

**2020 Special Town Meeting #1
Virtual Town Meeting
October 20, 2020
First Session**

The First Session of the 2020 Special Town Meeting #1 was held in a virtual/remote meeting and was called to order at 8:35 p.m. on October 20, 2020 by Frank Foss, Town Moderator. The Moderator declared a quorum present.

At the Moderator's suggestion Mr. Sidney moved, seconded by Ms. Gloff that in accordance with Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, Sections 8 and 17 (legislation related to municipal governance during the COVID-19 emergency), Town Meeting approve the use of video and telephone conferencing provided by www.zoom.com, www.vvoter.com and local user email software to conduct the 2020 Special Town Meeting #1. ***The motion passed by majority vote (130-2-0).***

Mr. Foss presented the Clerk with the official warrant signed by the Board of Selectmen with the officer's return thereon, which has been duly posted and noticed; the Moderator's request of the Select Board, dated August 14, 2020, regarding the use of video and telephonic conferencing; and the Select Board notice to the Town of Natick that the Board voted to permit the use of video and telephonic conferencing during 2020 Special Town Meeting #1. **These documents have been entered into the record without objection.**

The Moderator asked that any Town Meeting Members recently appointed, elected or who have not been sworn, raise their right hands to take 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 and in memory of long-serving Town Meeting Member John Crisafulli.

The Moderator introduced the officials, working from home, Diane Packer, Town Clerk; and present in Natick High School, four Assistant Moderators, Craig Bystrynski; Carol Gloff; Patty Sciarra; and Rich Sidney. Also present were Linda Wollschlager, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Karis North, Town Counsel; Cindy Amara, Assistant Town Counsel; Jon Freedman, Chairman of the Select Board; Melissa Malone, Town Administrator; John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator and Finance Director. At this time the Moderator swore in the Deputy Moderators.

The Moderator reviewed critical information pertaining to the virtual meeting. Town Meeting Members will be permitted to enter the Virtual Zoom Town Meeting and must change their Zoom icon names to indicate first their Precinct Number, their last name, then first name. Residents, taxpayers and interested parties will be permitted to enter the Virtual Town Meeting by calling 1-929-205-6099. The Virtual Meeting may be viewed by anyone who is not participating on Natick Pegasus Government Access Channel, Comcast Channel 9, RCN Channel 15 and Verizon 28 or an internet user may access Natick Pegasus Government Access Channel livestreaming through the www.natickpegasus.org website, www.natickpegasus.org/government-channel.html and click on text "livestream."

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.

The proceedings of Natick Town Meeting shall be governed by Town Meeting Time, the Natick Bylaws, the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Motions shall be made and have precedence as listed in the table entitled "Precedence of Motions," found in the Natick Bylaws, the Town Meeting Member Handbook and Town Meeting Time.

All motions offered for the consideration of Town Meeting shall be in writing and sent to the following email address: moderator@natickma.com. All motions involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing and shall clearly and concisely include amounts for expenditures and funding sources, which may be examined and verified by the Moderator and Town Counsel. All emailed written motions shall also include the maker's precinct number, last name, first name and Article number -including motion

letter if applicable - and shall be presented in a compatible to MS Word text or file attached to said email. Should a motion not be presented to the Moderator in the prescribed format such motion will likely be "rejected as to form."

Town Meeting Members desiring to make a Point of Order, Question of Privilege or Question the Quorum motion shall either use the vvoter.com software or call the following telephone number: 508 231-6288.

The motion for the previous question shall not be entertained by the Moderator if three or more persons are seeking recognition, who have not previously spoken to the motion. Consistent with the Natick Bylaws, once a member is recognized, it has been the practice of Town Meeting Members to first ask a question(s), then propose a motion and/or debate the highest-ranking motion. No person shall speak upon an 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 five (5) minutes at one time without permission of Town Meeting. 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 rules and Natick By-laws. Responses to the speaker's question will not be considered part of the speaker's allotted time. Each speaker will be limited to three questions, whether they are stated singularly or in a compound question, such will be responded to solely at the direction of the Moderator.

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. Upon receipt of the request and verification of the voter registration status, the clerk shall provide the requester instructions for participating in the remote town meeting.

The public, taxpayers, interested parties, including Town Department Heads, required to attend the VZTM may use the Zoom meeting participation function - raise their virtual hand - for the purpose of debate, providing professional opinion and answering Town Meeting Member questions so long as such relates to the current motion.

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 her or his interest or employment before speaking thereon.

Without objection, the preceding statements and rules are accepted as rules of the 2020 Special Town Meeting #1.

Moved by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans to waive reading the text of all 2020 Special Town Meeting #1 warrant articles and move to waive reading the text of motions, excluding amounts to be appropriate and sources of said amounts to be appropriated when motions are provided in the text of the recommendations of the Natick Finance Committee publications. ***The motion passed unanimously 128-0-2.***

The Moderator did not propose Enabling Motion or Consent Agenda Motion for consideration for two reasons: 1) there was a late filing of an amendment to change the process that is in the Enabling Motion. The Moderator did not accept that motion because it did not fall within the 48 hours for submission; and 2) because the motions in Consent Agenda dealt with financial articles, if there were any changes in the strategy or use of funds, Town Meeting Members should have all the options available. The Moderator did not suggest the motion, but the motion could be made. No motion was made for the Consent Agenda Motion nor the Enabling Motion.

The Moderator stressed the importance of advance communications about amendments and alternate motions which may be presented at Town Meeting, the Moderator and Town Clerk appreciated receiving draft motions 48 hours in advance. For the proceeding, it is requested that they be filed by email because of the Virtual Town Meeting. Any motion filed otherwise will either automatically recess Town Meeting, cause delay or may be rejected. The Moderator's role is to either accept a motion or rule it out of order. Complex motions which have not been reviewed by the Moderator the Clerk and also Town Counsel, in many cases, will likely delay Town Meeting or cause Town Meeting Members to postpone consideration of the current questions. Town Meeting will hear from Administration about motions that have been changed.

The Moderator urged the meeting to consider a postponement of certain articles so that Town Meeting Members can look over motions, understand them and make an appropriate decision. The Moderator suggested proceeding with Article 3, 4, 6, 8 through 18 and Article 20 under the Special Town Meeting and postponing consideration of The Moderator suggested postponing Articles 1, 2, 5, 7 and 19 until Thursday, October 22, 2020.

The Moderator asked Finance Committee to call a meeting to vet the new information and take into consideration any changes that have occurred. Ms. Wollschlager, Finance Committee Chair spoke to this issue and has posted a meeting for Thursday, October 22, 2020 to consider the revised motions for Articles 1, 5 and 19.

Ms. Malone, Town Administrator, spoke to the new information including the recently certified free cash number of \$6.6 million. Further information will be provided on Thursday, October 22, 2020. Mr. Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator of Finance also spoke to this issue.

Moved by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Evans to postpone consideration of Articles 1, 2, 5, 7 and 19 until October 22, 2020. Discussion ensued and concerns were raised that the date of October 22 would not provide enough time for the Finance Committee to review the information. Moved by Ms. Brunell, seconded by Mr. Coburn to amend postponement date to Saturday, October 24, 2020. Discussion ensued. Mr. Coburn moved, seconded by Mr. Sidney to move the question and close debate on the amendment. ***The motion to close debate passed by a two-thirds vote (126-4-2). The amendment to the postponement passed by majority vote (113-6-1). The amended postponement motion passed by majority vote (122-2-1).***

ARTICLE 3: AMEND TOWN BY-LAWS: Amendment to Town By-law – Article 41A – Revolving Funds (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Natick By-laws Article 41A regarding Revolving Funds by: Striking Section 3 and inserting the following new section 3:

“Section 3 Periodic Review of Activity

Every department, board or committee of the Town maintaining or using a revolving or special fund, including but not limited to those listed below in Sections 4 – 13, shall submit annual by December 1st a report of activity of each revolving or special fund to the Select Board of the Town and the Finance Committee. Included in each report shall be the name of the fund, all activities supported by the fund, statutory authorization of the fund and the balance of the fund as of December 1st. Said reports shall be included in the Town Administrator’s Budget message and the report submitted by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall consider the balance in the revolving or special fund, as part of their recommendation to Town Meeting regarding any proposed appropriation for the department maintaining said revolving fund.”

Or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	No Action
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	11-0-0
	DATE VOTED:	September 1, 2020

MOTION: (majority vote required)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town take **no action** on the subject matter of Article 3. ***The motion to take no action on the subject matter of Article 3 passed by majority vote (112-6-6).***

ARTICLE 4: Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide 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

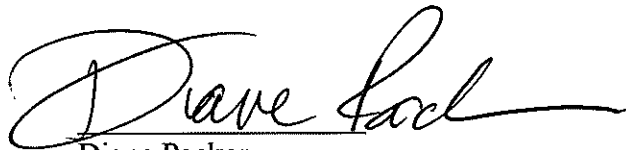
The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	No Action
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	14-0-0
	DATE VOTED:	October 6, 2020

MOTION: (majority vote required)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town take **no action** on the subject matter of Article 4. *The motion to take no action on the subject matter of Article 4 passed by majority vote (120-4-0).*

Mr. Sidney moved, seconded by Mr. Fishman to adjourn until 6:30 PM on Thursday, October 22, 2020. *The motion to adjourn until 6:30 PM on Thursday, October 22, 2020 passed (94-14-5). 2020 Special Town Meeting #1 adjourned at 10:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.*

A record of the First Session of
2020 Fall Special Town Meeting #1
October 20, 2020



Diane Packer
Town Clerk