

ARTICLE I

TOWN MEETINGS

[ATM 4/8/2008](#)

SECTION 1. The Annual Town Elections shall be held on the last Monday in March at such place and time as the Selectmen may determine. Those elected at the Annual Town Election, with the exception of the Moderator, shall take office at the close of the Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator shall take office on the day after election, or as soon thereafter qualified for a term of three years.

[ATM 4/6/2010](#)

SECTION 2. The Annual Business Meeting shall begin on the first Monday in May at such place as the Selectmen shall determine. The Selectmen, after a Public Hearing, may delay the start of the Annual Town Meeting for up to 7 days provided that they act no later than the last day in February preceding. All sessions of the meeting shall begin at 7:30 P.M. and, unless otherwise voted by two-thirds of those present and voting, shall be adjourned to 7:30 P.M. of the next Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, whichever comes first (legal holidays excluded), upon completion of the article under discussion at 10:30 P.M.; except that any such meeting shall be adjourned before that time if a quorum shall be declared to have been lost, or at 8:30 P.M. if a quorum has not been assembled by then.

[ATM 5/4/2016, ATM 5/7/2018](#)

SECTION 3. A Town Meeting shall be held during the months of September, October or November at such date, time and place as the Selectmen shall determine, unless the following applies. By the end of July, the Board of Selectmen shall discuss in public session, hold a public hearing and vote to determine whether a fall Town Meeting should occur. The public hearing shall be posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. The Board of Selectmen shall also solicit input from the Town via email or mail for a period of one week before the public hearing.

[ATM 5/4/2016](#)

SECTION 4. The Selectmen shall cause a Warrant Report to be printed and distributed to the citizens of the Town at least seven days prior to commencement of the Annual Town Meeting and fourteen days prior to commencement of a Special Town Meeting. The Warrant Report will contain a copy of the articles as set forth in the official warrant, a summary of the intent and scope of each article prepared by the submitter, the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee, reports by other Town officials, boards or committees having an interest in a specific article, and supporting data such as maps and charts. The individual or group submitting information shall meet requirements for timing, format and brevity established by the Selectmen.

[ATM 5/4/2016](#)

SECTION 5. Notice of every Town Meeting shall be given by posting a printed attested copy of the warrant therefor at the Town Hall at least seven days before the Annual Town Meeting and at least fourteen days before any Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE II

GOVERNMENT OF TOWN MEETING

[ATM 4/6/ 2010,](#)

SECTION 1. The Warrant for each Annual Town Meeting shall be closed January 31 preceding the Annual Town Meeting, in each year. No article, including articles consisting of resolutions, shall be taken up at Town Meeting unless it appears in the printed warrant. The preceding sentence shall not apply to resolutions memorializing townspeople and town employees. Except as hereinafter specified, the Warrant for any Special Town Meeting shall be closed at least twenty-five days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting; provided further that there shall be at least ten days between the call of any Special Town Meeting and the closing of the Warrant therefor. This section shall not apply to any Special Town Meeting held for the purpose of

considering the approval or disapproval of an amount of debt authorized by a Regional District School Committee, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 71, section 16(d), or held for an emergency purpose.

SECTION 2. Except for the election of Town Officers, no meeting shall be legal unless a quorum is present, and a quorum shall consist of one hundred registered voters; once a quorum has been assembled, the continued existence of a quorum shall be presumed until a count of the voters present, which shall be taken upon the call of seven or more registered voters, establishes that a quorum is not present.

SECTION 3. The Moderator shall, at the time and place appointed, call the meeting to order, and forthwith proceed to read the call for the meeting, and the return of the person or persons who served it.

SECTION 4. The powers and duties of the presiding officer, not especially provided for by law, or by these bylaws, shall be determined by the rules and practices contained in the most recent edition of Town Meeting Time, so far as they are adapted to the conditions and powers of the town.

SECTION 5. The Moderator while presiding over a Town Meeting shall not participate in the discussion of any matter under consideration of the said town meeting, but he may upon request answer all questions relating to procedure in town meetings as may be submitted to him and to correct any errors of procedure which may occur.

SECTION 6. Every person speaking shall address the chair standing and uncovered. No person not a voter shall address the meeting without first obtaining consent of the meeting.

SECTION 7. Every non-resident appointed representative of the Town shall be a non-voting member of Town Meeting.

SECTION 8. No article in the warrant for any Town Meeting shall be taken up for consideration out of the order in which it appears there in, except by a four-fifths vote of the voters present and voting thereat.

SECTION 9. All motions shall be reduced to writing before being submitted to the meeting, if required by the presiding officer or clerk.

SECTION 10. When an article comes before any session of the Town Meeting, the proponent(s) shall be recognized first for the purpose of making a motion under the article and then for making a presentation in support thereof, if the motion is seconded. If the proponent is an elected or appointed board or committee

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within which there is a minority position in opposition to the article, a spokesman for that position will be recognized next. Thereafter, the Finance Committee shall be recognized if it wishes to speak on the article, followed by the Planning Board and/or any other Board or Committee which is required by law to report on the article.

SECTION 11. No person shall speak more than twice upon any question, except to correct an error or make an explanation until all others who have not spoken upon the question and desire to do so shall have an opportunity. The initial presentation by the proponent(s) of an article may not exceed ten minutes in length, and no other speech may exceed five minutes in length unless consent is given by a majority of those present and voting.

SECTION 12. When a question is under debate, motions may be received to adjourn, to lay the matter on the table, to move the previous question, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a time certain, to commit, and to amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are herein enumerated, and the first three shall be decided without debate, provided that the Moderator need not allow a vote on a motion for the previous question unless, in his opinion, there has been a reasonable opportunity for debate on the question.

SECTION 13. A motion to reconsider a matter previously acted upon at the same session shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voters present and voting. A motion to reconsider a matter after adjournment of the session at which it was acted upon shall require a unanimous vote of those present and

voting unless written notice of an intention to move reconsideration of the matter, signed by fifteen voters who attended that session is given to the Town Clerk on or before noon of the next weekday (legal holidays excluded) following the session at which the matter for which reconsideration is sought was acted upon. The Town Clerk shall publish notice of such intention by advertisement or by posting in his office or elsewhere in the Town Hall. The Moderator shall at the start of the next session announce the matter on which reconsideration is sought and shall further announce that the motion for reconsideration shall be the first order of business at the next succeeding session of the Town Meeting unless all business is completed prior to 10:30 P.M. of the same session, in which case the motion for reconsideration shall be the last item of business that evening. When the matter to be reconsidered comes before the meeting, the Moderator shall recognize for the motion the person who gave notice to the Town Clerk, unless he shall defer to another. All discussion on the motion must be confined exclusively to the merits or demerits of reconsideration. Passage of a motion to reconsider shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and voting. If notice of reconsideration is given on more than one matter, they shall be taken up in the order in which they were submitted to the Town Clerk.

SECTION 14. Every vote, resolution, amendment, order or other action of the Town Meeting which instructs or requests any Town inhabitant, official, committee or board to study, propose, prepare, draft, present, file, petition for or otherwise initiate new legislation by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the Congress of the United States, shall specify in terms whether or not such inhabitant, official, committee or board is required to present a draft of such legislation to the Town Meeting for approval before submitting it to said General Court or Congress.

SECTION 15. If a legal error in an action of the Town Meeting, attested to by the Town Counsel, is discovered, the Moderator shall, when presented with such error, recognize the Town Counsel for the purpose of identifying the error and explaining its effect. Following the explanation of the Town Counsel, the Moderator shall request a motion by the Board of Selectmen to correct the error. Such motion shall not be subject to the rules of reconsideration and shall require a simple majority unless otherwise mandated by State

law or any portion of these bylaws. Action under such motion shall be limited to correction of the error.

SECTION 16. If the Town Accountant, or in his absence, the Assistant Town Accountant, discovers that information presented to the Town Meeting contains an accounting error, he shall request to be recognized for the purpose of identifying the error and explaining its effect. The Moderator shall recognize the Town Accountant for such purpose. Following the explanation, the Moderator shall request a motion by the Board of Selectmen to correct the error. Such motion shall not be subject to the rules of reconsideration and shall require a simple majority unless otherwise mandated. Any voter or Town official who discovers such an accounting error shall notify the Town Accountant, who, if he concurs, shall proceed as described above.

SECTION 17. The Moderator may determine, without a count, that a two-thirds, four-fifths, or nine-tenths vote has been achieved, which determination shall satisfy the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 15 or any other law requiring a two-thirds, four-fifths, or nine-tenths vote, unless a count is requested in conformance with the procedural requirements set forth in Town Meeting Time.

SECTION 18. All persons speaking on any article may be recognized by the Moderator after the presentation by the proponent(s) of the article, if any, but no speaker may be recognized in accordance with any pre-arranged speaking order. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event there is no speaker identified as the proponent, the Moderator may recognize speakers after the motion on the floor has been seconded.