

**2020 Special Town Meeting #1  
Virtual Town Meeting  
October 29, 2020  
Fourth Session**

The Fourth Session of the 2020 Special Town Meeting #1 was held in a virtual/remote meeting and was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on October 24, 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 of 2020 Special Town Meeting #1. Consistent with previous approval of the use of video and telephone conferencing, Special Town Meeting #1 is being conducted as a Virtual Town Meeting.

The Moderator asked if there were any recently elected or appointed members that were not sworn in previously. There were no new Town Meeting Members to be sworn. 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 at home and abroad.

The Moderator introduced the officials, Linda Wollschlager, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Karis North, Town Counsel; Jonathan Freedman, Chair, Select Board; Melissa Malone, Town Administrator; John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator; Jamie Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator. Also present are four Assistant Moderators, Craig Bystrynski; Carol Gloff; Patty Sciarra; and Rich Sidney.

The Moderator reviewed the virtual meeting placement. 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. The Virtual Meeting may be viewed by anyone who is not participating on Natick Pegasus Government Access Channel, Comcast 9, RCN 15 and Verizon 28. Residents, taxpayers and interested parties will be permitted to enter the Virtual Town Meeting by calling 1-929-205-6099. The proceedings can also be watched on the Natick Pegasus Government Access Channel streamed live at [natickpegasus.org/government-channel](http://natickpegasus.org/government-channel).

The Moderator reviewed the general rules and procedures of Town Meeting which had been accepted at a previous session of 2020 Special Town Meeting #1. 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](mailto: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.

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.

The Moderator made an announcement reminding the community that the USDA is providing free lunch to all public school students through the end of the year.

**ARTICLE 1: Fiscal 2021 Omnibus Budget (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 operation of the government of the Town of Natick, including debt and interest, during Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2021, and to see what budgets for Fiscal 2021 will be reduced to offset said additional appropriations; or otherwise act thereon.

Ms. Malone, Town Administrator, and Mr. Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator for Finance gave a presentation.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION A**

The Finance Committee recommends **favorable action** on updated Motion Article 1 Motion A.

**MOTION A: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to increase the appropriation voted by the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 8 for the following budgets by the sum of \$3,381,093, said sum to be distributed as follows:

- To supplement the Shared Expenses budget as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$118,828 to the Debt Service budget.
- To supplement the Shared Expenses as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$100,000 to the Employee Fringe budget for the benefits reserve line item.
- To supplement the Public Safety Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion B1 of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$32,265 to the Police Department Budget for police salaries.
- To supplement the Shared Expenses as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$500,000 to the Reserve Fund –Finance Committee line item.
- To supplement the Natick Public Schools budget as voted under Article 8 Motion A1 of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$1,308,000 to the Salaries and Expenses line item.
- To supplement the Administrative Support Services budget as voted under Article 8 Motion E of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$500,000 to the Expenses line item –Collective Bargaining.
- To supplement the Shared Expenses as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$300,000 to the Employee Fringe budget for Merit Increases.
- To supplement the Community Services and Health Services budget as voted under Article 8 Motion D of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$55,735 to the Board of Health budget for salaries and \$50,000 to the Community Services Budget for salaries.
- To supplement the Public Works Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion C of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$65,032 to the Public Works Department Budget-LFNR-for salaries.
- To supplement the Administrative Support Services Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion E of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$52,000 to the Community Development Department Budget for salaries.
- To supplement the Administrative Support Services Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion E of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$91,000 to the Finance Department Budget for salaries.
- To supplement the Administrative Support Services Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion E of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$75,000 to the Information Technology Budget for salaries.
- To supplement the Public Safety Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion B1 of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$103,233 to the Police Department Budget for police salaries.
- To supplement the Administrative Support Services Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion E of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$30,000 to the Community Development Department Budget for salaries.

With the above Budget be raised from the following sources:

State Aid for Fiscal Year 2021	\$	751,093
Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2021	\$	2,630,000

**ALTERNATIVE MOTION A: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Sullivan seconded by Ms. Sciarra that the Town vote to increase the appropriation voted by the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 8 for the following budgets by the sum of \$751,093, said sum to be distributed as follows:

- To supplement the Shared Expenses budget as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$118,828 to the Debt Service budget.

- To supplement the Shared Expenses as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$100,000 to the Employee Fringe budget for the benefits reserve line item.
- To supplement the Public Safety Budget as voted under Article 8 Motion B1 of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$32,265 to the Police Department Budget for police salaries.
- To supplement the Shared Expenses as voted under Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$500,000 to the Reserve Fund –Finance Committee line item.

With the above Budget be raised from the following sources:

State Aid for Fiscal Year 2021         \$    751,093

Mr. Sullivan spoke to the alternative Article 1 Motion A. The Moderator explained that if this motion passes that it will replace the previous main motion

Ms. Wollschlager, Chair of the Finance Committee spoke to the motion and that it is identical to the motion proposed by Town Administration. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action on the main motion by a vote of 8-6-1. Mr. Evans added that there was a lot of discussion at the Finance Committee meeting about fairness and equity between the municipal side and the school side. Many of the positions and funding allocations were in the January budget but had been eliminated after the beginning of the pandemic prior to Spring Annual Town Meeting. During Spring Town Meeting the administration committed to revisiting the budget in the fall based on free cash and revenues.

Mr. Sidney moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to waive the reading of Mr. Sullivan’s motion. This was agreed to without objection. Moved by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Branson, to close debate on the alternative Motion A. *The motion to move the question and close debate passed by two-thirds vote (124-7-2). Alternative Motion A (Article 1) failed (18-110-3). Motion A under Article 1 passed by majority vote (124-10-2).*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION B**

The Finance Committee recommends **favorable action** on updated Motion B under Article 1.

**MOTION B: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to amend Article 8 Motion G of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting as follows:

After the phrase “And that the above Total Budget Amount be raised from the following sources:”

- delete the phrase “Overlay Surplus \$1,000,000”,
- delete the phrase “State Aid \$10,213,391” and insert “State Aid \$12,122,708”,
- delete the phrase “Free Cash \$2,000,000” and insert the phrase “Free Cash \$”3,720,683”
- delete the phrase “Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2021 \$16,591,811” and insert the phrase “Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2021 \$13,961,811”.

Mr. Townsend spoke to Motion B. *Motion B under Article 1 passed unanimously (131-0-1).*

The Moderator recused himself from presiding over Article 2 because he is one of the sponsors. Mr. Sidney, an Assistant Town Moderator presided over this matter.

**ARTICLE 2: Town Meeting Funding (Town Moderator & Town Clerk)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Town Clerk for the purpose of providing the use of third party software and related services, and help desk staff to accomplish necessary functions of a virtual or in-person town meeting venue during the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting, 2020 Special Town Meeting #1, 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting and any other town meeting convened during Fiscal Year 2021, or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>15-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>October 1, 2020</b>

**MOTION: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) from Free Cash to be expended under the direction of the Town Clerk for the purpose of providing the use of third party software and related services, and help desk staff to accomplish necessary functions of a virtual or in-person town meeting venue during the 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting, 2020 Special Town Meeting #1, 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting and any other town meeting convened during Fiscal Year 2021.

Mr. Foss spoke to this motion. *The main motion under Article 2 passed unanimously (128-0-0).* Mr. Foss resumed his Town Moderator duties.

**ARTICLE 5: Operational/Rainy Day 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 Operational Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 4, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended; or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee recommends **favorable action** on updated Article 5.

**MOTION: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,388,396 from the following sources: \$3,377,777 from Free Cash, \$1,010,619 from Tax Levy for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund established under Article 4 of warrant for 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, amended.

Mr. Townsend spoke to this motion. Mr. Connolly requested a perfecting amendment changing the name of Article 5 from "Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund" to "Rainy Day Operational Stabilization Fund." **The Moderator accepts this as an administrative change without objection.** *The main motion under Article 5 passed by majority vote (124-2-0).*

**ARTICLE 7: 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 for, 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**

The Finance Committee recommends **favorable action** on updated Article 7.

**MOTION: (majority vote required)**

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to appropriate \$250,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by a vote of the 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts 2016.

Mr. Townsend spoke to the motion. *The main motion under Article 7 passed by majority vote (124-2-1).*

**ARTICLE 19: FY20 and FY21 COVID-19 Related Expenses of Natick Public Schools (Superintendent of Schools)**

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

- A) expenses incurred by the Natick Public Schools due to COVID-19 (aka Coronavirus) during FY20 and/or FY21; and/or
- B) any and all unemployment costs related to the furloughing of Natick Public Schools employees due to COVID-19 including but not limited to employees paid through any and all revolving accounts for FY20 and/or FY21; and/or

C) supplementing the FY2021 NPS budget appropriated under Article 8, Motion A1 of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting; and/or

D) obtaining and installing capital equipment and/or capital improvements in FY20 and/or F21; or otherwise act thereon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Committee took the following action:	RECOMMENDATION:	<b>Favorable Action</b>
	QUANTUM OF VOTE:	<b>11-0-0</b>
	DATE VOTED:	<b>October 13, 2020</b>

**MOTION: (majority vote required)**

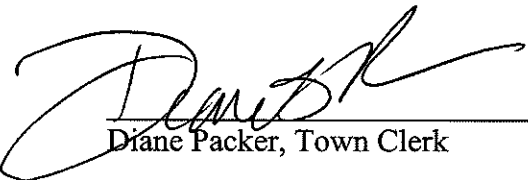
Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Wollschlager that the Town vote to supplement the appropriation for the Natick Public Schools, voted under Article 8 - Motion A1 of the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$300,000 for the purpose of addressing increased salaries and expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the above appropriation be raised from the following source.

2021 State Aid: \$300,000

Dr. Nolin, School Superintendent gave a presentation. *The main motion under Article 19 passed unanimously (129-0-0).*

Moved by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, to dissolve Special Town Meeting #1. *The motion passed (128-1-0). Special Town Meeting #1 dissolved at 9:25 p.m.*

A record of the Fourth Session of  
2020 Fall Special Town Meeting #1  
October 29, 2020

  
Diane Packer, Town Clerk