



Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org>

Re: Motions for Articles 23 & 38

1 message

Connolly <connolly70@verizon.net>

Fri, Mar 2, 2018 at 4:51 AM

To: Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org>

Patrick,

I am confirming that I will attend the March 8 meeting for both articles.

As you noted, I have used particular styles for my recommended motions, which have been employed at Town Meeting in Natick in the past. If the Finance Committee chooses to make a positive motion for Town Meeting consideration, I fully expect that the Finance Committee may modify my inputs as it wishes. In the case of a negative motion, the Finance Committee does its own thing. In the situation when the Finance Committee has no recommendation, I do not remember if the Finance Committee as a courtesy to Town Meeting includes the sponsor's recommended motion. If that is your policy, please do so.

As you probably recognized, the style used for the motion under Article 23 was chosen to emphasize that the motion is exactly the same as what was suggested in the text of the warrant article. No last-minute surprises!

For the motion under Article 38, there is obviously an amount to be filled in. You know from the restriction in the article scope that the amount cannot exceed \$2.5 million. I think that at the hearing on March 8, the Finance Committee can decide for favorable action and reschedule the article for a time when the amount recommended for appropriation from the tax levy has been determined. Then the amount can be chosen properly. If the Finance Committee decides on March 8 that Natick's appropriating authority should not have the opportunity to use an accepted method to scale back a large increase in the tax levy by using free cash, then the Finance Committee can make a negative recommendation and its work is finished.

Given the situation that Natick may soon have a significant increase in debt payments funded from the tax levy, I am surprised that the Town administration did not include a boiler-plate version of Article 38 to scale downward a large increase in the tax levy by using some free cash.

So, in the event that the Finance Committee is considering favorable action, I can review what the Finance Committee has decided on articles that appropriate funds from the tax levy in order to offer my opinion on this amount to be filled in (but, individual members of the Finance Committee or the Town administration are certainly more knowledgeable than I would be). Obviously, none of this can happen by March 8.

Paul

Paul E. Connolly
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On Mar 1, 2018, at 3:20 PM, Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org> wrote:

Mr. Connolly,

This email is to confirm that you have been scheduled for a Public Hearing in front of the Finance Committee for March 8 for sometime after 8:00 PM. When you have a moment please acknowledge the confirmation.

With regard to your two motions, I will take them in order.

For Article 23, it is my understanding that you wish your motion to be exactly as you provided it in the prior email dated February 28 which reads in full:

Motion: "Move that the Town amend the Town of Natick By-Laws, Article 3, Section 11 as printed in the text of the warrant article."

For Article 38, your motion as provided reads as follows:

Motion: "Move that the Town transfer the sum of XXXXX from Free Cash to be used by the Board of Assessors to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019)."

Note: For both articles, I have added the quotation marks at the beginning and end which is customary for the motion language for Natick's Town Meeting.

Further, you have stated that you need help with determining the number (or amount) for your motion and asked that the Finance Committee provide help to you. Respectfully, that is not our role. Rightly or wrongly, the Chair's position is that the citizen petitioner should be prepared to submit their motion and the substantive and material information of their motion. Town Counsel has provided strong guidance to Finance Committee that we should avoid writing motions or making substantive contributions to the motion in advance of it being formally submitted to the Finance Committee. With that, I would encourage you to use the available budget information online, or seek further information from Town Administration for your motion.

I would ask that when you have a final number that you resubmit the motion to me in writing with the number provided. We will then be able to understand the specifics of your proposal and may at that time have points of view to offer.

Thank you,

Patrick Hayes

On Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 3:36 AM, Connolly <connolly70@verizon.net> wrote:

Patrick,

I guess Thursday, March 1 isn't really a go.

The following week I have early appointments on both nights. However, I can be available on Tuesday, March 6 at 9pm and Thursday, March 8 at 8pm. Let me know what will work.

The motions are simple:

Article 23

Motion: Move that the Town amend the Town of Natick By-Laws, Article 3, Section 11 as printed in the text of the warrant article.

Article 38

Motion: Move that the Town transfer the sum of XXXXX from Free Cash to be used by the Board of Assessors to reduce the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019).

I need help on determining what the amount XXXXX should be. I think the Finance Committee should have some suggestions.

Paul

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connolly70@verizon.net

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On Feb 26, 2018, at 9:53 PM, Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org> wrote:

Mr. Connolly,

I would like to schedule you for this Thursday, March 1. Can you be available provided Special Town Meeting concludes in one night?

I would need your actual proposed motions as soon as possible.

Please advise as soon as you can.

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Patrick Hayes
[\(508\)-333-4994 \(m\)](tel:508-333-4994)

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Patrick Hayes
[\(508\)-333-4994 \(m\)](tel:508-333-4994)

Finance Committee Chairman

-Planning Governance Sub-Committee Chair

Financial Planning Committee Member

West Natick Fire Station Building Committee Member

Town Meeting Member