonds would be approximately **$4.3 million**. Annual payments are estimated to range from approximately **$880,000.00 in the second year** to **$485,000.00 in the final year**.

No general tax dollars will be used. All payments will be made exclusively from TIF District funds.

Andre Garon stated they will only bond what is in the fund and there is no tax impact. This is being done in collaboration with the Sewer Commission.

D. Greenberg asked why 2 Councilors voted no.

Andre Garron stated one Councilor felt traffic was a concern and should be improved first.

E Bencivenga: The 9.5 million is for a new bond to be paid by taxpayers?

Andre Garron: We are asking for the total amount, but we are only going to bond the TIF amount. We will only bond what is available from the TIF funds.

Article 4: Scale House & Retaining Wall at Transfer Station Bond

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$1,325,840.00** (gross budget) for the purpose of replacing the Recycling & Transfer Station Scale House and Retaining Wall; and to authorize the issuance of not more than **$1,325,840.00** of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; and to authorize the Town Council to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Town Council to apply for, accept and expend any federal, state, or private funds that are available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of **$40,000.00** from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund for the bond issuance costs and the first years debt service payments on such bonds or notes? (3/5 ballot vote required.) Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:

The existing scale house is a repurposed garage that does not provide adequate services for employees or the public and is at the end of its useful life. The existing retaining wall for demolition and bulky waste is made of stacked concrete waste block that has shifted over time and needs to be replaced. The new scale house and retaining wall will meet current building codes and labor department requirements and create an improved and safer experience for the residents.

The bond would be paid off using the fees collected at the Recycling and Transfer facility which are held in the Solid Waste Disposal Fund. Over the last five years, the average collected in fees has been $161,033.00 per year. As of December 31, 2025, there was $178,230.22 available in the fund.

Estimated cost: The estimated cost to finance the full amount of the work of $1,325,840.00 over 20 years with an interest rate of 4.30% would cost the Town an estimated $594,851.00 in interest over the life of the note. Payments would range from a high of $130,000.00 in the second year to $67,000.00 in year 20. No general tax dollars will be used as this bond would be paid off using the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund.

Ben Berthiaume Director of DPW: The estimate from the engineer is a conservative 1.3million. It is simple pre-engineered metal building. It will last and the cost estimate is conservative.

Alyssa Ehl: How will it be paid.

B. Berthiaume: The transfer station takes in money from fees and the money from recyclables. That money that is generated is put in a special revenue fund. The purpose to use the funds must

be approved by the Council and the residents. That money can only be used to benefit the transfer station. Previously, the fund has been used to purchase a trailer and bailer.

E. Bencivenga asked why not use a modular?

B. Berthiaume: We want something sturdy with longevity. The life expectancy is 60-70 years.

Article 9: Police Union Contract

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Police Employees Teamsters Local 633 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year.

Fiscal Year	Salaries	Benefits	Estimated Increase
2026-27	$ 93,744.00	$30,422.00	$124,166.00
2027-28	$125,789.00	$43,690.00	$169,479.00

And further to raise and appropriate **$124,166.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The estimated tax rate impact is $0.04. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 1 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
The passing of this article will ensure the implementation of the negotiated agreement between the town and the 19 police officers and 5 dispatchers collective bargaining unit (Teamsters Local 633). This agreement offers the patrol officers a 6% and the dispatchers a 3% increase in pay in the first year and in the second year the patrol officers would receive a 8% and dispatchers a 3% increase in wages. These increases will allow the Town of Hooksett to become competitive with hiring in regard to surrounding agencies around us that currently offer better pay as well as retain the valuable officers currently in the department.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? The current union contract will expire June 30, 2026, and the Town will be required to maintain the same level of cost benefits to the employees at the time the contract expires, until another contract is approved. This could also lead to current employees seeking employment with surrounding agencies. It currently takes over an entire year to train a new police officer at a cost estimated to be around $100,000.00 per officer to get them ready to become a solo police officer.

Estimated cost: The total for both years is $293,645.00

Andre Garron: This is a two year contract and couldn't agree on this cost for 3 years. In negotiations, we agree on 2 years that would allow us to get the patrol salaries to be up to other communities and the approach of 6% in the first year and 8% in the second year would get us comparable. The Dispatchers were comparable so 3% is proposed for them.

E. Bencivenga: The contract includes health insurance. Is it paid 100% or do they pay a portion.

Andre Garron: They have the same insurance as the other employees. They can opt for the no cost plan or the higher plan which has an 80/20 split.

Article 23: Petition

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$12,900.00** for the purpose of lighting the village area including the Lilac Walking Bridge, the Town Tree, Historical Society, Old Town Hall and current Town Hall, from December to March for holiday lighting and town's holiday kick-off event Light up the Village. PETITION ARTICLE The estimated tax rate impact is $0.004. Recommended By Town Council (3 Yes – 1 No)

School District

1. Shall the Hooksett School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett School Board and the Hooksett Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over those paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Increase
2026-2027	$325,105
2027-2028	$326,773
2028-2029	$318,174

and further to raise and appropriate $325,105 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? Estimated tax rate impact 2026-2027 is $0.10/per thousand. Estimated tax rate impact 2027-2028 is $0.10/per thousand. Estimated tax rate impact 2028-2029 is $0.10/per thousand. (Recommended by the School Board 5-1) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

W. Rearick: We were able after mediation to come to an agreement. The goals for the School Board was $1.3million in value and we wanted to be as cost effective as possible, This is $966,000 for 3 years. Part of the salary increase was done to close the gap between the newer and longer employed teachers. If you were experienced in the past, you couldn't move because you were priced out. That changed after covid. This proposed contract continues to close the gaps. We also negotiated a second health insurance option. We now have the yellow plan, and we negotiated an HSA option which is less expensive for the district and the employee. Our goal is to get everyone to move over eventually. We got an additional parent teacher conference day in the spring and we reduced the number of teachers that can retire to get benefit from 6 to 5 and reduced course reimbursements.

E. Bencivenga: What are the top teacher salaries currently?

W. Goertel: $86,500 and 19.23% paid to pension system.

Article 6 and 7

The Board made a change to how to fund Article 6 and 7. Originally, the Special Ed Trust Fund was coming from fund balance, and the Technology Trust Fund was from taxation. The Board felt that the Technology Fund should come fund balance and the Special Ed fund from taxation. (.03/1000.)
Three (3) School Board members didn't support having the money come from taxation.

Alyssa Ehl stated it is inaccurate to say "no additional fund coming from taxation" since all fund balances used are tax dollars, they should be returned to the general fund.

Public Hearing (7 pm)
Abigail Shaine opened the public session at 7:35 pm

Municipal Budget and Warrant Articles
D. Greenberg read Article 3 into the record:

Article 3: Tax Increment Bond for Sewer Expansion Exit 10

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- **$2,100,000.00** to be appropriated by the Board of Sewer Commissioners, and
- No more than **$9,540,000.00** to be financed through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act RSA 33, as amended

and to authorize the Town Council to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest, maturity, and other terms thereof;

and to authorize the Town Council to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds available for this project in order to reduce the amount required to be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes;

and furthermore to raise and appropriate **$240,000.00** from TIF District funds for bond issuance costs and first-year debt service payments;

provided, however, that bonds shall be issued only when sufficient TIF District funds are available to pay all associated costs and debt service, and that all bonds shall be repaid entirely from TIF District funds, with no use of general tax revenues.
(3/5 ballot vote required) Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
This article is supported by the **Hooksett Sewer Commission**, the **Tax Increment Finance Committee**, and the **Economic Development Committee**.

This project represents the next phase of the overall Exit 10 sewer system improvements and includes:

- Upgrades to the Martins Ferry force main;
- Upgrades to the Martins Ferry Pump Station;
- Construction of a new double-barrel sewer force main beneath the Merrimack River; and
- Construction of a new Kimball Drive Pump Station.

This article does not include the installation of sewer pipes to individual businesses in the Route 93, Exit 10 area. Any such connections would require future authorization under a separate project.

Several existing businesses within the district are currently experiencing septic system limitations. This project is intended to address those limitations, protect environmental resources, and allow for orderly future development within the TIF District.

Key Clarifications

- This article **does not authorize spending in advance of available revenue**. Infrastructure work may proceed only as TIF revenues are generated.
- **No general fund or town-wide tax revenues are used** for this project.
- All borrowing and debt service are **limited exclusively to TIF District funds** and Sewer Commission appropriations.
- Bonds will be issued only when sufficient TIF funds are available to cover all associated costs.
- Future phases of the Exit 10 sewer system would require **separate authorization.**

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not approved, the Town would be unable to proceed with this phase of sewer and infrastructure improvements within the TIF District under the current financing framework. This would limit the Town's ability to address existing septic system constraints, environmental concerns, and future economic development opportunities within the district.

Estimated cost: The estimated cost of this phase of the project is **$12,500,000.00**, funded as follows:

- **$2,100,000.00** previously authorized by the Sewer Commission
- **$860,000.00** from existing TIF District funds
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- **$240,000** from TIF District funds for bond issuance costs and first-year debt service

Project Cost Allocation

Project Component	Estimated Cost
Martins Ferry Force Main Upgrades	$5,250,000
Martins Ferry Pump Station Upgrades	$2,500,000
New Double-Barrel Force Main (Merrimack River)	$1,250,000
New Kimball Drive Pump Station	$3,500,000
Total Estimated Cost	**$12,500,000**

Note: Installation of sewer piping from the Kimball Drive Pump Station to Exit 10 businesses is not included in this article and would be part of a future project.
New TIF revenue is continually generated as development occurs within the district. Borrowing will occur only as those revenues become available.

If the full bonding amount of $9,540,000.00 were issued over 20 years at an estimated interest rate of 4.30%, the total interest cost over the life of the bonds would be approximately **$4.3 million**. Annual payments are estimated to range from approximately **$880,000.00 in the second year** to **$485,000.00 in the final year**.

No general tax dollars will be used. All payments will be made exclusively from TIF District funds.

Roger Duhaime explained his no recommendation vote at Council
In the first Exit 10 we had a TIF District and I was initially in favor of that. Over the years there was surplus property and there were major increases in commercial development and creates traffic. I would like to support this, but the State is not taking care of the traffic issues. The State just put off their plans for 89 and 93 because they don't have enough money. I have a 10 year plan from 20 years ago and it's still not done. Financially this doesn't help my taxes. More development means more services. Now I don't see any benefit for our taxes and I don't see traffic decreasing. It is cheaper today than in 10 years. Other communities got the State and Federal funds and Hooksett has not seen any.

David Smith: I don't live on the West side, so I don't see the traffic. My view is more financial. People have made more money during covid, and this will change. The sewer lines that we supply already have wastewater in house. They have septic. 12 million should be paid by those that will get delivery. Some of the scope of this is mandated because of maintenance. Why is the town paying for something that should be paid by the developer. This is a bond and we should charge the users.

Andre Garron: When the district was defined, that area was established as a base amount. If that is generating a dollar amount that will go to the general fund. The increase in value tax will go toward the bond.

Roger Duhaime: The tax money that would go to the general fund is going to pay the bond. There are tax dollars going to pay the bond.

D. Greenberg red Article 4 into the record

Article 4: Scale House & Retaining Wall at Transfer Station Bond

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$1,325,840.00** (gross budget) for the purpose of replacing the Recycling & Transfer Station Scale House and Retaining Wall; and to authorize the issuance of not more than **$1,325,840.00** of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; and to authorize the Town Council to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Town Council to apply for, accept and expend any federal, state, or private funds that are available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of **$40,000.00** from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund for the bond issuance costs and the first years debt service payments on such bonds or notes? (3/5 ballot vote required.) Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 2 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:

The existing scale house is a repurposed garage that does not provide adequate services for employees or the public and is at the end of its useful life. The existing retaining wall for demolition and bulky waste is made of stacked concrete waste block that has shifted over time and needs to be replaced. The new scale house and retaining wall will meet current building codes and labor department requirements and create an improved and safer experience for the residents.

The bond would be paid off using the fees collected at the Recycling and Transfer facility which are held in the Solid Waste Disposal Fund. Over the last five years, the average collected in fees has been $161,033.00 per year. As of December 31, 2025, there was $178,230.22 available in the fund.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not passed it could result in continued maintenance and repair costs to the town and impact employee morale. This building is used daily in order to operate the Recycle and Transfer Division for the town.

Estimated cost: The estimated cost to finance the full amount of the work of $1,325,840.00 over 20 years with an interest rate of 4.30% would cost the Town an estimated $594,851.00 in interest over the life of the note. Payments would range from a high of $130,000.00 in the second year to $67,000.00 in year 20. No general tax dollars will be used as this bond would be paid off using the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund.

David Smith: I voted no to recommend at Council and am on the recycle transfer committee. It was presented as 63,000 and I thought that was a lot of money then. The building there definitely needs something. The retaining wall is $80,000. The department has 8 full-time employees and 3

on Saturday. We should use a portable building there. I never see 8 employees utilizing that building at one time. If you haven't seen the drawings for the building, you should. It is very large. I don't see the value for dollar. I don't see trimming the budget over trimming services.

Roger Duhaime: I think the building needs to be redone but not for this amount of money. There were no cuts. We need to draw a line. I would like something done overtime or could have been planned in the CIP.

D. Greenberg read the article into the record:

Article 5: Operating Budget

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, and other appropriations voted separately totaling **$25,699,803.00**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be $24,643,338.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by law or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The estimated tax rate impact $4.72.

Voters' Guide Explanation:

The Town Council recommended a budget of $22,918,112.00 and the Sewer Commission recommended a budget of $2,781,691.00 for a combined total of $25,699,803.00.

The recommended budget supports:

1. Union raises approved by the voters for Police Supervisors $46,929 and Firefighters $109,212.
2. Staff levels remain the same at 134 full-time and 37 part-time, including Library & Wastewater.
3. Employee health and dental Insurance premiums increased an average of 14.5% for a budget increase of $465,158.
4. Workers' compensation premiums increased 6.8% for a budget impact of $23,313.
5. Property and Liability insurance premiums increased 31.8% for a budget increase of $101,196.
6. Increases in costs for replacement of computers that have reached the end of their useful life.
7. A $10,000 increase in legal services for a recommended budget of $130,000. The last two fiscal years, the Town has spent approximately $150,000 in legal cost each year.
8. This budget does not support requests for direct financial contributions to the Hooksetties, Heritage Commission or Old Home Day, but does support fireworks, stage rentals and some staffing for the Old Home Day event.
9. Additional funds in Assessing to hire temporary office help using an agency.
10. The Community Development's budget includes level funding for the professional service line to update the impact fee rates for the schools or to start the rate update on the traffic\roadway ordinance.
11. The town welfare line is recommended at $58,000, which is $10,000 less than the current budget.

12. The Finance budget has additional funds for the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) compliance and a Federal Single Audit.
13. The Fire budget includes funds for "PFAS Free" Personal Protective Equipment as required by NH House Bill 1352 and an increase in water hydrant costs.
14. The Police department's budget includes funds to replace two cruisers at the 2025 cost, additional funds to replace six ballistic vests and training.
15. In the Department of Public Works' highway division, the road paving line has an additional $50,000 to start rebuilding this line to the $900,000 level recommended in 2020 by the Beta Group and funds to update the town's pavement management program. In the parks division, additional funds were added to purchase a new zero-turn mower. In the recycling and transfer division, the tipping fees line is lower than the current budget by $12,000. This is the result of increased tipping fee rates from $98 to $103 per ton and the removal of the condo reimbursement practice. The Condo reimbursements would have increased this line by another $75,000 based on the new tipping fee rate of $103 per ton.
16. Increases in the Library's budget of $91,292.00 and Wastewater's budget of $110,198.00.

The Budget Committee reviewed all the budgets and did not make any changes.

The Budget Committee's recommended operating budget for FY 2026-27 is **$25,699,803.00,** which is a 5.48% increase from the current budget.

The default budget set at $24,643,338.00 includes the voter approved union (Police Supervisors and Fire) raises, changes to current debt service. Items number 3 to 16 listed above are not included in the default budget.

For detailed information about the budget please see the Hooksett website.

TOWN OF HOOKSETT - BUDGET SUMMARY FY 2026-27 12/23/2025

	column 1	column 2	column 3	column 4	column 5	column 6	column 7	column 8	column 9
						FY 2026-27		FY 2026-27	
	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Town	FY 2026-27	Budget	FY 2026-27
	Approved	Actuals	Amended	Actuals	Department's	Administrator's	Council's	Committee's	Default
Departments	Budget	as of 6/30/25	Budget	as of 9/25/25	Request	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Budget
Administration	$ 1,788,680	$ 1,726,670.03	$ 1,761,525	$ 608,824.91	$ 1,837,469	$ 1,827,469	$ 1,955,057	$ 1,955,057	$ 1,766,536
Assessing	254,881	223,516.20	249,599	71,234.89	291,248	262,020	280,552	280,552	249,599
Community Development	628,590	595,656.88	640,757	183,226.71	646,773	643,121	654,182	654,182	640,757
Family Services	164,180	107,832.03	154,643	39,238.72	156,047	145,866	145,866	145,866	154,643
Finance	293,814	298,953.00	300,672	104,956.73	308,185	308,185	317,048	317,048	300,672
Fire-Rescue	5,086,569	4,932,018.41	5,128,945	1,509,546.90	5,259,525	5,238,414	5,352,615	5,352,615	5,233,782
Police	5,787,328	5,592,769.13	6,059,535	1,881,477.77	6,149,097	6,147,208	6,297,491	6,297,491	6,105,828
Public Works	5,612,313	5,170,033.61	5,601,466	1,466,987.17	5,737,559	5,736,334	5,859,686	5,859,686	5,601,466
Tax Collector	331,419	334,769.94	344,388	103,117.53	344,043	342,062	350,274	350,274	344,388
Town Clerk & Elections	112,932	104,399.40	63,020	13,320.89	105,431	103,670	103,670	103,670	63,020
Operating Budget	**20,060,706**	**19,086,618.63**	**20,304,550**	**5,981,932.22**	**20,835,377**	**20,754,349**	**21,316,441**	**21,316,441**	**20,460,691**
Budget Committee	8,107	5,770.48	7,625	2,613.43	7,625	7,087	7,087	7,087	7,625
Capital Leases	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Cemetery Commission	1,240	1,077.72	1,200	0.00	2,962	963	963	963	1,200
Conservation Commission	1,095	1,095.00	1,095	460.63	1,095	1,095	1,095	1,095	1,095
Debt Principal	300,000	300,000.00	305,000	95,000.00	305,000	305,000	305,000	305,000	305,000
Debt Interest	87,338	87,337.50	72,037	37,230.00	56,483	56,483	56,483	56,483	56,483
Debt TAN Interest	1	0.00	1	0.00	1	1	1	1	1
Library	1,139,750	1,139,750.00	1,139,750	276,602.00	1,201,633	N/A	1,231,042	1,231,042	1,139,750
Total Budget	21,598,237	20,621,649.33	21,831,258	6,393,838.28	22,410,176	21,124,978	22,918,112	22,918,112	21,971,845
Wastewater	2,647,148	2,647,148.00	2,671,493	0.00	2,781,691	N/A	N/A	2,781,691	2,671,493
Grand Total	**$ 24,245,385**	**$ 23,268,797.33**	**$ 24,502,751**	**$ 6,393,838.28**	**$ 25,191,867**	**$ 21,124,978**	**$ 22,918,112**	**$ 25,699,803**	**$ 24,643,338**

* Grants, donations and encumbrances have been removed from both the budget and actuals for budgeting purposes.

Budget Committee's recommended budget is higher than the Default Budget by:	$ 1,056,465	4.8%
Budget Committee's recommended budget is higher than the FY 2024-25 Budget by:	$ 1,197,052	5.48%

No public comments

D. Greenberg read Article 6 into the record

Article 6: Non-Union Wages

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$88,761.00** for an increase in salaries and benefits for non-union full-time and part-time town personnel.

Fiscal Year	Salaries	Benefits	Total
2026-27	$74,694.00	$14,067.00	$88,761.00

The estimated tax rate impact is $0.03. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes - 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:

This article provides an increase of 3% for 26 full-time and 26 part-time non-union employees on the first Monday in July 2026. Non-union employees cover all departments including Library. Seasonal and contract employees are not included.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article does not pass, the non-union employees in each of the departments will not realize a salary increase since July 2024 which will have a negative impact on employee morale. Four years ago, the Town made large strides in adjusting to the labor market and the support of this article continues to put the Town in the best position to retain current employees and hire new employees.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
In March 2025, this article was supported by Town Council and Budget Committee for a 4.3% increase at a cost of $125,513.00. Voters did not support by a vote of 947 Yes to 1102 No.

In March 2024, this article was supported by Town Council and Budget Committee for a 4.2% increase at a cost of $126,490.00. Voters supported by a vote of 908 Yes to 623 No.

No comments

D. Greenberg read Article 7 into the record

Article 7: DPW Union Contract

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Public Works' Employees, Teamsters Local 633 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

Fiscal Year	Salaries	Benefits	Estimated Increase
2026-27	$63,956.00	$15,145.00	$79,101.00
2027-28	$57,233.00	$13,553.00	$70,786.00
2028-29	$59,230.00	$14,026.00	$73,256.00

and further to raise and appropriate **$79,101.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The estimated tax rate impact is $0.02. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
This union has 23 full-time members and has negotiated a three-year contract. Each year, members receive a 4% increase, which is a combination of a 1% COLA and a 3% step. Members off the step chart will receive a 2% COLA and no step. The contract includes a one-time bonus of $1,500.00 for members that receive their CDL A license and a Trainer Stipend for the employee(s) who train members to get their CDL license. Standby pay increased from $10.00 a day to $15.00 and bereavement leave was extended from a "not to exceed 3 days" to "not to exceed 4 days".

The members of this bargaining unit have not received a pay increase since July of 2024.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? The current union contract expired June 30, 2025, and the Town is required to maintain the same level of cost benefits to the employees at the time the contract expires, until another contract is approved.

Estimated cost: The total for all three years is $223,143.00

No comments

D. Greenberg read Article 8 into the record

Article 8: Mid-Management Union Contract

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Mid-Management Employees Teamsters Local 633 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

	Estimated increase over prior year		
Fiscal Year	Salaries	Benefits	Estimated Increase
2026-27	$57,767.00	$13,707.00	$71,474.00
2027-28	$57,266.00	$13,056.00	$70,322.00
2028-29	$30,319.00	$ 7,394.00	$37,713.00

and further to raise and appropriate **$71,474.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The estimated tax rate impact is $0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
This union has 13 full-time members including: 3 Crew Chiefs in DPW, 2 Clerks in the Tax Office, 1 Clerk in Assessing, 2 Administrative Assistants, Town Planner and Town Engineer in Community Development, 1 Bookkeeper in Finance and 2 Fire Administrative Captains.

This is a three-year contract; In July 2026 all members will receive a two ($2.00) per hour raise. Providing this flat $2 raise gives all members the same increase but provides the lower-paid employees with a higher percentage increase. In July 2027, the second year of the contract, a pay scale with 13 steps is established. The pay scale was created using comparable communities and provides a 3% increase between each step. Employees are placed on the pay scale based on tenure in the job and the Town. In July 2028, all members will receive a 3% increase.

The contract includes increased meal reimbursement for training, and bereavement leave was extended from a "not to exceed 3 days" to "not to exceed 4 days". Members also agreed to an additional 1% increase in their share of health insurance when they choose a plan with an employee share, bringing the employee share up from 19% paid today to 20% in July 2026.

The members of this bargaining unit have not received a pay increase since July of 2024.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? The current union contract expired June 30, 2025, and the Town is required to maintain the same level of cost benefits to the employees at the time the contract expires, until another contract is approved.

Estimated cost: The total for all three years is $179,509.00

No comments

D. Greenberg read Article 9 into the record

Article 9: Police Union Contract

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Police Employees Teamsters Local 633 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year.

Fiscal Year	Salaries	Benefits	Estimated Increase
2026-27	$ 93,744.00	$30,422.00	$124,166.00
2027-28	$125,789.00	$43,690.00	$169,479.00

And further to raise and appropriate **$124,166.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The estimated tax rate impact is $0.04. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 1 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
The passing of this article will ensure the implementation of the negotiated agreement between the town and the 19 police officers and 5 dispatchers collective bargaining unit (Teamsters Local 633). This agreement offers the patrol officers a 6% and the dispatchers a 3% increase in pay in the first year and in the second year the patrol officers would receive a 8% and dispatchers a 3% increase in wages. These increases will allow the Town of Hooksett to become competitive with hiring in regard to surrounding agencies around us that currently offer better pay as well as retain the valuable officers currently in the department.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? The current union contract will expire June 30, 2026, and the Town will be required to maintain the same level of cost benefits to the employees at the time the contract expires, until another contract is approved. This could also lead to current employees seeking employment with surrounding agencies. It currently takes over an entire year to train a new police officer at a cost estimated to be around $100,000.00 per officer to get them ready to become a solo police officer.

Estimated cost: The total for both years is $293,645.00

David Smith: This represents a 14% raise over 2 years. I asked the Councilor on the negotiations committee "can you give me 3 things that benefit the town in this negotiation" I received no answer. I hope the budget committee agrees that there is no private sector that can afford to give a 14% increase and make money.

Alan Brennan: That is just the contract? Are they at 100% now? They are not at 100%. They want 2 more vehicles and not 100% manned.

A. Shaine stated they want 2 vehicles to replace aging vehicles.
We are increasing the salary to retain our officers since other towns are paying more.

David Smith: From what I see on Council, this is fear mongering. Raising rates through comparison; that is in their best interest. It is not independent.

In August when we made our Deputy Chief the Chief, I asked for 5 similar populated towns their pay rate I received many windows and never received the information. Show me an independent and I am more likely to believe it. Not in the public's best interest.

D. Greenberg read Article 10 into the record

Article 10: Capital Reserve Funding – Fire Apparatus

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$250,000.00** to be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.08. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25 is $981,075.67.

Next purchase: With the expected 3–4-year lead time, The CIP committee has recommended replacing Ladder 2 and Forestry 2 in year FY2028-29.

The purpose of this article is to provide funding for the replacement of fire apparatus, such as engines, tankers, ladders, and forestry. In accordance with the CIP approved by the Planning Board on 6/15/2025. These vehicles range between $1,000,000 for pumpers and $2,100,000 for a ladder truck. Due to the high vehicle cost, the Department is requesting the current capital reserve funding level of $250,000 be maintained to allow the Town to incrementally save for these large expenditures. An estimated year of purchase is as needed and guided by the Nation Fire Protection Association (NFPA) vehicle replacement schedule. The apparatus breakdown is as follows:

Piece	*Model Year*	*Age (yrs)*	*Miles (apx)*	*Replacement Cost*	*NFPA Industry Average Replacement*
Engine 1	***2019***	***6***	***47,428***	***$1,000,000***	***15 years***
Engine 2	***2021***	***4***	***13,302***	***$1,000,000***	***15 years***
Engine 5	***2006***	***19***	***118,099***	***$1,000,000***	***15 years***
Ladder 2	***2007***	***18***	***93,977***	***$2,100,000***	***20 years***
Tanker 1	***Ordered***			***$780,000***	***25 years***
Forestry 3	***2017***	***8***	***19,232***	***$95,000***	***20 years***
Forestry 2	***2002***	***23***	***33,379***	***$85,000***	***20 years***
Forestry 4	***2006***	***19***	***18,998***	***$85,000***	***20 years***

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? Lack of funding in this reserve can have a serious impact on the ability of the department to maintain adequate and appropriate response apparatus for certain fire conditions and locations. This, in turn, can have a safety impact for personnel when responding to a fire situation with inappropriate apparatus and can also result in less effective fire suppression for the community we serve.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?

March 2025 Ballot: Failed 756 to 1299 or 63% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: Passed 913 to 654 or 54% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: Passed 524 to 329 or 61% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: Passed 808 to 369 or 68% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: Passed 487 to 251 or 66% approval.

Roger Duhaime: We have almost 1 million dollars in this account. In other parts of the country, they have counties that share equipment. We haven't done it here yet. We are paying ahead and have $1 million. My fellow Councilors believe because they have money, we should spend it. I don't agree. Good planning is important and $1 million is a good place to be.

E. Spitzer: We did suggest asking for only half.

Alan Brennan: $250,000 is arbitrary. If it was an actual number like 259,347 it would appear like someone actually did their homework. Also look at sharing equipment with another town.

David Smith: We have neighboring towns that help each other regularly. We do have mutual aid in our town. We need to reduce costs.

D. Greenberg read Article 11 into the record

Article 11: Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Vehicles

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$250,000.00** to be added to the Public Works' Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.08. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25 is $18,407.54.

Next purchases: Plow Truck/Sander T1-06 is recommended to be replaced in FY 2026-27 and is a 2006 Freightliner 6-wheel dump truck with 42,133 miles on it. While this vehicle may have low mileage, corrosion from the salt on these plow trucks damages the body, hydraulics and electrical systems.

This reserve allows the town to save for vehicles used for plowing and road maintenance, including equipment to replace an aging fleet and to reduce the cost of vehicle maintenance. The reserve fund allows the Town to replace and add vehicles when needed. This fund evens the burden on taxpayers by planning for future purchases. DPW currently has a fleet valued at $15 Million and has developed a projected replacement plan for this fleet. Funding the capital reserve fund each year allows for the replacement plan to become operational. Last year, $0.00 was added to this account. The last CDL plow truck purchased in FY 2023-24 cost a total of $236,525. Over the next six years the town plans the following replacements:

		Anticipated Replacement	
Vehicle Replacement	**Age**	**Year**	**Cost**
2006 Plow Truck/Sander T1-06	19	2026-27	$251,000
2008 Dump Truck non CDL D2-08	17	2027-28	$113,000

2005 Plow Truck/Sander T1-05	20	2028-29	$258,500
2016 Dump Truck non CDL D1-16	9	2029-30	$120,000
2015 Dump Truck non CDL D1-15	10	2029-30	$120,000
2017 Pickup Truck P1-17	8	2030-31	$76,000
2009 Plow Truck/Sander T1-09	16	2030-31	$282,000
2010 Plow Truck/Sander T1-10	15	2031-32	$290,000
2015 Pickup Truck PR1-15	10	2031-32	$78,000

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not passed at Town Meeting, the aging fleet will cost more in vehicle maintenance, for repairs. If vehicles are deemed not inspectable, this would result in delays in plowing of Town roads and reduce the level of services provided.

No comment

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
The following purchases have been made from this reserve.

2015 Bobcat S570	2019 International	2021 International 740
2015 Ford F550	2019 Volvo Excavator	2022 International
2016 Mack Truck	2020 International	2022 Ford F-350
2016 Bobcat 18" Planer	2020 Ford F350	2023 International
2016 Ford F550	2020 Ford F320	2024 Ford F-350
2017 International 7400	2020 Backhoe	2024 Ford F-550
2017 Ford F350	2021 Ford F350	
2018 International 7400	2021 Volvo Loader	

March 2025 Ballot: Failed 655 to 1395 or 68% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: Passed 805 to 756 or 51% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: Passed 475 to 364 or 56% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: Passed 727 to 442 or 62% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: Passed 471 to 264 or 64% approval.

No comments

D. Greenberg read Article 12 into the record

Article 12: Capital Reserve Funding – Town Building Maintenance

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$250,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.08. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25 is $91,700.02.

Next purchase: The following items have been identified as needed within the next six years; safety center parking lot at an estimated cost of $600,000; Town Hall HVAC and Boiler replacements are estimated at $265,000.

This fund addresses the needs of town buildings. The Town has over $26 million worth of buildings to maintain using this reserve.

In FY 2022-23, $75,000 was spent to replace the Courthouse's 30-year-old flat rubber roof with an EPDM roof; $77,000 was spent for the Safety Center Roof & Drainage Review & Design.

In FY 2024-25, $212,000 was spent to replace the flat roof at the library. The existing 1992 roof membrane was at its end of life; $817,481 was spent for the Safety Center Roof Replacement and Masonry; $12,173 was spent for the Safety Center painting; $21,267 was spent for the Safety Center Generator transfer switch; $11,710 was spent for the Scale House engineering design.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not passed at the Town Meeting, the aging facilities will cost more for facility maintenance as well as cost more for any temporary fixes. As the HVAC or roofs fail the offices may not have adequate heating or air conditioning or internal roof leaks. This may result in reduced levels of services and unhealthy work environments.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
March 2025 Ballot: Failed 690 to 1346 or 66% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: Passed 814 to 748 or 52% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: Passed 483 to 366 or 57% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: Passed 705 to 463 or 60% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: Passed 464 to 257 or 64% approval.

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 13 into the record

Article 13: Radio Console Replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$250,000.00** to replace the Police Department's Radio Console. The sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:

The police dispatch console are workstations that function as the central hub for communication between 911 calls and the officers that respond. The console allows dispatchers to manage incoming emergency calls, coordinate resources and provide vital communications to emergency responders. The current dispatch console is now approaching 12 years old. It has experienced multiple failures due to its age, and replacement parts are no longer available. Immediate replacement is necessary to ensure the continued operation and reliability of our emergency radio system. Without this replacement, the risk of a catastrophic system failure is significant.

The Police Department's radio dispatch console was originally scheduled for replacement beginning in 2024 at an estimated cost of $227,725 to be paid from the Emergency Radio Capital Reserve Fund. Unfortunately, the project was delayed because the South Bow Tower, already known to be failing, required replacement and the cost to replace the tower is more expensive than expected. The funds in the Emergency Radio Capital Reserve Fund will be used to replace the tower. As a result, no funding remains to replace the dispatch console.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article fails, the continued operation of our emergency radio communications system cannot be guaranteed. We are relying on equipment that is well past its service life, with no available replacement parts should it fail. A failure of the dispatch console would compromise our ability to effectively communicate with officers in the Hooksett community, placing both our personnel and the public at risk.

No comments

D. Greenberg read Article 14 into the record

Article 14: New Capital Reserve – Fire Radios

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Radio Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to replace and upgrade fire radios and to raise and appropriate the sum of **$162,000.00** to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Town Administrator as agent to expend from said fund. The estimated tax rate impact is $0.05. Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 1 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:

At the request of the CIP Committee, we are asking to establish a new capital reserve account for Fire Department Radios and for $162,000 to be added to this reserve account for the replacement of radios in the future. In accordance with the CIP approved by the Planning Board on 6/15/2025. The Fire Department portable radios were purchased in 2016 and have an approximate10-year life span. At some point after 2026 the manufacturer will no longer support parts for these radios, and we will need to replace them as they fail. The estimated costs to replace all radios are approximately $650,000.

Some of the radios can be upgraded using Impact Fees, most of the radios will need to be replaced using the funds in the account.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? The establishment of a capital

reserve account allows the town to set aside money for large purchases thus limiting large spikes in taxation. The radios are a very critical component of our firefighter's equipment and are used multiple times a day. Without reliable communication, operations and safety are greatly hampered.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
March 2025 Ballot: Failed 909 to 1130 or 55% disapproval.

Alan Brennan, 29 Pleasant St: After 3 Article for $250,000, this is too much and now we are proposing a brand-new fund. This will not get pass the voters.

E. Spitzer: I asked if they were bought in 2016, why didn't they put more in the fund. The answer was it is a different chief.

M. Kowack stated this is to prevent paying interest payments.

D. Greenberg read Article 15 into the record

Article 15: Capital Reserve Funding – Police

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$150,000.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

Emergency Radio Communication	$ 75,000.00
Police Equipment	75,000.00
Total	$150,000.00

The estimated tax rate impact is $0.05. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Emergency Radio Communication Reserve:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25 is $372,999.68.

Next purchase: Currently over $350,000 is needed in upgrades and replacements. South Bow Tower is failing and needs immediate replacement. It is imperative that this money be voted into this CIP to ensure reliable Emergency Service Communication.

This fund is designated for the replacement and maintenance of the Police Department's radio system, which is essential for their emergency communications. By contributing to this fund, you ensure that the necessary resources are available to replace and maintain these critical components as they age and become costly to replace. The manufacturers only support these major components for ten years, after which replacement parts are unavailable, necessitating the purchase of new equipment.

The Department's goal is to build this fund so the high cost of replacing radio communication equipment is spread out over time and not have a direct tax impact during one or more years. This fund is also built to ensure emergency equipment can be replaced due to natural disasters

that may not be covered completely by insurance. None of this would be possible IF this article is not passed and/or approved. Our goal of keeping our communications equipment current and working at peak performance, while having a minimal yearly tax impact, would not be possible without this article passing. If this fails again Emergency Service Communications will be affected and could pose a risk to community safety.

Police Equipment Reserve:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25 is $53,359.07.

Next purchase: Tasers replacement in FY2028-29 at an estimated cost of $100,000 and Body Cameras replacement in FY 2029-30 at an estimated cost of $200,000.

The purpose of this article is to continue to fund the capital reserve account for the replacement of certain police equipment (Body cameras, Tasers, Firearms, etc.). The Capital Improvement Plan Committee supports the funding of this reserve.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? This reserve was established in the FY 2024-25 budget and will allow the Police Department to develop a replacement plan for items that are relatively expensive. As these items need replacement (firearms) or the contracted lease expires (Taser & Body Camera's) this equipment will either age and become unreliable or have to be budgeted for in another warrant article in order to keep that type of equipment.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?

Emergency Radio Communication:
March 2025 Ballot: $50,000 Failed 926 to 1123 or 55% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: $62,500 Passed 902 to 634 or 59% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: $62,500 Passed 534 to 299 or 64% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: $50,000 Passed 846 to 312 or 73% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: $50,000 Passed 495 to 228 or 68% approval.

Police Equipment:
March 2025 Ballot: $100,000 Failed 873 to 1171 or 57% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: $50,000 Passed 818 to 727 or 53% approval.

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 16 into the record

Article 16: New Full-time Assistant Finance Director

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$133,132.00** for salary and benefits to hire one full-time Assistant Finance Director.

Fiscal Year	Salary	Benefits	Total
2026-27	up to $90,000.00	$43,132.00	$133,132.00

The estimated tax rate impact is $0.04. Recommended by Town Council (3 Yes – 2 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
This new position is needed to share operational responsibilities with the Finance Director and ensure redundancies in the Finance Office. It will help reduce risk, maintain continuity and improve reliability for Hooksett. The Finance office is a critical operation for the Town of Hooksett's residents, Town Council, Budget Committee and employees.

The request is for an Assistant Finance Director, which will require a bachelor's degree to perform accounting functions, supervise weekly payroll and accounts payable. A full list of responsibilities can be found in the job description. One of the most important factors in considering this request is that it will create redundancies and operational support for the department.

Currently the Finance Director is the only position that can perform the following tasks: Budget preparation, maintenance of the town's accounting system, sets the tax rate, grant reporting, prepares monthly, quarterly and year-end financial reports, acts as the insurance coordinator for liability insurance. Reporting of IRS vendor 1099s, employee W2 and ACA forms, as well as training staff in payroll, report to NHRS and other bookkeeping functions.

This new position will allow the Finance Director to act more as a leader within the Town to plan, organize, review, and enhance accounting and reporting outputs, processes, and workflows as well as department policies and goals. One notable example of this need for this position is the town's Financial and Human Services software that has a lot of features that could enhance efficiency and transparency. The Assistant Finance Director, taking on some of the responsibilities of the Director, will allow the Finance Director time to examine the current and future financial efficiency of the office.

Having three full-time positions in the finance office will allow for coverage of staff turnover, vacations and prepare the Town for future leadership changes.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not supported, the ability to provide timely financial data may suffer. Over time this could reduce the confidence in the finance department to be able to provide accurate financial information to employees, vendors, departments, Town Administrator, Town Council, State and Federal agency and residents.

Estimated cost: Starting salary will not exceed $90,000.00 and will be determined based on the qualifications of the candidate and will be placed in Grade 15 on the Town's Classification Pay Plan which has a salary range from $76,808 to $107,521. This position would be a non-union position. Benefits included in the cost of this article are employment taxes, NH Retirement and a 2-Person Health and Dental insurance plan.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
If this position is approved, we will be looking to reorganize the department. Shifting work from the Bookkeeper and Finance Director to the Assistant Finance Director and shifting work from the Executive Assistant back to the Bookkeeper.

Current finance staffing.
Full-time Finance Director -supervises payroll and accounts payable, reviews budgets. balance accounts and reports monthly, quarterly and annually, budget preparation and grant management.
Full-time Bookkeeper – process weekly payroll and deposits.
Part-time help from Executive Assistant - process weekly accounts payable.
Part-time Treasurer – cash investments.

Proposed finance staffing.
Full-time Finance Director – reports financial information monthly, quarterly and annually, plan and enhance workflow of the finance office.
Full-time Assistant Finance Director – supervise payroll and accounts payable, balances accounts, assist with budget preparation and grant management.
Full-time Bookkeeper – enters :payroll and accounts payable.
Part-time Treasurer - cash investments.

March 2025 Ballot: Failed 663 to 1389 or 69% disapproval.

David Smith: Our director is busy and when out nothing gets done when she is out. I thought we could delegate duties to other employees. The job is getting done now. We could bring someone part-time, and we could cut the cost in half. I think this is a lot of money for an assistant.

W. Lynch: I believe this is also for succession planning and train someone if the Director leaves.

Abigail Shaine said this would enable the Director to look for other sources of revenues.

David Smith: What have we done for the last 20 years. We've survived. Part time qualified as a back up is the answer

Alyssa Ehls: It is not just user fees but also building permit fees.

D. Greenberg read Article 17 into the record
Article 17: Capital Reserve Funding – Revaluation
To see if the Town will vote and appropriate the sum of **$110,000.00** to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.03. Recommended by Town Council (4 Yes – 1 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $27,850.68.

Next revaluation is 2028 at an estimated cost of $250,000.

Every five years the Town is required to reappraise all property values for assessment equity property tax purposes per NH State Constitution Article 6.

The 2008 cost was $161,231, the cost in 2013 was $137,300; the cost in 2018 was $114,000; and in 2023 was $124,000+/-. The Town has done a 'Statistical Update' the past 3 cycles (2013, 2018, 2023).

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? The town would have to fund the project in a one-year span, causing a spike in expenses/tax rates.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
March 2025 Ballot: $79,000 Failed 547 to 1478 or 73% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: $60,000 Failed 417 to 1094 or 69% disapproval.
March 2023 Ballot: $30,000 Failed 382 to 436 or 53% disapproval.
March 2022 Ballot: $30,000 Passed 607 to 516 or 54% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: $20,000 Passed 418 to 304 or 58% approval.

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 18 into the record

Article 18: Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Drainage

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$100,000.00** to be added to the Drainage Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.03. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $68,078.30.

Next purchase: Design and repairs for the Edgewater Drive riverbank are estimated to be $170,000 and are expected to be done in late 2027.

Various areas throughout town have drainage that has significantly deteriorated and needs to be replaced. The deterioration is due to aging pipes that have outlived their expected lifespan. This reserve is for replacing pipes as needed or updating the drainage to larger pipes, which will handle any increase in volume of water and anticipated growth.

The plan is to address drainage in the Lincoln Park Subdivision (Kay Avenue, Hale Avenue, and Elmer Avenue), investigate and repair, replace, or line drains in the Grant Street neighborhood, and design repairs for the Edgewater Drive riverbank.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? If this article is not passed at Town Meeting, there will not be sufficient funds to repair the failing drainage systems in the town, this could result in Notice of Violations under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS- 4) program.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation? Drainage projects that these funds have been used for are as follows:
2015 Sherwood Drive
2016 Grant Drive
2018 Morgan Drive
2018 Smyth Road & Route 28
2019 Grant Drive
2020 Winter Drive
2021 Forest Hills
2022 Scott Ave, Lehoux Dr, Sherwood Dr, Corriveau Drive
2023 Sherwood Drive Pipe Lining
2024 Garlan, Whitehall, Smyth, Sterns, Hale, Elmer, K , and Croaker.

March 2025 Ballot: Failed 733 to 1312 or 64% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: Passed 973 to 561 or 63% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: Passed 513 to 335 or 60% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: Passed 829 to 319 or 72% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: Passed 499 to 222 or 69% approval.

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 19 into the record
Article 19: Trust Funding - Retirement Trust
To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$100,000.00** to be added to the Retirement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for payments paid out to retiring employees. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.03. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $0.00.

Next purchase: Unknown

The purpose of the article is to replenish the trust that will be available when an employee retires and not have to budget for anticipated retirements in advance. This trust was established in 2021 for $150,000 and has paid for six retirements totaling $161,084.14.

The trust is held by the Trustees of the Trust Fund and will only be withdrawn with the approval of the Town Administrator once a retirement occurs.

Retirement payout for most employees includes their vacation and personal banks and for fire union employees would also include sick banks. Also included would be the employer benefits related to these payments.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? Before this trust was established,

departments would budget for anticipated retirements which would increase the budget each year, even if the employee did not retire. Since this trust has been in place, there are no funds for retirement budgeted for in the operating budget.

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 20 into the record

Article 20: Capital Reserve Funding - Fire

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$80,000.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

Air Packs & Bottles	$ 30,000.00
Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment	50,000.00
Total	$ 80,000.00

The estimated tax rate impact is $0.02. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:

Air Packs & Bottles Replacement Reserve:

Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $129,388.62.

Next purchase: The estimated year to purchase new air packs and bottles is 2035 with an estimated cost of $504,000.

The project was established to replace all the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) when they reach 15 years of service. The existing air packs were purchased in 2020. SCBA are critical equipment for firefighters. A single purchase date allows for only one model choice which enhances familiarity by all members, equipment exchange department wide anywhere, anytime, station or scene, reduced parts inventory, linear inspection and service needs, all which improve our safety.

Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment Reserve:

Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $33,770.97.

Next purchase: Unknown

This reserve is ongoing and designed to replace rescue tools, such as Jaws of Life, jacking and lifting struts, air bags, high angle and low angle rope rescues and ice rescue equipment along with other equipment such as hose and nozzles. The account will be used to purchase new equipment, including hose. $50,000 ensures adequate funding for a 10-year replacement program.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? As these items become unreliable the rescue operations and efficiency of the Fire-Rescue Department may become compromised. This can impact the safety of our members and those we serve in the community.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
March 2025 Ballot: Failed 1019 to 1023 or 50% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: Failed 723 to 817 or 47% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: Passed 568 to 285 or 67% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: Passed 926 to 262 or 78% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: Passed 528 to 197 or 73% approval.

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 21 into the record
Article 21: Capital Reserve Funding – Information Technology
To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$60,000.00** to be added to the Information Technology (IT) Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is $.02. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation.
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $1,137.33.

Next purchase: In FY 2026-27:

2. Town Hall transition from VMware to Microsoft Hyper-V $29,207.60
    a. VMware software allows multiple computer systems to run on one server and lets our IT provider perform updates without interrupting operations, which is critical for the Safety Center. Due to significant VMware cost increases, the Town will transition Town Hall systems to Microsoft Hyper-V, a comparable solution with no ongoing virtualization licensing costs. While Hyper-V updates require brief downtime, this work can be done after Town Hall closes at noon on Fridays, avoiding impacts to staff and residents. The project also includes new Windows Server licensing and a replacement backup appliance for an aging unit. This transition uses fully supported Microsoft infrastructure through 2034 and consolidates projects to save time and money.
3. Windows Server License Upgrade for Fire Department $12,522.80
    a. The Fire Department requires two Windows Server Standard licenses and user access licenses (CALs) to cover all users on its network. This will update licensing for Station 1's server environment, support staff access, and allow upgrades to the Firehouse records system. These licenses will support Fire Department operations through 2034–2035.

This article aims to allocate funds to the Capital Reserve account for managing and upgrading the town's technology and communication systems as needed. By setting aside these funds, the town can proactively plan and implement critical improvements, such as software updates, enhanced firewall protection, and the replacement of outdated equipment. This approach ensures that the Town of Hooksett stays current with the latest technology, which is particularly vital for Public Safety departments.

Due to two consecutive years of default budgets, the fund has been used to address urgent projects that, if left uncompleted, would have caused significant challenges to operations. The goal is to maintain adequate funding in this capital reserve to be prepared for unforeseen needs.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs? Administration only has a limited budget to replace essential items like desktops, laptops, and iPads, across town departments. While we try to plan bigger technology projects, not having this additional funding means larger upgrades would lead to significant budget increases that could be hard to manage. This could impact on our ability to protect the Town of Hooksett comprehensively and make it harder for departments to have the tools they need to do their jobs efficiently. Without this funding, our ability to meet the town's goals and provide essentials services could be compromised.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
The Administration, in partnership with Hooksett's IT company, has implemented a computer replacement program to keep those up to date. However, other essential equipment also ages and requires attention. Additionally, large projects are required and unexpected issues often arise, forcing us to divert funds from the Computer New Equipment budget to address those urgent needs. This leads to delays in our scheduled technology upgrades. By approving this request, you'll ensure that we have the resources to maintain and upgrade critical technology on time, keeping our town safe and efficient.

March 2025 Ballot: $40,000 Failed 844 to 1219 or 59% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: $40,000 Passed 929 to 629 or 60% approval.

No comment

D. Greenberg read the article into the record
Article 22: Capital Reserve Funding – Recreation
To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$70,000.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

Parks & Recreation Facilities Development	$ 50,000.00
Conservation Land Improvements	20,000.00
Total	$ 70,000.00

The estimated tax rate impact is $0.02. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 0 No);

Voters' Guide Explanation:
Parks & Recreation Facilities Development Reserve:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $220,325.59.

Next purchase: The CIP recommends the Petersbook Field Lighting project in FY 2027-28 to be funded from Parks & Recreation Impact fees, donations, and capital reserves. The estimate cost of this project is $436,000. This project may be delayed if donations estimated to be $150,000 are not received. This project is to increase the sporting usage of this area so night sports activities may be held.

The town continues to grow, and we are forced to deal with aging structures, building updates, and additional recreation areas that will need to be addressed. We have put together a list of items that will need to be addressed within the next five years. Other projects such as field lighting upgrades at Donati Park, adding a new West Side Park and facility updates for the Parks & Rec building.

Conservation Land Improvements Reserve:
Balance in the account as of 12/31/25: $73,128.62.

Next purchase: The following large projects are planned for 2026:

- Conservation Easement on 80 acres of town-owned land at Head's Pond Conservation Area at a cost of approximately $36,000.
- Head's Pond "Access for All" project to build an accessible trail entrance to Head's Pond so people with mobility challenges can enjoy this trail system. The Hooksett Kiwanis will share the cost of this project, which is estimated at $33,000.
- Parking area at Quimby Mountain Conservation Area for a cost of $20,000.
- Trail Work and Kiosk at Quimby Mountain Conservation Area by the NH Student Conservation Association for a cost of approximately $14,000.
- Mowing of fields at the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail to maintain natural habitats at a cost of $2,500.

This critical funding allows the Conservation Commission to meet its legal obligations to maintain and enhance protected lands and to preserve these valuable resources for generations to come This investment will fund vital projects like the Head's Pond "Access for All" accessible trail entrance, ensuring this popular trail can be enjoyed by all residents.

Additionally, the stewardship of the Town's conservation properties requires the maintenance of existing trails and development of new trails. To meet this legal obligation, it is necessary for us to continue to fund a capital reserve fund to ensure not only that the Town will be prepared for any planned or unexpected maintenance issues, but to continue developing trails so the public may enjoy the conserved lands.

If this article is not passed at Town Meeting or approved by the Town Council, what affect would this have on your department goals and programs?
Parks & Recreation Facilities Development
If this article is not passed at Town Meeting, the upgrade of the parks and recreation facilities will be delayed and reduce the level of services provided.

Conservation Land Improvements
Without the funding, the Conservation Commission will have difficulty meeting its legal obligations to maintain current conserved property, including existing trails, as well as continuing to develop new access and trails.

Is any further information necessary for the deliberation?
Parks & Recreation Facilities Development
This reserve has paid for the following projects:

2004/05 Lights at Petersbrook $50,000
2010/11 Tennis Courts $62,957
2019/20 Donati Park Concession Stand pump station $26,800
2021/22 Lambert Park Pavilion $43,390 and Donati Park Restrooms $38,059
2022/23 Track and Tennis Courts Repair $24,342

March 2025 Ballot: Failed 800 to 1251 or 61% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: Passed 859 to 683 or 55% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: Passed 518 to 311 or 62% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: Passed 868 to 298 or 74% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: Passed 518 to 213 or 71% approval.

Conservation Land Improvements
This reserve was established in 2016 and has funded the following items:

- FY 2021-22 $20,950 for Hooksett Riverwalk Trail and $10,500 for student conservation trail project at Pinnacle Park.
- FY 2022-23 $3,900 Invasive species plant removal at Quimby Mountain.
- FY 2023-24 $20,000 Hooksett Riverwalk Trail Phase 4 to Allenstown.
- FY 2024-25 $4,800 Invasive species plant removal at Pinnacle Park
- FY 2025 $15,000 Quimby Mountain Stewardship Plan

March 2025 Ballot: $30,000 Failed 891 to 1182 or 57% disapproval.
March 2024 Ballot: $30,000 Passed 825 to 730 or 53% approval.
March 2023 Ballot: $30,000 Passed 502 to 328 or 60% approval.
March 2022 Ballot: $30,000 Passed 794 to 363 or 69% approval.
March 2021 Ballot: $10,000 Passed 523 to 208 or 72% approval.

Alan Brennan: All these articles got voted down last year because of previous tax increases. My taxes still went up with the default. We are going to the mat on all of these funds. Are these all the same as last year and do you have the information in front of you to make informed votes. Are you able to compare what got voted down last year and are they doubling down or asking for less.

D. Greenberg read Article 23 into the record

Article 23: Petition

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$12,900.00** for the purpose of lighting the village area including the Lilac Walking Bridge, the Town Tree, Historical Society, Old Town Hall and current Town Hall, from December to March for holiday lighting and town's holiday kick-off event Light up the Village. PETITION ARTICLE The estimated tax rate impact is $0.004. Recommended By Town Council (3 Yes – 1 No)

David Smith: I read this and attended this event. I did wonder where the money came from. They have to pay to trim the tree and put up the lights. WE need to stop cutting services and get services to the people. I support this 100%

Tony Lacasse and Mary Darby
T. Lacasse: I am the chair and founder of Light up the Village. We have forgotten landmarks in the town. This isn't just about lighting but also revitalization and restoring historical properties. Our historic center with our bridges is important to foster civic pride. Many enjoy this event and have added a quality of life and small-town charm. This is the only area that maintains this small-town community. This also brings business to Robies Country store which is the only historical icon in the town. Look at fiscal responsibility compared to the social benefit. It is well worth it.

Mary Darby: We are not asking for what it costs, we are just asking for lights and the cost of putting lights up and taking them down. This was in the town budget before.

School District Warrant Articles
D. Greenberg read Article 2 into the record
Article 2 Bond
Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of $7,250,000 for the purposes of financing necessary capital improvements to District schools including but not limited to replacing or repairing the roof, ventilation, heating, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, fire suppression, and other systems and related items; to authorize the issuance of not more than $7,250,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33:1, et. seq., as amended); to authorize the Hooksett School Board to apply for, obtain, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project; to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Hooksett School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Hooksett School Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of $181,250 for the first year's payment for the bond? Estimated tax rate impact is $.06/per thousand. (Three-fifths vote required) (Recommended by the School Board 6-0) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

The average cost-per-pupil for the preceding year (2024-2025) as calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75, I(a) is elementary: $17,396.79, middle $18,744.59.

Hooksett School District achievement proficiency scores for the preceding year (2024-2025):

Hooksett Memorial School: ELA Proficiency: 57%; Math Proficiency: 66%; Science Proficiency: 34%

David R. Cawley Middle School: ELA Proficiency: 65%; Math Proficiency: 59%; Science Proficiency: 41%

Alan Brennan: Is this the same as last year?

Wayne Goretel: This is a different project from last year.

Last year, the focus was on Memorial School. This year, we are looking at tier one issues, boilers and HVAC and some tier 2 and 3 items. There is a 5% contingency as well.

E. Bencivenga: Can the entire bond payment schedule be put on the warrant article and not just the one year.

W. Goertel: Yes, they can include that.

Roger Duhaime;: There is no cut to the budget to offset the cost.

D. Greenberg read Article 3 into the record

Article 3 Operating Budget

Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling $45,851,643? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $45,360,166, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous Action of the Hooksett School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Estimated tax rate impact: $10.57/per thousand (increase of $.59/per thousand over prior year). (Recommended by the School Board 5-2) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

Alan Brennan asked if all classes were in compliance with class size policy. It is his understanding that 3 teachers were added to the budget.

Wayne Goertel stated that there is a bubble grade which requires additional teachers.
There is also $125,000 in maintenance funding.

E. Bencivenga: Is the difference between the default and the operating budget the 3 teachers? It looks like it is that amount.

Mary Darby: What happened with all the money given to the school by Kiwanis.

W. Rearick: That paid for carpets, science tables, etc. for $50,000.

Bill Clifford, Virginia Court read a statement regarding the necessity of the 3 teachers added to the budget.

D. Greenberg read Article 4 into the record

Article 4 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Hooksett School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett School Board and the Hooksett Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over those paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Increase

2026-2027	$325,105
2027-2028	$326,773
2028-2029	$318,174

and further to raise and appropriate $325,105 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? Estimated tax rate impact 2026-2027 is $0.10/per thousand. Estimated tax rate impact 2027-2028 is $0.10/per thousand. Estimated tax rate impact 2028-2029 is $0.10/per thousand. (Recommended by the School Board 5-1) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 5 into the record

Article 5 – Building Maintenance

Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of $150,000 to be added to the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2020? There is $121,606 available in the account as of November 30, 2025. This sum to come from June 30, 2026 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.00/per thousand. (Recommended by the School Board 4-3) (by the Budget Committee)

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 6 into the record

Article 6 – Special Education Expendable Trust Fund

Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March of 2001? There is $336,215 available in the account as of November 30, 2025. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.03/per thousand. (Recommended by the School Board 4-3) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 7 into the record

Article 7 – Technology Expendable Trust Fund

Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of $150,000 to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2008? There is $51,866 available in the account as of November 30, 2025. This sum to come from June 30, 2026 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. Estimated tax rate impact is $0.00/per thousand. (Recommended by the School Board 5-2) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

No comment

D. Greenberg read Article 8 into the record

Article 8 – Curriculum Capital Reserve Fund

4. Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of $150,000 to be added to the Curriculum Capital Reserve Fund previously established in March 2025? There is $103,144 available in the account as of November 30, 2025. This sum to come from June 30, 2026 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. Estimated tax rate impact of $0.00/per thousand. (Recommended by the School Board 7-0) (by the Budget Committee TBD)

Public hearing was closed at 9:36 pm

Budget Committee Review and Recommendation on Municipal Warrant Articles

Article 3

G. Martins motioned to recommend Article 3. Seconded by D. Greenberg.

W. Goertel	***Yes***
E. Spitzer	***Yes***
D. Greenberg	***Yes***
M. Kowack	***Yes***
W. Lynch	***Yes***
E. Bencivenga	***Yes***
G. Martins	***Yes***
A. Ehl	***Yes***
A. Shaine	***Yes***

Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 4

W. Goertel motioned to recommend Article 4. Seconded by W. Lynch

M. Kowack	***No***
W. Goertel	***Yes***
D. Greenberg	***Yes***
E. Spitzer	***No***
E. Bencivenga	***No***
A. Ehl	***Yes***
W. Lynch	***No***
G. Martins	***Yes***
A. Shaine	***Yes***

Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 5

A. Ehl motioned to reduce the police vehicles $75,000. Seconded by E. Spitzer.

A. Ehl: If we are not at full staff, we should try and reduce the vehicles.

W. Lynch: They have only replaced one vehicle the past 2 years, so they are getting behind and that is why they want 2 vehicles.

G. Martins No
D. Greenberg No
M. Kowack Yes
W. Lynch No
E. Bencivenga Yes
W. Goertel No
A. Ehl Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
A. Shaine No
Vote 4:5 motion failed

W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 5. Seconded by D. Greenberg
D. Greenberg Yes
W. Goertel Yes
M. Kowack Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
E. Bencivenga No
A. Ehl No
W. Lynch Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 7:2 Recommended

Article 6
D. Greenberg motioned to recommend Article 6. Seconded by W. Goertel
D. Greenberg Yes
W. Lynch Yes
G. Martins Yes
W. Goertel Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
M. Kowack Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 7
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 7. Seconded by G. Martins
W. Lynch Yes
A. Ehl Yes
E. Spitzer No
M. Kowack Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
D. Greenberg Yes

A. Shaine Yes
Vote 8:1 Recommended

Article 8
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 8. Seconded by D. Greenberg
E. Bencivenga No
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack No
A. Ehl Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer No
W. Goettel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 6:3 Recommended

Article 9
W, Lynch motioned to recommend Article 9. Seconded by D. Greenberg.
G. Martins Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer No
W. Lynch No
E. Bencivenga No
A. Ehl No
M. Kowack No
W. Goertel Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 4:5 failed Not recommended

Article 10
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 10. Seconded by W. Goertel
A. Ehl No
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack No
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer No
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
E. Bencivenga No
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 11
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 11. Seconded by D. Greenberg
G. Martins Yes
W. Goertel Yes

D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer No
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl No
M. Kowack Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 7:2 Recommended

Article 12
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 12. Seconded by D. Greenberg.
E. Bencivenga Yes
E. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Ehl No
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 8:1 Recommended

Article 13
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 13. Seconded by E. Spitzer.
M. Kowack Yes
W. Goertel Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 14
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 14. Seconded by W. Goertel.
W. Spitzer Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Ehl Yes
A. Shaine Yes

Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 15
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 15. Seconded by W. Goertel.
M. Kowack Yes
W. Goertel Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
E. Bencivenga No
A. Ehl No
W. Lynch Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 7:2 Recommended

Article 16
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 16. Seconded by W. Goertel.
G. Martins Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack No
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga No
W. Goertel Yes
E. Spitzer No
A. Ehl No
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 17
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 17. Seconded by W. Goertel.
W. Goertel Yes
M. Kowack No
E. Spitzer No
E. Bencivenga No
A. Ehl No
W. Lynch Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 18
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 18. Seconded by W. Goertel.
E. Bencivenga No
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack Yes

A. Ehl Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 8:1 Recommended

Article 19
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 19. Seconded by W. Goertel.
G. Martins Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
M. Kowack Yes
W. Goertel Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 20
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 20. Seconded by W. Goertel.
A. Ehl No
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 8:1 Recommended

Article 21
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 21. Seconded by W. Goertel.
G. Martins Yes
W. Goertel Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
M. Kowack Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 22
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article22. Seconded by W. Goertel.
E. Bencivenga Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer No
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Ehl No
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 7:2 Recommended

Article 23
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 23. Seconded by W. Goertel.
M. Kowack Yes
W. Goertel Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

School Warrant Article
Article 2
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 2. Seconded by W. Goertel.

W. Goertel explained the change over the last 3 years regarding priorities for repairs. The scope hitting priority issues at all 3 schools is what the voters will support.

D. Greenberg Yes
W. Lynch Yes
G. Martins Yes
W. Goertel Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
M. Kowack Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – January 15, 2026

Article 3
E. Bencivenga motioned to remove $363,477, the cost for 3 teachers. Seconded by E. Ehl.

E. Bencivenga: There is a lot of cost that impacts the taxpayers and with the maintenance this year, adding the teachers in my opinion is unnecessary. We have to give some relief to the taxpayer. This is 4.3% over last year's budget.

A. Ehl: I agree with Ernie as well as the people that spoke during the public hearing, that feel this is excessive. There are people that can't afford medication and mortgages.

G. Martins: We do need the teachers. We go by numbers not opinions. If we keep refusing federal grants and refusing the state funding that goes to the schools, we should vote against the motion. Things will only get more expensive.

E. Bencivenga states it is not a cost problem, it is a spending problem. When we are paying for long terms and the taxpayer is then on the hook, I disagree. The State gets the money from us anyway.

W. Lynch	**No**
A. Ehl	**Yes**
E. Spitzer	**Yes**
M. Kowack	**Yes**
E. Bencivenga	**Yes**
W. Goertel	**No**
G. Martins	**No**
D. Greenberg	**No**
A. Shaine	**No**

Vote 4:5 failed

W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 3. Seconded by D. Greenberg.

E. Bencivenga	**No**
D. Greenberg	**Yes**
M. Kowack	**No**
A. Ehl	**No**
W. Lynch	**Yes**
E. Spitzer	**No**
W. Goertel	**Yes**
G. Martins	**Yes**
A. Shaine	**Yes**

Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 4
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 4. Seconded by W. Goertel.

G. Martins	***Yes***
D. Greenberg	***Yes***
E. Spitzer	***No***

W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga No
A. Ehl No
M. Kowack No
W. Goertel Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 5
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 5. Seconded by W. Goertel.

E. Bencivenga: What is anticipated for maintenance.

W. Rearick: We are asking for funds because we had to draw down due to a leak issue and control problems at the pump house. We are trying to replenish for unexpected repairs. After Christmas there was no heat at Memorial. We made the repairs and that hit our budget negatively. We are trying to replenish that maintenance fund. With default budget last year, we didn't replace the windows and doors.

E. Bencivenga: Will you be requesting the same amount year to year.

W. Goertel: I expect it will be reduced in the future and this is just a catch up.
The trust is set up for unanticipated emergency purposes.

G. Martins Yes
W. Goertel Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
A. Ehl Yes
M. Kowack Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

Article 6
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 6. Seconded by W. Goertel.

E. Bencivenga: How much was spent this year?
W. Goertel: Nothing drawn this year. Ideally, we would like to have $500,000 in the fund.

E. Bencivenga No
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack No
W. Lynch Yes
E. Spitzer No

W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Ehl No
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 5:4 Recommended

Article 7
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 7. Seconded by W. Goertel.
M. Kowack No
W. Goertel Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
E. Spitzer Yes
E. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga No
A. Ehl No
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
Vote 6:3 Recommended

Article 8
W. Lynch motioned to recommend Article 8. Seconded by E. Spitzer.

How much does a curriculum cost?

W. Rearick: $300,000 each discipline and will need it 2 years from now.
The State is changing the requirements for curriculum in the district.
We last changed Language Arts in 2020

E. Bencivenga: In the past 10 years, have the test scores gone up or down?

W. Rearick: Our scores have increased since covid. Prior to 2017 we used smarter balance. The State archives the results, and it is almost impossible to find the data. Our scores have increased over the last 5 years.

E. Bencivenga: They are the same as 2019. What is the benefit of the curriculum changes.

W. Rearick: If the State mandates new standards, you must comply.

E. Spitzer Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
M. Kowack Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
W. Goertel Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Ehl Yes

A. Shaine Yes
Vote 9:0 Recommended

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT
W. Lynch motioned to adjourn at 11:02 pm. Seconded by D. Greenberg.
Vote unanimously in favor