

**2019 Spring Annual Town Meeting
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Marshall Lebowitz Town Meeting Room
Natick High School
April 9, 2019, First Session**

The First Session of the 2019 Spring Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:45 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 First Session of 2019 Spring 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 Town's official record. The Moderator asked that all recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office; after the oath of office 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 recognized a dignitary the Honorable State Senator, Becca Rausch. The Moderator introduced the officials present for the meeting: Diane Packer, Town Clerk; Patrick Hayes, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Karis North, Town Counsel, Melissa Malone, Town Administrator; and Michael Hickey, Chair, Board of Selectmen; John Townsend, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance will operate the slides and Tim Lathwood, a representative from Option Technologies, will operate 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, 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 entertained 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 2019 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

The rules were entered into the record without objection. 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 2019 Spring 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 (by hand count).***

The Moderator proposed a consent agenda and proposed the following rule motion. Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes that a Consent Agenda shall be in order during the first session of this Spring Annual Town Meeting; provided, however that the Moderator must ensure that said motion is published in the Finance Committee Recommendation Book which is
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required to be provided at least seven (7) days prior to the opening of the first session of this Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator shall propose to Town Meeting Members a "Consent Agenda" in the form of a motion listing all articles and respective motions which (based on the advice of the Finance Committee, Town Clerk and Town Counsel) the Moderator deems to be non-controversial. At said first session of the meeting, seven (7) Town Meeting Members may be recognized by the Moderator so that any article shall be removed from the Consent Agenda and debated and voted upon in accordance with the provisions of Town Meeting Rules and practices. All articles remaining in the Consent Agenda shall then be voted upon by a single 2/3 vote without sponsor presentation or debate.

The Moderator explained the purpose of this motion and that if the motion passes then Town Meeting will move forward with a specific motion for this meeting. Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Philben that in the first sentence, after the semicolon, insert the words "provided, however, that any new Town Meeting rules and practices needed to implement the Consent Agenda process are first approved by vote of Town Meeting; and further". *The amendment to the main motion failed (20-101-5). The consent agenda motion passed (120-4-2).*

The Moderator read each Article number and title allowing for seven or more Town Meeting Members to stand and call out hold on any proposed article within the printed Consent Agenda Motion. *Article 5 was removed from the Consent Agenda motion given more than seven (7) members recognized by the Moderator requesting that such article be removed. The consent agenda motion then included Articles 1, 7, 12, 17 and 19.*

Moved by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Gath that the Town take Articles 1, 7, 12, 17 and 19 out of order and that they be "Passed by Consent" in accordance with the Motions published in the Consent Agenda distributed in the Finance Committee Book of Recommendations.

ARTICLE 1 – Authorize Board of Selectmen to Acquire, Obtain, Abandon or Relocate Easements: Town Administrator

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, during Fiscal Year 2020, to acquire on behalf of the Town any and all easements for any of the following purposes: roads, sidewalks, vehicular and/or pedestrian access or passage, drainage and utilities, provided however that such authorization pertains only to easements acquired at no cost to the Town; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, subsequent to a public hearing, during Fiscal Year 2020 to abandon or relocate easements acquired for any of the foregoing purposes.

ARTICLE 7 – Fiscal 2019 Omnibus Budget: Town Administrator

MOTION: Move no action with regard to the subject matter of Article 7.

ARTICLE 12 – Revolving Funds: Town Administrator

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to reauthorize the following maximum expenditures from the listed revolving funds, established by the Town of Natick Bylaws, Article 41A, during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, pursuant to Chapter 44, "53E 1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as follows:

Revolving Fund entitled DPW Vehicles, under the supervision of the Director of Public Works and the Town Administrator, up to and including \$200,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Morse Institute Library Maintenance and Purchase of New Books and Related Materials, under the supervision of the Library Trustees, up to and including \$85,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Morse Institute Library Maintenance and Repair of Library Facilities and Equipment, under the supervision of the Library Trustees, up to and including \$25,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Community-Senior Center Rental, Maintenance and Improvement Projects, under the supervision of the Town Administrator, up to and including \$75,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Flu Clinics, Immunization Programs, Pandemics and Emergency Preparedness, under the supervision of the Board of Health, up to and including \$40,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Community-Senior Center Programs and Activities, under the supervision of the Council on Aging, up to and including \$95,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Tobacco Control Programs and Enforcement, under the supervision of the Board of Health, up to and including \$25,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Projects, under the supervision of the Town Administrator, up to and including \$25,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Tax Takings or Tax Title Foreclosures, under the supervision of the Finance Director, up to and including \$100,000; and,

Revolving Fund entitled Curbside Compost Collection Program, under the supervision of the Town Administrator, up to and including \$20,000.

ARTICLE 17 – Camp Mary Bunker: Town Administrator

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to dedicate property, commonly known as Camp Mary Bunker, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds at Book 15706, Page 22, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an Agreement recorded with said Registry of Deeds at Book 15706, Page 26, and modified to include a sidewalk to be constructed thereon as part of the North Main Street (Route 27) improvement project, to be protected under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution.

ARTICLE 19 – Increase Personal Exemption Amounts: Board of Assessors

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to increase the Personal Exemption Amounts by 57.5% 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.)

The consent agenda motion passed by a two-thirds vote (124-1-2).

Moved by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Freedman to advance articles 8, 15 and 14 as the first order of business and that articles 3-5 and 9-11 shall follow those. Ms. Malone spoke to this motion. *This motion passed by a two-thirds vote (119-3-2).*

Moved by Mr. Kahn, seconded by Mr. Philben to postpone consideration of Article 18 until the first order of business on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. *The motion passed by majority vote (119-8-0).*

Moved by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Collins to postpone Articles 6, 16 and 2 until the second order of business on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. *The motion passed by majority vote (122-5-1).*

ARTICLE 8: Fiscal 2020 Omnibus Budget (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 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2020; or to otherwise act thereon.

Ms. Malone, Town Administrator, gave a presentation on the budget prior to placing any motions on the floor. The Moderator requested additional time beyond ten minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 8, A1	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	March 19, 2019	Favorable Action	14-0-0

Motion A1

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes

Motion A1: Requires majority vote

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below for the purpose of operating the Natick Public Schools

Salaries & Expenses	\$67,810,346
Total Natick Public Schools	\$67,810,346

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

Local Receipts	\$684,572
Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2020	\$67,125,774

Dr. Nolin, Superintendent, Natick Public Schools, gave a presentation on the proposed FY 2020 budget for the Natick Public Schools. Discussion ensued on this motion. *Motion A1 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (115-2-0).*

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 8, A2	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	March 19, 2019	Favorable Action	14-0-0

Mr. Jonathan Evans, Superintendent of the South Middlesex Regional School District made a presentation on this motion.


Motion A2: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hayes

Motion A2: (Requires majority vote)	
Move 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 School Committee: South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School (Joseph P. Keefe Technical School)	
Expenses (Assessment)	\$1,554,748
Total South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School (Joseph P. Keefe Technical School)	\$1,554,748
And that the above <u>Total Budget Amount</u> be raised from the following sources:	
Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2020	\$1,554,748

Motion A2 under Article 8 passed by majority vote (102-1-0).

Mr. Sidney moved seconded by Mr. Coburn to adjourn. *The motion to adjourn passed by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM until Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:30 PM.*

A record of the First Session of
2019 Spring Annual Town Meeting
April 9, 2019



Diane Packer, Town Clerk