

**2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Natick High School
May 4, 2017
Fifth Session**

The Fifth Session of the 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by 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 Fifth Session of 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator asked that all recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office. The oath was given to all new Town Meeting 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; Patrick Hayes, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Martha White, Town Administrator; David DeLuca, Town Counsel; and Jonathan Freedman, Chair, Board of Selectmen; Mr. Chenard, Deputy Town Administrator for Operations and Tim Lathwood, a representative from Option Technologies.

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.

Mr. Foss made several announcements regarding community events. He announced that the meeting would begin with a resolution, then consideration of Article 32, Articles 19-21 and through the remainder of the warrant.

Mr. Marsette, Director of Department of Public Works read a resolution honoring Mr. Mark Coviello, Town Engineer who recently retired.

Town Meeting Resolution
Honoring Mark Coviello
May 4, 2017

WHEREAS, the job of Town Engineer is to manage the planning, design and records of essential public infrastructure for the long term benefit of the community and all who live, work and visit; and

WHEREAS, Mark Coviello has had a distinguished public service career including 20 years as Town Engineer in Natick, 8 years in Walpole and 11 years for the Army Corps of Engineers; and is a 1973 graduate of Natick High School, with a Bachelor of Science degree from Northeastern University, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Mark has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and the public, within and outside Town government for his professionalism, quality of work, calm demeanor and dedication, for his able service to Town boards and the public, and his leadership on projects that have modernized the community's infrastructure during a period of transformation, and who further possesses an unrivaled memory for the positive changes that have transformed the community, and

WHEREAS, Mark has retired in 2017 after decades of dedicated service, leaving a legacy of quality and continuous improvement, recognized by Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen and all who serve in Natick Town Government, and whose many achievements include linking utility plans to our GIS, upgrading public works in connection with major building projects, and improving our roadway management systems;

NOW THEREFORE Natick Town Meeting hereby thanks Town Engineer Mark Coviello for his outstanding service to our community, and wishes him a healthy and happy retirement in the company of Deborah, his wife of 39 years, and their children Sarah and David.

Mr. Sidney moved, seconded by Mr. Ostroff that the resolution be entered into the record of Town Meeting and that the Town Clerk do so. *The motion passed unanimously (by hand count).* Mr. Coviello spoke and thanked the community.

ARTICLE 32: Extend the Term of the Charter and By-Law Review Committee (Charter and By-Law Review Committee)

To see whether the Town will Vote to Extend the Term of the Charter and By-Law Review Committee; or Otherwise Act Thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 10-0-1 on March 16, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 32.

MOTION (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to extend the term of the Charter & By-Law Review Committee through the end of 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Gloff, Chair of the Charter and By-law Review Committee spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 32 passed unanimously (111-0-0).*

Mr. Hayes moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to take Articles 19, 20 and 21 out of order. *The motion to take those articles out of order passed by a two-thirds vote (by hand count).*

ARTICLE 19: Section 101 Increase (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Natick Retirement Board's vote to adopt the provisions Sections 27 and 28 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010 to amend Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32, Section 101, to increase the benefit provided therein to widows and widowers of the Natick Retirement System from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per year; or to otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 15-0-0 on March 9, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 19.

MOTION (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes to approve the Natick Retirement Board's vote to adopt the provisions Section 27 and 28 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010 to amend Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32, Section 101, to increase the benefit provided therein to widows and widowers of the Natick Retirement System from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per year.

Mr. Reardon, a member of, and speaking on behalf of the Retirement Board spoke to Articles 19-21. *The main motion under Article 19 passed by majority vote (108-1-1).*

ARTICLE 20: COLA Increase (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Natick Retirement Board's vote to increase the cost of living base for Natick Retirement System retirees and survivors from \$12,000 to \$13,000 for FY 18; to \$14,000 for FY 19; and to \$15,000 for FY 20 and future years consistent with the provision of Section 19 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010; or to otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 15-0-0 on March 9, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 20.

MOTION (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes to approve the Natick Retirement Board's vote to increase the cost of living base for Natick Retirement System retirees and survivors from \$12,000 to \$13,000 consistent with the provision of Section 19 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010, effective in FY 2018.

The main motion under Article 20 passed by majority vote (110-2-0).

ARTICLE 21: Statutory Minimum Survivor Allowance (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Natick Retirement Board's vote to adopt the provisions of Section 30 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011 to increase the statutory minimum payment made to the survivors of deceased members of the Natick Retirement System pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32, Section 12(2)(d), from \$250 to \$500; or to otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 15-0-0 on March 9, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 21.

MOTION (requires majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes to approve the Natick Retirement Board's vote to adopt the provisions of Section 30 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011 to increase the statutory minimum payment made to survivors of deceased members of the Natick Retirement System pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32, Section 12(2)(d) from \$250 to \$500.

The main motion under Article 21 passed by majority vote (107-3-1).

ARTICLE 15: Creation of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, originally accepted by vote of the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 8, as amended by section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, which provides that the Town create an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, the assets of which shall be held solely to meet the current and future liabilities of the Town for group health insurance benefits for retirees and their dependents, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 15-0-0 on March 9, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 15.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, originally accepted by vote of the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 8, as amended by section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, which provides that the Town create an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, the assets of which shall be held solely to meet the current and future liabilities of the Town for group health insurance benefits for retirees and their dependents.

Ms. White, Town Administrator, spoke to this article and explained that this article is in response to changes as result of the Municipal Modernization Act and will replace the one that already exists. In the Fall Town Meeting will be asked to transfer the funds from the other fund to this new fund. *The main motion under Article 15 passed by majority vote (112-1-0).*

ARTICLE 16: Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Appropriation or Transfer of Funds (Town Administrator)

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide to, the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws as amended by section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 15-0-0 on March 9, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended that *No Action* be taken with regard to the subject matter of Article 16.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. Hayes that no action be taken on the subject matter of Article 16.

Ms. White, Town Administrator, spoke to this article and explained that Town Meeting will be asked to appropriate funds to this fund at Fall Town Meeting. *The main motion under Article 16 passed by majority vote (92-13-7).*

ARTICLE 17: Rescind Authorized, Unissued Debt (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization for unissued debt that has been determined is no longer needed for the completion of various projects; or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 10-0-0 on February 28, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 17.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for the following General Fund capital projects and in the amounts specified:

Town Meeting	Article Number	Authorized/ Unissued	Purpose
2014 Fall AM	32, Motion B, Item 2	\$50,200	Parking Meters
2015 Spring ATM	22, Motion B, Item 2	\$455	Willow Street Drain
2015 Special TM #1	1. Motion 1	\$400,000	Pegan Lane Acquisition

and further that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for the following Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund capital project and in the amount specified:

Town Meeting	Article Number	Authorized/ Unissued	Purpose
2013 Fall ATM	19 C, Item 10	\$19,000	Speen Street Sewer

Ms. White, Town Administrator spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 17 passed unanimously (113-0-0).*

ARTICLE 18: Increase Personal Exemption Amounts (Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will vote to increase the Personal Exemption Amounts by 52.5% under the provisions of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 which provides for “Optional Additional Property Tax Exemptions” allowing an annually determined, uniform increase in the amount of exemption in General Laws, Chapter 59 Section 5 Clauses 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 37A, and 41C (elderly person, disabled veteran, or blind person); or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 10-0-0 on February 28, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 18.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to increase the Personal Exemption Amounts by 52.5% under the provisions of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 which provides for “Optional Additional Property Tax Exemptions” allowing an annually determined, uniform increase in the amount of exemption in General Laws, Chapter 59 Section 5 Clauses 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 37A, and 41C (elderly person, disabled veteran, or blind person).

Ms. Dangelo, Director of Assessing and Chair of the Board of Assessors, spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 18 passed unanimously (113-0-1).*

ARTICLE 22: Appropriate Funds for Design of New West Natick Fire Station (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from mitigation funds for the purpose of supplementing funding of design and associated work for construction of a new Fire Station at the location of Fire Station #4 and adjoining properties (West Natick Fire Station), said appropriation being in addition to funds appropriated under Article 33 of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting, or otherwise

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 15-0-0 on March 7, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 22.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to appropriate \$665,295 from Chrysler Road 40B project mitigation funds for the purpose of funding design and associated work for construction of a new Fire Station at the location of Fire Station #4 and adjoining Town-owned properties (West Natick Fire Station), to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; said appropriation being in addition to \$560,000 appropriated under Article 33 of the 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting for this purpose.

Ms. White, Town Administrator spoke to this article. There was discussion regarding the future costs for this building. *The main motion under Article 22 passed by majority vote (115-1-0).*

ARTICLE 23: Amend By-Laws Regarding Town Meeting Member Contact Information (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Natick Town By-Laws Article 2, by adding Section 3, Town Meeting Member Contact Information. The Natick Town Clerk collects, maintains, provides on request and publishes on the town website a Contact List of Town Meeting Members of the town that may also have been chosen by appointment when the position is vacant. The Contact List will be created by each Town Meeting Member who may provide the method by which each Town Meeting Member wants to be contacted. The Town Meeting Member may choose to provide the preferred method of contact such as an email address, a home address, a phone number or other method of contact that provides a reasonable method of access for his or her constituents. It is requested that the contact information be provided by the Town Meeting Member to the Town Clerk within seven days of election or appointment of a Town Meeting Member, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 8-0-0 on March 16, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Referral to the Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Moderator and Charter and By-law Review Committee* with regard to the subject matter of Article 23.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes to refer the subject matter of Article 23 to the Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Moderator and Charter & By-Law Review Committee.

Ms. Salamoff, member of the Board of Selectmen rose to spoke to this article and then made a positive main motion.

Moved by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Yang that the Town vote to amend the Natick Town By-Laws Article 2, by adding Section 3, Town Meeting Member Contact Information. The Natick Town Clerk collects, maintains, provides on request and publishes on the town website a Contact List of Town Meeting Members of the town that may also have been chosen by appointment when the position is vacant. The Contact List will be created by each Town Meeting Member who may provide the method by which each Town Meeting Member wants to be contacted. The Town Meeting Member may choose to provide the preferred method of contact such as an email address, a home address, a phone number or other method of contact that provides a reasonable method of access for his or her constituents. It is requested that the contact information be provided by the Town Meeting Member to the Town Clerk within seven days of election or appointment of a Town Meeting Member.

There was considerable discussion on this article. In general, Town Meeting Members were supportive of the concept however think that this article needs more input. Moved by Mr. Grady, seconded by Mr. Joseph to move the question and close debate on this article. *The motion to close debate passed by a two-thirds vote (81-24-4). The motion to refer the article passed by majority vote (93-16-2).*

ARTICLE 24: Rescind Previous Appropriation (Paul Griesmer et al)

To see what action(s) the town will take to rescind the appropriation under Article 3 of 2016 Special Town Meeting Number 1 in the amount of \$2,500,000 from the FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund in such a manner that the rescinded appropriation falls back to or is restored to and/or, if necessary, is appropriated back to the FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 13-0-1 on March 9, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 24.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to rescind the appropriation of \$2,500,000 from the FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund that was voted under Article 3 of 2016 Special Town Meeting #1.

Mr. Griesmer, Town Meeting Member Precinct 7, spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 24 passed by majority vote (103-1-0).*

ARTICLE 25: Appropriate Funds to Offset Borrowing Authorization for Acquisition of the CSX Saxonville Branch (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money received by the Town in the form of donations, grants or gifts in support of the Cochituate Rail Trail project, said funds to be applied against the borrowing authorization for acquisition of the CSX Saxonville Branch under Article 3 of the 2016 Special Town Meeting #2, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 12-0-0 on March 23, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 25.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes to take no action on the subject matter of Article 25.

Mr. Ostroff, Chair of the Cochituate Rail Trail Committee, spoke to Articles 25 and 26 together. *The motion to take no action on the subject matter of Article 25 passed by majority vote (99-3-1).*

ARTICLE 26: Appropriate Funds for Design and Development of the Cochituate Rail Trail (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for design and development of the Cochituate Rail Trail, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 12-0-0 on March 23, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 26.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes to take no action on the subject matter of Article 26.

The motion to take no action on the subject matter of Article 26 passed by majority vote (94-2-3).

ARTICLE 27: Appropriate Funds for Study and Design of the So-Called Golden Triangle Area (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from mitigation funds for study and design of the so-called Golden Triangle area, generally described as the intersection of Speen Street and Route 30 in Natick and Framingham, including access/egress for the Massachusetts Turnpike; or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 14-0-0 on March 7, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 27.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from MathWorks mitigation funds for study and design of the so-called Golden Triangle area, generally described as the intersection of Speen Street and Route 30 in Natick and Framingham, including access/egress for the Massachusetts Turnpike, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Errickson, Director of Community and Economic Development, spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 27 passed by majority vote (101-1-0).*

ARTICLE 28: Amend Prior Appropriation Regarding Sewer System for Affordable Home (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote under Article 33 of 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting, which vote appropriated from Free Cash an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for the purpose of constructing and installing a force main sewage disposal system for a two-family affordable home being constructed by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund at 299/301 Bacon Street by deleting reference to a "force main" sewer system given that the current design calls for a gravity system; or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 14-0-0 on March 7, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 28.

MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Town vote to amend the vote under Article 33 of 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting, which vote appropriated from Free Cash an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for the purpose of constructing and installing a force main sewage disposal system for a two-family affordable home being constructed by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund at 299/301 Bacon Street by deleting reference to a "force main" sewer system given that the current design calls for a gravity system.

Ms. White, Town Administrator, spoke to this article. *The main motion under Article 28 passed unanimously (102-0-0).*

ARTICLE 29: Appropriate Funds in Support of the Natick Affordable Housing Trust (Natick Community Development Advisory Committee and Natick Affordable Housing Trust)

To see if what sum the town will appropriate in support of the statutory responsibilities and mission of the Natick Affordable Housing Trust Fund; or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 13-0-0 on March 30, 2017 the Finance Committee recommended *No Action be taken* with regard to the subject matter of Article 29.

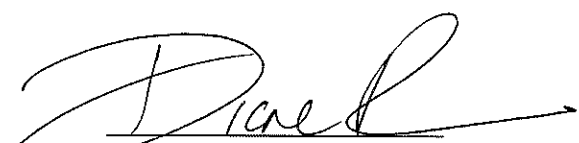
MOTION (requires a majority vote)

Moved by Mr. Munnich, seconded by Ms. Coughlin that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$78,400.00 to be expended under the direction of the Natick Affordable Housing Trust pursuant to Article 5 of its Declaration of Trust as authorized by Fall 2007 Annual Town Meeting, Article 18; and said amount be appropriated from free cash.

Mr. Johnson, Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, gave a presentation regarding the work of the committees and on this motion. Mr. Hayes informed Town Meeting that although the Finance Committee voted no action it was because the Sponsor was not able to complete their work and make a presentation to Finance Committee in a timely manner. Considerable discussion ensued by Town Meeting Members. *The main motion under Article 29 passed by majority vote (89-13-0).*

Mr. Ostroff moved, seconded by Mr. Sidney to adjourn. *The motion to adjourn passed by a two-thirds vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM until Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM.*

A record of the Fifth Session of
2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting
May 4, 2017


Diane Packer, Town Clerk

