State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the sixteenth day of June 2025 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Michael Geary at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Michael Geary, Robert Burns, Sharon Davis, Jasmin Roy, Edwin James; Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Marita Murray. Town Solicitor Stephen Sypole attended via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Burns, Davis, Roy, James and Geary announced they were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Etta Zasloff of Karen Drive suggested that a future agenda item be an update on the Town Hall expansion. She noted that a lot of people were interested in how the water table issue had been dealt with.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER

There were no changes to the agenda order.

CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2025, AND THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2025.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Geary, Roy, James

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAIN: Burns

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO APPROVE THE REFUND SUBMITTED BY TAX COLLECTOR AND APPROVE MONTHLY REPORT – TOWN CLERK.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Geary, Roy, James

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

Economic Development Commission

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider, and possibly vote to accept the resignation of Joseph Moreau from the Economic Development Commission.

Councilor Geary wished Mr. Moreau the best and hoped he would consider being on another Commission in the future. Councilor Burns noted that he and Mr. Moreau did not always see eye-to-eye but agreed that they both had the Town's best interest at heart. He appreciated all of Mr. Moreau's work for the town, wished him well, and hoped he would be able to assist the town again in the future.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BURNS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JOSEPH MOREAU FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WITH REGRET.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Geary, Roy, James

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Resolution and Tax Resolution

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt the Financial Resolution and Tax Resolution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

Councilor Geary noted that the budget, Land Trust bond question and the 250th Commission question all passed, though there was not a very good turnout of voters. He noted that the date of the election was posted on the website, social media and Code Red notifications also were broadcast. Councilor Burns noted that he had several people question him about the remaining money going to the 250th Commission. Maybe next time we can explain the questions better because he did not believe people understood what this was. Councilor Roy asked if a committee

could be set up for voter engagement and Councilor Davis advised that they had thought that putting the information on the website would help but it hasn't. Mr. Rosso felt the best approach would be to offer a direct mailer to all the residents, which would be costly, but it is the only other option that could be offered.

Etta Zasloff asked what the Town Council contingency balance was, and Mr. Rosso believed it to be around $650. She also noted that for many years there have only been about 300 residents who voted at the budget referendum, and she wondered if it was financially worth holding a referendum. She noted that the residents elected the Town Council and trusted them, and they should just adopt the budget without a vote; she thought there needed to be a charter change. Councilor Davis noted that the Charter indicated that there was to be a budget referendum and she felt that this was the right thing to do whether or not residents took advantage of their right to vote or not. Ms. Zasloff felt that if there was no vote, the residents may be more interested in their building of the budget. We need more communication, and she felt there should be an email list of all residents. She believed we waste money holding an election when only 300 people come to vote.

Joseph Moreau of Old Depot Road noted that not many people come to the budget workshops. He felt that residents should have the right to vote, and if they chose not to then they cannot say they did not have the opportunity. He thought the town had done a great job getting the message out, but people just do not show up.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BURNS TO ADOPT THE FINANCIAL RESOLUTION AND TAX RESOLUTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025.

IN FAVOR: Burns, Davis, Geary, Roy, James

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Hope Valley Elementary School

This matter was scheduled to hold a discussion with the public regarding how the Hopkinton residents wish to remember the Hope Valley Elementary School.

Councilor Davis advised that on June 4, 2025, she attended the Hope Valley School improvement team meeting run by the principal. The last school day will be June 18, 2025; there will be a senior appreciation parade; and, a we love Hope Valley Elementary calendar of events over this week, including a dance party with bubbles, and chalk. The police and fire departments will be cheering the last buses as they leave the school and there will be an ice cream social event for the students and their families on that day. Cynthia Drummond will be taking pictures on the last day, and a memory book will be compiled and scanned as a pdf to be stored at the Langworthy Library. The school improvement team wanted an item for the kids and the staff to remember them and were thinking of an aerial shot picture. August 6th is the last teacher's day and the end of preschool. The school will be broom swept and delivered back to the town on September 1st. Superintendent Picard is compiling a list of memorial items that are already at Hope Valley Elementary including a plaque honoring a teacher who passed away and a bench. They would also like to do a time capsule. Councilor Davis asked what the town would like to do to remember the school. She suggested a bronze cast bench with two kids who are reading a book. Councilor Roy questioned where it would go. Councilor Davis noted that this agenda item was to obtain input from residents to see how they would like to see the Hope Valley Elementary School remembered. She felt a committee should be formed at some point to talk about this; she did not want this to be like the 1904 Building where people felt like they had no say. Councilor Geary suggested putting a survey on social media and the town's website. There was a discussion about asking Mr. DiOrio to use his drone to obtain an aerial photograph but it was decided that there would not be enough time. Mr. Moreau recommended that whatever memorial was used, it be put up in the Langworthy playground area. It was decided that there would be a survey done first to see what the residents suggested for ideas.

Carol Klang-Peterson noted she had done some historical research on the school and felt there were a lot of variables to what community members wanted. They have different memories and different wants and she believed the best thing was to take a poll or do a survey. She also noted that some people wished to have a

walkthrough of the building but that could not happen until September and then it would not look like a school because everything must be taken out of the building. Jean Arthur loved the idea of putting the question out to the community via social media. As a former teacher, she wished for something to be done to benefit the children, such as enhancing the playground.

Councilor Roy mentioned possibly revamping the baseball field that is in the Langworthy field.

Etta Zasloff mentioned attending a Hope Valley School Improvement Team meeting which was attended by approximately thirty parents and community members. There were many generations of residents who had gone to the school, and they wished there to be some kind of ceremony to commemorate the school and possibly get up to a microphone and tell a memory. She thought something could be done on the playground at the back of the school, with a sound system, possibly a walk-through of the school and a dedication of some kind.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BURNS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN IN HONOR OF THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ARMY.

SO VOTED

Marita D. Murray
Town Clerk

Sydney Fernandes
Deputy Town Clerk

A full audio and video transcript of this meeting can be found at:
https://www.youtube.com/@HopkintonRI/streams