

**2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Natick High School
April 28, 2016
Fourth Session**

The Fourth Session of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by the Town Moderator, Frank W. Foss, who declared a quorum present. The Moderator welcomed residents, taxpayers, town officials, Town Meeting Members and interested parties to the Fourth Session of 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator asked that any recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office if they had not already done so (there were none). The Moderator asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in recognition of all the men and women serving on our behalf throughout the world.

The Moderator introduced the officials present on the stage and in the well of the auditorium. The following people were present: Diane Packer, Town Clerk; Paul Griesmer, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Martha White, Town Administrator; John Flynn, Town Counsel; and Richard Jennett, Chair of the Board of Selectmen; Mr. Chenard, Deputy Town Administrator for Operations; Mr. Towne, Deputy Town Administrator for Finance and a representative from Option Technologies who will be operating the electronic voting system.

The Moderator reviewed the general rules and procedures of Town Meeting that were accepted at the previous session of this meeting. He indicated that all residents and taxpayers of the town and town officers and employees, whether or not residents, have the same right to speak as Town Meeting Members; however they do not have the right to submit motions for consideration at Town Meeting, nor vote on any matter before Town Meeting. Non-residents may only speak at Town Meeting after approval by Town Meeting Members. The proceedings of Town Meetings shall be governed by *Town Meeting Time*, the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter, the Natick By-Laws and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

No person shall speak upon any article more than once when any other person desires to be heard, nor more than twice on the same question without permission of Town Meeting; and no person shall speak more than ten (10) minutes at one time without permission of Town Meeting. Consistent with the Natick By-Laws, any person having a monetary or equitable interest in any matter under discussion at a Town Meeting, and any person employed by another having such an interest, shall disclose the fact of his/her interest or employment before speaking thereon.

The Moderator made several announcements regarding upcoming community events. The Moderator announced that Town Meeting would complete Article 8 and then adjourn and enter into Special Town Meeting #1.

ARTICLE 8: Fiscal 2017 Omnibus Budget Article (Town Administrator)

To determine what sum of money the Town will appropriate and raise, or transfer from available funds, for the operation of the government of the Town of Natick, including debt and interest during Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2017; or to otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Finance Committee made recommendations on each motion in this article. The recommendation will be listed prior to the motion.

Recommendation: Public Safety MotionB1

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the *Emergency Management, Parking Enforcement and Police Department* budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (requires majority vote)

Motion B-1: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head:

Emergency Management Expenses	<u>\$35,600</u>
Total Emergency Management	<u>\$35,600</u>

Parking Enforcement Salaries	\$53,695
Expenses	<u>\$81,704</u>
Total Parking Enforcement	<u>\$135,399</u>

Police Salaries	\$6,432,579
Expenses	\$218,513
Other Charges & Expenses	<u>\$7,500</u>
Total Police	<u>\$6,658,592</u>

Total Budget Amount (Emergency Mgt, Parking, Police): \$6,829,591

And that the above Total Budget Amounts be raised from the following sources: Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017	\$6,749,591
Parking Meter Revenues	<u>\$80,000</u>
Total Sources	<u>\$6,829,591</u>

Motion B1 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (98-2-2).

Recommendation: Public Safety Motion B2

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016 the Finance Committee recommends **Favorable Action** with regard to the **Fire Department** budget as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (requires majority vote)

Motion B-2: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the department shown below, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head:

Fire Salaries	\$7,893,341
Expenses	<u>\$229,850</u>
Total Budget Amount - Fire	<u>\$8,123,191</u>

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:
Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017 \$8,123,191

Motion B2 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (112-1-1).

Motion C: PUBLIC WORKS

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends **Favorable Action** with regard to the **Public Works** budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the department shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head:

Department of Public Works Salaries	\$3,521,633
Expenses	\$1,938,965
Municipal Energy	\$1,474,234
Snow & Ice	<u>\$550,000</u>
Total Budget Amount - Department of Public Works	<u>\$7,484,832</u>

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:
Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017 \$7,484,832

Motion C under Article 8 passed by majority vote (112-1-0).

Motion D: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recommendation:

By a vote of 8-5-0, the Finance Committee recommends Favorable Action on the Article 8 Motion D as follows:

Motion (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories said funds to be expended under the direction of each department head:

Community Services	
Salaries	\$1,271,206
Expenses	<u>\$486,006</u>
Total Community Services	\$1,757,212
Board of Health	
Salaries	\$471,196
Expenses	\$35,750
Other Charges	<u>\$15,000</u>
& Expenses	
Total Board of Health	\$521,946
Total Budget Amount	<u>\$2,279,158</u>

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:

Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017	<u>\$2,279,158</u>
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Ms. White spoke to this budget. Mr. Jennett spoke to the issue and assured Town Meeting that the Board of Selectmen will be looking at the issues surrounding the Natick Community Organic Farm. Discussion ensued on this budget.

Mr. Coffey moved to amend the main motion, seconded by Ms. Coughlin that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories said funds to be expended under the direction of each department head:

Community Services	
Salaries	\$1,184,537
Expenses	<u>\$486,006</u>
Total Community Services	\$1,670,534
Board of Health	
Salaries	\$471,196
Expenses	\$35,750
Other Charges	<u>\$15,000</u>
& Expenses	
Total Board of Health	\$521,946
Total Budget Amount	<u>\$2,192,489</u>

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:

Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017	<u>\$2,192,489</u>
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Discussion ensued on the amendment. *The amendment to the main motion failed (21-88-6). Motion D under Article 8 passed by majority vote (97-12-7).*

Motion E: Administrative Support Services

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Board of Selectmen, Personnel Board, Town Report, Legal, Finance Department, Information Technology Department, Town Clerk, Elections, Sealer of Weights**

and Measures and Community and Economic Development Department budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer, that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of each Department Head or Director:

Board of Selectmen	
Salaries	\$970,733
Expenses	\$267,450
Other Charges & Expenditures	\$93,000
Contract Settlements	<u>\$875,000</u>
Total Board of Selectmen	<u>\$2,206,183</u>
Personnel Board	
Other Charges & Expenditures	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total Personnel Board	<u>\$1,000</u>
Town Report Professional Services	<u>\$4,100</u>
Total Town Report	<u>\$4,100</u>
Legal	
Expenses	\$349,600
Other Charges & Expenditures	<u>\$7,500</u>
Total Legal	<u>\$357,100</u>
Finance	
Salaries	\$1,088,512
Expenses	\$387,350
Other Charges & Expenditures	<u>\$75,000</u>
Total Finance	<u>\$1,550,862</u>
Information Technology	
Salaries	\$333,170
Expenses	\$566,500
Other Charges & Expenditures	<u>\$305,000</u>
Total Information Technology	<u>\$1,204,670</u>
Town Clerk	
Salaries	\$249,337
Expenses	<u>\$42,200</u>
Total Town Clerk	<u>\$291,537</u>
Elections	
Salaries (Registrars)	\$69,463
Expenses (Registrars)	<u>\$55,300</u>
Total Elections	<u>\$124,763</u>
Sealer of Weights & Measures	
Salaries	\$14,659
Expenses	<u>\$875</u>
Total Sealer of Weights & Measures	<u>\$15,534</u>
Community Development	
Salaries	\$840,155
Expenses	<u>\$29,750</u>
Total Community Development	<u>\$869,905</u>
Total Budget Amount	<u>\$6,625,654</u>

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:

Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017

\$6,625,654

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Snow to amend the main motion by adding the following words at the end of the motion: “, provided, however, that under line item “Board of Selectmen, Contract Settlements,” no expenditures shall be permitted to fund a so-called cost of living adjustment that represents a percentage increase in salaries where such percentage exceeds the comparable cost of living adjustment percentage increase in Social Security benefits made to retirees nor shall a transfer from the line item to any other line items be permitted to accomplish such a result. To correspond to Natick’s FY 2017, the comparable cost of living adjustment percentage increase in Social Security benefits is defined to be one-half the percentage announced by Social Security for the calendar year 2016 plus one-half the percentage announced for calendar year 2017.”

Discussion ensued on the amendment. Mr. Flynn, Town Counsel, spoke to this amendment and said that in his opinion this amendment would not be legal. The Moderator ruled that the body could still vote on this amendment. Discussion continued. Moved by Mr. Grady, seconded by Mr. Golden to move the question and end debate on the amendment. *The motion to close debate passed by a 2/3 vote (hand count). The amendment failed (10-98-4). Motion E under Article 8 passed by majority vote (99-8-1).*

Motion F: Committees And Commissions

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Finance Committee, commission on Disability, Natick Cultural Council, Historical Commission and Historic District Commission** budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of each Department Head or Director:

Finance Committee	
Expenses	<u>\$17,450</u>
Total Finance Committee	<u>\$17,450</u>
Commission on Disability	
Expenses	<u>\$750</u>
Total Commission on Disability	<u>\$750</u>
Natick Cultural Council	
Expenses	<u>\$700</u>
Total Natick Cultural Council	<u>\$700</u>
Historical Commission	
Expenses	<u>\$750</u>
Total Historical Commission	<u>\$750</u>
Historic District Commission	
Expenses	<u>\$550</u>
Total Historic District Commission	<u>\$550</u>
Total Budget Amount	<u>\$20,200</u>
And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:	
Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017	<u>\$20,200</u>

Motion F under Article 8 passed by majority vote (103-1-0).

Motion G: Shared Expenses

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Employee Fringe Benefit, Property & Liability Insurance, Contributory Retirement, Non-Contributory Retirement, Debt Service, Reserve Fund and Facilities Management** budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (requires two-thirds vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Evans that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of funding the accounts and funds shown below, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the following officials or committees: Employee Fringe Benefits – Town Administrator; Property and Liability Insurance – Town Administrator; Contributory Retirement System Pension Liability – Collector/Treasurer; Non-Contributory Retirement Pension Liability - Comptroller; Debt Service – Collector/Treasurer; Reserve Fund – Finance Committee; Facilities Management – Town Administrator & Superintendent of Public Schools.

Insurances & Benefits

Employee Fringe

Other Personnel Services	\$15,609,744
Other Personnel Services – Merit / Performance	<u>\$130,850</u>
Total Employee Fringe	<u>\$15,740,594</u>

Property & Liability Insurance

Purchased Services	<u>\$641,750</u>
Total Property & Liability Insurance	<u>\$641,750</u>

Retirement

Contributory Retirement

Pension Assessment	<u>\$8,194,354</u>
Total Contributory Retirement	<u>\$8,194,354</u>

Non-Contributory Retirement

Pensions	<u>\$42,803</u>
Total Non-Contributory Retirement	<u>\$42,803</u>

Debt Service

Debt Service

Leased Equipment	\$148,703
Leased Land	\$3,900
Principal	\$7,893,357
Interest	<u>\$2,449,397</u>
Total Debt Service	<u>\$10,495,357</u>

Reserve Fund – Finance Committee

Reserve Fund

Other Charges	<u>\$250,000</u>
Total Reserve Fund	<u>\$250,000</u>

Facilities Management

Facilities Management

Salaries	\$2,440,848
Expenses	<u>\$576,550</u>
Total Facilities Management	<u>\$3,017,398</u>

Total Budget Amount

\$38,382,256

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:

Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017	\$8,972,544
State Aid	\$11,605,603
Local Receipts	\$11,846,650
Free Cash	\$2,997,903
Overlay Surplus	\$500,000
Title V Septic	\$7,684

Water-Sewer User Fees	\$2,218,150
Golf User Fees	\$41,973
FAR Bonus Stabilization	\$3,900
Premiums	\$64,682
School Building Assistance	<u>\$123,167</u>
Total Sources	<u>\$38,382,256</u>

Discussion ensued on this motion. *Motion G under Article 8 passed by two-thirds vote (99-4-2).*

Motion H: Water And Sewer Enterprise Fund

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Water & Sanitary Sewer, Utility Billing, Fringe Benefits, Water & Sewer Debt Service and Water & Sewer Reserve Fund** budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion H1 for Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the Department shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head:

Water & Sanitary Sewer Operations	
Salaries	\$1,878,441
Expenses	<u>\$7,192,320</u>
Total Water & Sanitary Sewer Operations	<u>\$9,070,761</u>
Utility Billing	
Salaries	\$112,214
Expenses	<u>\$ 89,000</u>
Total Utility Billing	<u>\$201,214</u>
Fringe Benefits	
Other Personnel Services	\$464,129
Other Charges & Expenditures	<u>\$273,812</u>
Total Fringe Benefits	<u>\$737,941</u>
Water & Sewer Debt Service	
Principal	\$1,996,150
Interest	<u>\$ 394,638</u>
Total Debt Service	<u>\$2,390,788</u>
Water & Sewer Reserve Fund	
Expenses	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total Water & Sewer Reserve Fund	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total Budget Amount	<u>\$12,600,704</u>
And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources: Water-	
Sewer User Fees	<u>\$12,600,704</u>
Total Sources	<u>\$12,600,704</u>
Total Sources	<u>\$12,600,704</u>

Motion H1 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (98-1-0).

H2: Water And Sewer Indirect Cost Allocations

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Water and Sewer Indirect Cost Allocations** as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion H2 for Water/ Indirect Cost Allocations (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to approve the following indirect cost allocations raised in the General Fund:

Allocations:	Total
DPW Administration	\$134,609
Engineering Services	389,911
Equipment Maintenance	391,653
Highway Sanitation Recycling	282,360
Facility Maintenance	69,481
Public Safety	110,893
Finance – Administration	10,203
Finance – Assessing	8,876
Finance – Collector/Treasurer	84,890
Finance – Comptroller	62,216
Town Administration	161,916
Community Development	86,196
Information Technology	116,890
Procurement	34,389
Human Resources	2,859
Legal Services	35,710
Property & Liability Insurance	256,700
Utilities	52,002
Vehicle Fuel	<u>100,562</u>
Sub-total General Fund	\$2,389,319

Water/Sewer Staff Performing General Fund Functions	
GIS Services	(\$38,529)
W/S Administrative Assistant – DPW	(37,131)
W/S Administrative Assistant – Collector	(62,572)
Snow & Ice Removal	(32,936)
Sub-total Water/Sewer	<u>(\$171,169)</u>
SUB-TOTAL – GENERAL FUND	<u>\$2,218,150</u>

And that the Sum of \$2,218,150 appropriated in the General Fund be raised from the following sources:

Water/Sewer User Fees	<u>\$2,218,150</u>
(See Motion for Section G, Article 8: Shared Expenses)	<u>\$2,218,150</u>

Mr. White and Mr. Chenard spoke to this motion. *Motion H2 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (98-0-1).*

Motion I: Sassamon Trace Enterprise Fund

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Sassamon Trace Operations, Sassamon Trace Fringe Benefits and Sassamon Trace Debt Service** budgets as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION II: (Requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, second that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the departments shown under the associated categories, said funds are to be expended under the direction of the Department Head or Director:

Sassamon Trace Operations	
Salaries	\$296,776
Expenses	<u>\$303,601</u>
Total GC Operations	<u>\$600,377</u>
Sassamon Trace Fringe Benefits	
Other Personnel Services	\$55,312
Other Charges & Expenditures	<u>\$16,423</u>
Total GC Fringe Benefits	<u>\$71,735</u>

Sassamon Trace Debt Service	
Principal	\$214,630
Interest	<u>\$40,151</u>
Total GC Debt Service	<u>\$254,781</u>
Total Budget Amount	<u>\$926,893</u>

And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:

Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2017	\$277,000
Golf User Fees	\$612,027
Golf Retained Earnings	<u>\$37,866</u>
Total Sources	<u>\$926,893</u>

Motion 11 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (93-3-2).

Motion 12: Sassamon Trace Enterprise Fund

Recommendation:

By a vote of 12 - 0 - 0 on March 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the **Sassamon Trace Enterprise Indirect Cost Allocations** as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion 12 (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to approve the following indirect cost allocations raised in the General Fund:

Cost Allocations:	Total
Community Services – Recreation & Parks	\$9,303
DPW – LFNR	9,102
Equipment Maintenance	4,851
Highway Sanitation Recycling	1,412
Finance	6,207
Town Administration	4,249
Procurement	241
Human Resources	753
Property & Liability Insurance	3,222
Vehicle Fuel	<u>2,634</u>
Sub-Total General Fund	<u>\$41,973</u>

And that the Sum of \$41,973 appropriated in the General Fund be raised from the following sources:

Golf User Fees	<u>\$41,973</u>
Total Sources	<u>\$41,973</u>

Motion 12 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (97-0-1).

Ms. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Pierce to reconsider Article 11. The Moderator explained that in Natick, a reconsideration motion may not be considered unless there is a compelling reason to reconsider. Ms. Collins gave arguments for reconsideration. The Moderator announced that he would make a ruling on May 3rd. He also announced that any other member may provide information to him and it must be submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office by the end of the work day on April 29th.

The Moderator announced that the body would leave the Spring Annual Town Meeting open but enter 2016 Special Town Meeting #1. Mr. Everett called for a quorum count. There was no quorum. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM until Tuesday May 3rd.

A record of the Fourth Session of
2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting
April 28, 2016

Diane Packer, Town Clerk