

**TOWN MEETING
WARRANT**

BERKSHIRE, SS;

TO: Constable of the Town of Hancock, Massachusetts in the County of Berkshire MA.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hancock qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Hancock School, Route 43 in Hancock on **MONDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF MAY, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.** to act on **Article 1** through **22** as applicable to Fiscal Year 2027 unless otherwise indicated.

And furthermore, to meet at the Hancock School, Route 43 in Hancock, on **MONDAY, THE ELEVENTH DAY OF MAY, 2026** then and there to act on Article 1 calling for the election of the necessary Town Officers. The polls will open at **12:00 NOON** and close at **6:00 P.M.**

FIRST - To Choose the Following Town Officers:

One Board of Health members for three years (currently Wendy Kipp)

One Board of Selectmen member for three years (currently Sherman L. Derby, Sr. and also running Katherine Turner)

Two Cemetery Commission member for three years (currently Donald Cassavaugh and one spot currently vacant)

One Finance Committee member for three years (currently Sharon Hyde)

One Library Trustee for three years (currently Lydia Cassavaugh)

One Moderator for one year (currently Brian Fairbank)

One Planning Board members for three years (currently Sherman L. Derby, Sr.)

One School Committee members for three years (currently James Rodda)

SECOND – Town Reports

To see if the Town will accept the Report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers as printed in this Town Report and to act thereon.

THIRD - Transfer from Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00)** or any other amount to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action thereon. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

FOURTH – Elected and Appointed Town Officials Salaries

To see if the Town will vote to set compensation for elected and appointed officials, the sum of **SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$71,768.00)** as listed or take any other action thereon. (Elected *)

Accountant	\$19,043.00	* Finance Committee	190.00
Animal Control Officer	926.00	* Moderator	98.00
Animal Inspector	243.00	Plumbing Inspector $\frac{3}{4}$ fees collected	
* Assessors (3)	7,352.00	Police Chief	1,675.00
Board of Registrars	190.00	* School Committee (5)	1,784.00
* Board of Health (5)	4,013.00	* Tax Collector	8,331.00
* Board of Selectmen (3)	6,571.00	* Town Clerk	7,406.00
Building Inspector $\frac{3}{4}$ fees collected		* Treasurer	9,162.00
* Constable	327.00	Veteran's Agent	372.00
Fire chief salary	1,636.00	Wire inspector $\frac{3}{4}$ fee collected	
& keeps smoke detector insp. fees		911 Numbering Official	171.00
Assistant fire Chief salary	980.00	Emergency Manger	<u>318.00</u>
2 nd Assis. Fire Chief salary	980.00	TOTAL	\$71,768.00

FIFTH –Personnel Hourly Rates

To see if the Town will vote to pay Town Personnel at the following hourly rates, or any other amounts. The hourly rates may be changed at any time either upward or downward as needed to fill positions, provided such change is approved by a majority of both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Assessors	\$17.80	Police Work	17.80
Cemetery Burial	17.80	Road Superintendent	19.90
Equipment Operators	17.80	Road Supervisor	19.90
Laborers	17.80	Secretary	20.18
Fire Chief	19.90	Transfer Site Operator	18.05
Assistant Fire Chief	19.90	Veteran's Administrator	17.80
Fire Fighters	17.80		

SIXTH –Budgets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND, FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$329,015.00)** as listed below or any other sums, or take any other action thereon.

Burial Expenses	\$1,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance and Upkeep	5,700.00
Secondary Cemeteries Maintenance	<u>500.00</u>
CEMETERY TOTAL	\$7,200.00

Transfer Site Operation	\$95,000.00
Water Resource Expenses	<u>50.00</u>
BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL	\$95,050.00

Library	<u>\$24,715.00</u>
LIBRARY TOTAL	\$24,715.00

Highway Maintenance	\$40,000.00
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Street Lights	3,900.00
Winter Roads	<u>93,400.00</u>
HIGHWAY TOTAL	\$137,300.00

Council on Aging	<u>\$3,500.00</u>
COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL	\$3,500.00

Fire Department Maint. & Exp.	\$53,000.00
Forest Fires & Equipment	750.00
Fire Fighters Equipment Grant	<u>7,500.00</u>
FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$ 61,250.00

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TOTAL \$329,015.00

SEVENTH – Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR (\$138,594.00) DOLLARS** to be expended as follows or take any other action thereon:

Accountant Expenses	\$3,090.00	Police Work & supplies	700.00
Animal Control Exp.	750.00	Secretary, Town	15,740.00
Assessors Expenses	35,000.00	Tax Collector Clerk	1,000.00
Board of Health Exp.	16,500.00	Tax Collector Expenses	9,084.00
Board of Registrars Exp.	30.00	Town Clerk Expenses	2,200.00
Building Inspector Exp.	500.00	Town Clerk Assistant	500.00
Computer Backup Exp.	1,400.00	Town Hall Maintenance,	
Conservation Comm. Exp.	600.00	Operation and Repair	7,000.00
Election and Census	2,000.00	Town Hall Paint & Repair	2,500.00
Emergency Manager Exp.	900.00	Town Operating Expense	9,700.00
Finance committee Exp.	100.00	Treasurer Expense	7,000.00
Fire Department Wages	16,000.00	Tree Warden &	
Gas Pipe Inspection Exp.	50.00	Public Nuisance Exp.	1000.00
Historical Commission Exp.	650.00	Voting Machine Maintenance	
Payment to town of Richmond Fire Dept.		& Programming	1,000.00
for responding to Accidents, fires,		Wire Inspector Exp.	500.00
and medical calls on Rt. 20 and		Zoning Bd. Of Appeals	<u>500.00</u>
adjacent streets.	1,200.00	TOTAL	\$138,594.00
Planning Board Expenses	700.00		
Plumbing Inspector Exp.	700.00		

EIGHTH – Revolving Funds Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote by a 2/3 vote to enact a bylaw to maintain separate Revolving Funds pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for the following fees. Fees received by Town Officials shall be credited to the respective revolving fund and expended for payment only by the authorization of the Town Treasurer. Respective expenditures from said Revolving Funds shall not exceed the amounts shown below for fiscal year 2027 without prior

approval from the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action thereon. Said bylaw shall read as follows:

Section I: There are hereby established in the Town of Hancock pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, 53E ½, the following Revolving Funds:

Building Inspection	Fees & Charges for Building Inspections
Plumbing/Gas	Fees & Charges for Plumbing/Gas Inspections
Wiring Inspector	Fees & Charges for Wiring Inspections
Fire Department False Alarm	Fees & Charges for False Alarm Fines

Section II Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. c. 44, 53E½.

Building Inspector receipts from permit fees	\$14,200.00
Plumbing Inspector receipts from permit fees	\$10,000.00
Wiring Inspector receipts from permit fees	\$10,000.00
Fire Department False Alarm fines	\$ 3,200.00

NINTH – Fire Alarm Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Fire Alarm Account the sum of **THREE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,200.00)**, which is the amount collected by that revolving fund during the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be expended for wages to be paid to the fire fighters of the Hancock Fire Department or take any other action thereon.

TENTH – Unclassified Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$149,360.00)**, or any other sum, to be expended as follows:

Attorneys' Fees	7,000.00
Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, Assessment	694.00
Berkshire County Retirement Expenses	15,960.00
Community Christmas	500.00
Insurance-Group Life and Health	50,456.00
Insurance-Property, Bldgs. & Liability for School Board, Town Officers & Police	18,500.00
Interest on Loans	5,000.00
Medicare Employee Tax	17,850.00
Reserve Fund	24,000.00
Unemployment Compensation	5,400.00
Veterans' Fund	4,000.00
TOTAL	\$149,360.00

ELEVENTH – Employment of Boards and Commission

To see if the Town will vote to allow members of the boards and commissions listed to be employed where needed to carry out any and all of the functions related to their office or take any other action thereon.

Board of Assessors
Board of Health
Board of Selectman
Cemetery Commission
Library Trustees

TWELTH – Permission to Appoint or take any other action thereon

- (A) To see if the Town will permit the Board of Selectmen to appoint one or more of its members as Superintendent of Streets, Chief of Police, and Special police and be employed in those positions and provide equipment material and services.
- (B) To see if the Town will permit the Board of Health to appoint the Animal Control Officer, whose duties shall also encompass the duties of the Animal Inspector and the Dog Officer or to take any other action thereon.

THIRTEENTH – Emergency Equipment Grant

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,000.00)**, or any other sum to be used to pay for MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) grants. These grants will be 100% reimbursed by MEMA to the Town of Hancock's General Fund. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

FOURTEENTH – Emergency Management

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1000.00)**, or any other sum for emergency generator maintenance and repairs. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

FIFTEENTH – Land Purchase Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by a 2/3 vote the sum of **TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00)** for the Land Purchase Stabilization Fund, which also includes the purchase of Chapter 61 lands under MGL Chapter 40 Section 5b or take any other action thereon. **RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

SIXTEENTH – FY 27 Hancock Educational expenses

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ONE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$1,800,217.00)**, or any other sum for school operating expenses or take any other action thereon. **NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.**

SEVENTEENTH – Historical Commission

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **FIVE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$5,350.00)**, or any other sum for the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Town to be held on Town Hall property.
RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

EIGHTEENTH – Accounting Software

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **SIX THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$6138.00)**, or any other sum toward the purchase of a new accounting software “Vadar”, to be approved by the Selectmen prior to purchase.

NINETEENTH – Tax Collector Fees

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of **THREE HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS (\$330.00)** to pay a past due bill to the Tax Collector for charges and fees collected in FY2025.
RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

TWENTIETH – Town Audit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00)** or any other amount to complete a Town audit for FY2025.
RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

TWENTY – FIRST – Fire Fighter Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **THIRTY THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$30,760.00)** for the purchase of a Lucas Chest Compression System for the Fire Department.
RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN.

TWENTY – SECOND - To transact any other business that legally comes before said meeting. You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting at least (5) five attested copies thereof in public places in Town at least (14) days before said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due returns of your doing to the Town Clerk at the time and place of the meeting aforesaid.

CONSTABLE Mark A. Gaskill
Mark A. Gaskill

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sherman L. Derby, Sr.
Sherman L. Derby, Sr., Chairman
Donald E. Rancatti
Donald E. Rancatti
James A. Rodda
James A. Rodda

A True Copy Attest
Linda C. Burdick
Linda Burdick, TOWN CLERK

April 16, 2026
Date