

**Fall Annual Town Meeting
Virtual Town Meeting
November 1, 2020
Fourth Session**

The Fourth Session of the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting was held in a virtual/remote meeting and was called to order at 1:10 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2020 by Frank Foss, Town Moderator. The Moderator declared a quorum present.

The Moderator welcomed residents, taxpayers, town officials, Town Meeting Members and interested parties to the fourth session 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting. Consistent with previous approval of the use of video and telephone conferencing, Fall Annual Town Meeting is being conducted as a Virtual Town Meeting.

The Moderator asked if there were any recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office; 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 behalf at home and abroad.

The Moderator introduced the officials, Linda Wollschlager, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Karis North, Town Counsel; Cindy Amara, Assistant Town Counsel; Jonathan Freedman, Chair, Select Board; Jamie Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator; James Freas, Director, Community and Economic Development, Terri Evans, Chair, Planning Board. Also present are four Assistant Moderators, Craig Bystrynski; Carol Gloff; Patty Sciarra; and Richard Sidney.

The Moderator reviewed the general rules and procedures of Town Meeting. All residents and taxpayers of the town and all 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 of Town Meeting Members. All motions offered for the consideration at Town Meeting shall be in writing and sent to the following email address: moderator@natickma.org.

Consistent with the Natick Bylaws, once a person is recognized, it is the practice that the Speaker will first ask a question(s) and then debate the highest-ranking motion. Only Town Meeting Members can make a motion and they should do so after they have asked their questions and before they start debate. No person shall speak more than five (5) minutes at one time without permission of Town Meeting. Registered voters residing in the Town wishing to participate in a remote town meeting should have submitted a request to participate to the Town Clerk not less than 48 hours in advance of town meeting.

Any person having a monetary or equitable interest in any matter under discussion at Town Meeting, and any person employed by another having such an interest, shall disclose the fact of her or his interest or employment before speaking on the motion.

Moved by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans to advance consideration of 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting Articles 12 and 17 to immediately follow Article 24. *The motion passed by a two-thirds vote (105-3-5).*

ARTICLE 24: Warrant Article Sponsored by the Town Meeting Practices and Rules Committee For the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To see what action(s) the Town will take to Amend Article 5, Fiscal Procedures, of the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter to:

- 1) Authorize the representative Town Meeting by Bylaw to require certain information to be included or provided in connection with the budget message and any annual preliminary or submitted operating and/or capital expenditures budget for an ensuing fiscal year; and/or
- 2) Require certain procedures to be followed and information to be provided in connection with an updated budget message and updated annual operating and/or capital expenditures budget for a current fiscal year at Spring or Fall Annual Town

- Meeting and/or special town meetings and/or
- 3) Authorize the representative Town Meeting by Bylaw to require certain procedures to be followed and information to be provided in connection with an updated budget message and updated annual operating and/or capital expenditures budget for a current fiscal year at Spring or Fall Annual Town Meeting and/or special town meetings; and/or
 - 4) Specify additional information to be included in the budget message and any annual preliminary or submitted operating and/or capital expenditures budget for an ensuing fiscal year; and/or

Or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	Favorable Action
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	8-0-0
	DATE VOTED:	September 10, 2020

MOTION: (two-thirds vote required)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to amend Article 5, Fiscal Procedures, Section 4 Budget Message, of the Town Charter by adding, after the words “or the Board of Selectmen may require” the following:

“The representative Town Meeting may, by By-Law, require certain information on assets and liabilities of the Town to be provided as part of the budget message”.

and

Move to Amend Article 5 Fiscal procedures by inserting a new section as follows:
 “Section 5-7, Budgets for the Current Fiscal Year.

The representative Town Meeting may, by By-Law, require an updated budget message and certain information to be provided in connection with annual operating and/or capital expenditures budgets for a current fiscal year at Spring Annual Town, Fall Annual Town Meeting and for any special town meeting which deals with fiscal or budgetary matters.”
 And by changing the title of “Section 5-7, Capital Improvement Program,” to be “Section 5-8 Capital Improvement Program”.

Mr. Griesmer, Chair, Town Meeting Practices and Rules Committee spoke to this Article. Moved by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Evans to amend the main motion by changing the phrase “Section 4” to “Section 5-4. ***The amendment on the motion under Article 24 passed by a majority vote (107-4-1).***

So that the motion, as amended, reads:

“Move to Amend Article 5, Fiscal Procedures, Section 5-4, Budget Message, of the Town Charter by adding, after the words “or the Board of Selectmen may require” the following:

“The representative Town Meeting may, by By-Law, require certain information on assets and liabilities of the Town to be provided as part of the budget message”.

and

Move to Amend Article 5, Fiscal Procedures, by inserting a new section as follows:
 “Section 5-7, Budgets for the Current Fiscal Year.

The representative Town Meeting may, by By-Law, require an updated budget message and certain information to be provided in connection with annual operating and/or capital expenditures budgets for a current fiscal year at Spring Annual Town Meeting, Fall Annual Town Meeting and for any special town meeting which deals with fiscal or budgetary matters.”
 And, by changing the title of “Section 5-7, Capital Improvement Program,” to be “Section 5-8 Capital Improvement Program”.

The amended main motion under Article 24 passed by a two-thirds vote (94-17-3).