

**2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Natick High School
October 18, 2016
First Session**

The First Session of the 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:43 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 First Session of 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Foss presented the official, duly posted warrant signed by the Board of Selectmen with the officer's return thereon to the Town Clerk to be entered into the official record of the town. The Moderator asked that newly elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office. There were no new members. 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; 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. 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.

All motions offered for consideration by Town Meeting shall be in writing if required by the Moderator; and all motions involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing when required by any Town Meeting Member. 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, once a member is recognized, it is the practice of Town Meeting to first ask questions, then propose a motion and/or debate the highest ranking motion. This practice is unchanged. Once a speaker is called upon by the Moderator the speaker's time will begin. Time expended asking questions will be considered part of the speaker's time, pursuant to the Natick By-Laws. Responses to the speaker's question will not be considered part of the speaker's requisite time. Each speaker will be limited to three questions, whether or not they are stated singularly or in a compound question and divided by the Moderator. When a question on an article is before Town Meeting, motions shall be received and have precedence as listed in the table entitled "Precedence of Motions," found in the Natick By-Laws, the Town Meeting Member Handbook and ***Town Meeting Time***. 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 on the matter. The motion for the previous question shall not be entered by the Moderator if three or more persons, who have not previously spoken to the question, are seeking recognition. Without objection, the preceding statements were accepted as rules of 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting.

The Moderator suggested a motion to waive the reading of articles and motions. Moved by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Gath to waive reading the text of all 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting warrant articles and move to waive reading the text of motions, excluding the amounts to be appropriated and sources of said amounts to be appropriated when motions are provided in the text of Recommendations of the Natick Finance Committee publications. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

The Moderator reminded members regarding the use of the electronic voting machines and there was a test vote. The Moderator made several announcements regarding upcoming community events. He also announced that Special Town Meeting #2 will begin on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Mr. Sidney offered, seconded by Ms. Ball the following resolution:

Whereas, this country has witnessed a significant increase in mass shootings in recent years,

And, whereas, the Town of Natick wants to keep its citizens and schoolchildren safe from gun violence,

And, whereas, the Congress of the United States has failed to enact sensible legislation that would reduce the possibility for mass shootings, such as:

- Universal background checks for all gun sales
- A seven-day waiting period for gun purchases
- Allowing the CDC and NIH to study gun violence, it's causes and effects
- Banning felons and terror suspects from purchasing and owning firearms and explosives
- Requiring the use of "smart gun" technologies

Therefore, the Town of Natick calls upon the President and the Congress of the United States to heed the call of the people, and to ignore the calls of lobbyists and special interest groups, and to enact reasonable and common-sense gun legislation that would protect both the rights of the citizens under the Second Amendment of the Constitution and promote the safety of our citizens and schoolchildren,

And, that this resolution shall be recorded in the Town Record;

And, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent, by the Town Clerk, to President Barack Obama of the United States, and to Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, and Representative Katherine Clark, who represent the Town of Natick in Congress, from the Town Meeting of the Town of Natick in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Linehan moved, seconded by Mr. Snow to amend the resolution:

- by changing the word "Congress" to "Administration";
- to delete the words "enact sensible" and add the words "competently, consistently, and carefully enforce existing laws";
- strike the word "legislation";
- strike all of the bullet points following the words ",such as"
- add the following bullet points:"Timely federal response to local law enforcement in background checks for gun sales and "The current ban on felons and terror suspects from purchasing and owning firearms and explosives";
- In the following paragraph add the following words after the word "groups, and" and before the words "to enact" "carefully enforce existing gun legislation, while striving";
- add the following words "based on current Massachusetts firearms statutes as a model to be used in developing a clear, cohesive, and Constitutional set of federal firearms statutes" before the words "that would protect"

Mr. Sidney spoke to the resolution. Mr. Linehan spoke to the amendment. Discussion ensued on the resolution and the amendment at the same time. Debate concluded and the Moderator announced that the amendment would be voted first. *The amendment to the resolution failed (41-74-7). The resolution as presented failed (56-56-10.)*

ARTICLE 1: Fiscal 2017 Omnibus Budget (Town Administrator)

To determine what sum or sums 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 through June 30, 2017) and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2017, and to see what budgets for Fiscal Year 2017 will be reduced to offset said additional appropriations, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation:

By a vote of 12-0-0 on October 4, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 1 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion (Requires majority vote):

Move that the Town vote to reduce the appropriation voted by the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting under article 8 by the sum of \$493,175, said sum to be distributed as follows:

- To supplement the Public Safety budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion B1 of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$14,938 to Police Salaries for training associated with the Combined Rescue Task Force.
- To supplement the Public Safety budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion B2 of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$14,824 to Fire Salaries for training associated with the Combined Rescue Task Force (CRTF) (\$24,000 for CRTF training less a reduction of \$9,176 for Stipends not required due to the retirement of the Superintendent of Communications).
- To supplement the Public Works budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion C of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$2,595 to salaries for overtime associated with downtown banner maintenance, and \$5,120 to expenses for costs associated with downtown banner maintenance, and \$38,100 to Municipal Energy budget (solar energy consulting work \$24,000, and traffic light maintenance \$14,100).
- To supplement the Administrative Support Services budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion E of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$46,667 to Selectmen Salaries for the salary of the Prevention and Outreach Program Manager, and \$8,000 to the Selectmen Expenses (\$6,500 for training and \$1,500 for Prevention and Outreach Program Manager expenses) and \$3,750 to the Town Report Professional Services to reprint the 2015 Town Report.
- To reduce the Shared Expenses budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion G of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by \$631,684 (reducing the Employee Fringe – Other Personnel Services by \$681,684 and adding \$50,000 to the Finance Committee Reserve Fund).
- To supplement the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion H1 of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$1,683 to Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund (\$7,831 for MWRA Assessment, less a reduction of \$6,148 to the Total Employee Benefits).
- To supplement the Sassamon Trace Operations budget as voted under Article 8 – Motion I1 of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$2,832 to Sassamon Trace Debt Service.

The source of the amount of the \$493,175 reduction is from the following sources net together:

- Increase in State Aid in the amount of \$299,181
- Increase in Property Tax Levy (New Growth) in the amount of \$356,846
- Decrease Free Cash in the amount of \$1,150,885
- Increase in Water Sewer User Fees in the amount of \$1,683

Ms. White gave an overview of the budget and Mr. Chenard provided further details relating to Article 1. *The main motion under Article 1 passed by majority vote (118-3-1)*

ARTICLE 2: Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the stabilization fund established under Article 22 of the warrant for Annual Town Meeting of 1961, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended; or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 10-0-0 on September 27, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 2 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion: (Requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town take no action with regard to the subject matter of Article 2.

Mr. Chenard spoke to Articles 2 and 3 together. *The motion to take no action on Article 2 passed by majority vote (taken by hand count).*

ARTICLE 3: Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the Operational Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 4, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended; or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 10-0-0 on September 27, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 3 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion: (Requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town take no action with regard to the subject matter of Article 3.

The motion to take no action on Article 3 passed by majority vote (taken by hand count).

ARTICLE 4: Capital Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established under Article 2 of the warrant for Fall Annual Town Meeting of 2010, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 10 -0-0 on September 27, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 4 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION: (Requires two-thirds vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate \$3,925,532 from free cash for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2010 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 2, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws as amended.

Mr. Chenard spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 4 passed by two-thirds vote (117-1-0).*

ARTICLE 5: Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund established under Article 30 of the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting of 2014, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 13-0-0 on August 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 5 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion: (Requires two-thirds vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$101,423.20 from available funds in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings for the purpose of supplementing the Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 30, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.

Mr. Chenard spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 5 passed unanimously (117-0-1).*

ARTICLE 6: One-to-One Technology Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the One-to-One Technology Stabilization Fund established under Article 31 of the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting of 2014, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 13 0-0 on August 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 6 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion: (Requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town take no action with regard to the subject matter of Article 6.

Mr. Chenard spoke to Articles 6 and 7 together. *The motion to take no action on Article 6 passed by majority vote (taken by hand count).*

ARTICLE 7: FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund established under Article 24 of the warrant for the Fall Annual Town Meeting of 2015, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 13-0-0 on August 30, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 7 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

Motion: (Requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town take no action with regard to the subject matter of Article 7.

The motion to take no action on Article 7 passed by majority vote (taken by hand count).

ARTICLE 8: Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by vote of the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 8 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By a vote of 9-0-0 on September 27, 2016, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 8 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 \$1,000,000 from free cash for the purpose of funding the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by vote of the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 8, as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, as amended.

Ms. White spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 8 passed unanimously (117-0-1).*

ARTICLE 9: Capital Equipment (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and raise, or otherwise provide, a sum of money as may be required for capital equipment for the various departments of the Town of Natick; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or otherwise act thereon.

Finance Committee Recommendation

By votes of 13-0-0 on September 13, 2016 on items 1 through 9 and by vote of 9-0-0 on September 29, 2016 to add item 16, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 9 as presented in the voted recommended motions below.

Motion A was moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer. Mr. Chenard spoke to the all the motions in Article 9 at this time.

MOTION A: (Majority vote required)

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,291,000 to be expended under direction of the Fire Department for the purpose of installing Mobile Data Terminals on their apparatus, under the direction of the Information Technology Department for the purpose of Document Archiving, under the direction of the Police Department for the purpose of replacing police cruisers, under the direction of the Public Works Department for the purpose of replacing Fuel Depot Storage Tanks, purchasing and installing a Mixed Paper Compactor, replacing dumpsters, and purchasing a dump truck with plow, under the direction of the Town Administrator for Document Storage and the Preservation of Records, and under the direction of the Town Clerk for the Preservation of Historical Records, and under the Direction of the Community Services Director for the purpose of purchasing and installing shade apparatus and picnic tables, individually shown as items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 16 in Table A below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$1,291,000 be raised from Free Cash.

TABLE A - MOTION A: Article 9 - Capital Equipment - 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Fire Department	Mobile Data Terminals/Computers on Apparatus	Free Cash	\$70,000
2	Information Technology	Document Archiving	Free Cash	\$250,000
3	Police Department	Cruiser Replacement	Free Cash	\$123,000
4	Public Works	Replace Fuel Depot Storage Tanks	Free Cash	\$220,000
5	Public Works	Mixed Paper Compactor	Free Cash	\$30,000
6	Public Works	Replace Dumpsters	Free Cash	\$12,500
7	Public Works	Ford F450 Dump Body /Plow	Free Cash	\$80,000
8	Town Administrator	Document Storage and Preservation	Free Cash	\$400,000
9	Town Clerk	Preservation of Historical Records	Free Cash	\$100,000
16	Community Services	Purchase and install Shade Apparatus and Picnic Tables	Free Cash	\$5,500
Appropriation under Article 9: MOTION A				\$ 1,291,000

Motion A under Article 9 passed by majority vote (111-3-0).

Motion B was moved by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Griesmer.

MOTION B: (Two-thirds vote required)

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$295,000 to be expended under the direction of the Public Works Department for purpose of upgrading the Public Works Radio/Communication System, and replacing H-63 Street Sweeper (supplement) individually shown as items 10, and 11 in Table B below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$295,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$295,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program.

TABLE B, MOTION B: Article 9 - Capital Equipment - 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10	Public Works	Upgrade Public Works Radio/Communication System	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$215,000
11	Public Works	Replace H-63 Street Sweeper Supplement	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$80,000
Appropriation under Article 9: MOTION B				\$ 295,000

Motion B under Article 9 passed by a two-thirds vote (110-2-1).

Motion C was moved by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Griesmer

MOTION C: (Majority vote required)

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be expended under the direction of the Community Services Department for purpose of purchasing Light Weight Utility Vehicles, individually shown as item 12, in Table C below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$20,000 be raised from Golf Course Retained Earnings.

TABLE C, MOTION C: Article 9 - Capital Equipment - 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12	Community Services	Light Weight Utility Vehicles	G.C. Retained Earnings	\$20,000

Motion C under Article 9 passed by majority vote (108-3-1).

Motion D was moved by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Griesmer.

MOTION D: (Majority vote required)

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$187,000 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of replacing W-18 Van, purchasing a Water Crew Truck, and replacing the 4M Sewer Pump Station Generator individually shown as items 13, 14, 15 in Table D below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$187,000 be raised from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings.

TABLE D, MOTION D: Article 9 - Capital Equipment - 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting

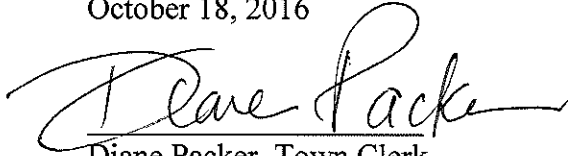
Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
13	Public Works	Replace W-18 Van	W/S Retained Earnings	\$42,000
14	Public Works	Water Crew Truck	W/S Retained Earnings	\$45,000
15	Public Works	Replace 4M Sewer Pump Station Generator	W/S Retained Earnings	\$100,000

Appropriation under Article 9: MOTION D \$ **187,000**

Motion D under Article 9 passed by majority vote (112-1-0).

Ms. Merkwowitz moved, seconded by Mr. Sidney to adjourn. ***The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM until Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:30 PM.***

A record of the First Session of
2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting
October 18, 2016



Diane Packer, Town Clerk

