

**2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Natick High School
October 20, 2015
First Session**

The First Session of the 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by the 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 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator asked that all recently elected or appointed members of Town Meeting stand to take the oath of office. The oath was given to all new Town Meeting Members. 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 official record of the town. 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 introduced the officials present on the stage and in the well of the auditorium. The following people were present: Diane Packer, Town Clerk; Paul Griesmer, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Evans, Finance Committee Secretary; Martha White, Town Administrator; John Flynn, Town Counsel; and Charles Hughes, Chair of the Board of Selectmen; Mr. Chenard, Deputy Town Administrator for Operations; Mr. Towne, Deputy Town Administrator for Finance and Michael Renaud, the representative from Option Technologies who will be operating 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 and 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. By rule, indefinite postponement shall be considered a negative main motion and may be entered by the Moderator whenever any main motion or subsidiary motion is in order. This shall not change the order of precedence of motions as specified in Article 3, Section 6 of our By-Laws or any other practice regarding indefinite postponement as specified in our Charter, the Natick By-Laws or ***Town Meeting Time***. Without objection, the preceding statements were accepted as rules of 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting.

The Moderator explained that Town Meeting will be using hand held electronic voting devices to vote. He explained that each member should have picked up directions on how to use the machines and that there would be a couple of practice votes so that members could get used to using the devices. He explained that the devices will be used at the discretion of the Moderator, however the intention is to use them except in some procedural votes.

The Moderator suggested a motion to waive the reading of articles and motions. Moved by Mr. Gath, seconded by Mr. Sidney to waive reading the text of all 2015 Fall 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 by majority vote (132-1-2).*

Mr. Foss made several announcements regarding upcoming events open to the public.

ARTICLE 1: Rescind Authorized, Unissued Debt (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization for unissued debt that has been determined is no longer needed for the completion of various projects; or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

By a vote of 11-0-0 on September 3, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 1 as indicated in the motions below. The Finance Committee voted 11-0-0 for each of the five motions below.

MOTION (requires majority vote):

Motion A

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for a general fund capital project approved under Article 12 of the 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting, Article 2 of the October 2008 Special Town Meeting, Article 33 of the 2009 Spring Annual Town Meeting, Article 6 of the 2010 Special Town Meeting #1 and Article 1 of the 2010 Special Town Meeting #2 in the amount of \$8,136,308 for the purpose of High School Design and Construction.

Mr. Towne spoke to all the motions under this article at this time.

Motion A under Article 1 passed unanimously (139-0-0)

Motion B

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for a general fund capital project approved under Article 19B #3 of the 2013 Fall Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$455,000 for the Cole North Field improvements.

Motion B under Article 1 passed unanimously (140-0-0).

Motion C

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for a general fund capital project approved under Article 35 B #14 of the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$3,000 for the Kennedy Middle School Portable Classrooms

Motion C under Article 1 passed by majority vote (137-1-0).

Motion D

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for a general fund capital project approved under Article 36 B #12 of the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$500 for the Public Works Building Construction.

Motion D under Article 1 passed unanimously (139-0-0).

Motion E

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to rescind authorized debt for a general fund capital project approved under Article 33 B #4 of the 2014 Fall Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$5,000 for the Dug Pond Pier

Motion E under Article 1 passed unanimously (141-0-0).

ARTICLE 2: Fiscal 2016 Omnibus Budget (Town Administrator)

To determine what sum or sums 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 2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2016, and to see what budgets for Fiscal Year 2016 will be reduced to offset said additional appropriations, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By various votes, as indicated below, on September 24, 2015 and October 1, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 2 as presented in the voted recommended motions below.

MOTIONS (Require majority vote)

Motion A: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate from free cash the sum of \$699,569, said sum to be used to fund the Snow & Ice Deficit from June 30, 2015.

Ms. White made a presentation regarding the omnibus budget and other financial articles on this warrant. In addition, Dr. Sanchioni made a short presentation on “Let’s Talk” technology which is a new tool for increased communications with the School Committee and the schools.

Motion A under Article 2 passed unanimously (137-0-0)

Motion B1: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$124,365, said sum to be distributed as follows:

- To supplement the Public Safety budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion B of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$13,500 to Fire Salaries for a contractual obligation for the Fire Chief’s salary.
- To supplement the Public Works budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion C of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$22,900 to Municipal Energy budget - Contract Services for solar energy work
- To supplement the Health and Community Services budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion D of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$5,000 to Community Services - Council on Aging budget – Purchase of Services (Printing) for the purpose of printing.
- To supplement the Administrative Services budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion E of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$12,000 to Finance Salaries (Comptroller Division) in the amount of \$12,000 to supplement the amount for the Assistant Comptroller Position
- To supplement the Shared Expenses budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion G of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$16,000 to Facilities - Salaries – Operational Staff Overtime and \$54,965 to Facilities – Expenses as follows:
 - Repairs and Maintenance Facilities - \$51,465
 - Contract Cleaners - \$3,500

The source of the amount of \$124,365 is from the following sources net together:

- Increase in State Aid in the amount of \$133,136
- Decrease in Property Tax Levy (New Growth) in the amount of \$8,771

Motion B1 under Article 2 passed by majority vote (129-2-0).

Motion B 2: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from increased state aid, said sum to be spent as follows:

- To supplement the Administrative Services budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion E of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$40,000 to Board of Selectmen / Town Administrator – Other Charges & Expenditures in the amount of \$40,000 – for the purposes of professional economic development studies.

Discussion ensued on this motion.

Motion B2 under Article 2 passed by majority vote (99-34-2)

Motion C: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to supplement the Public Works budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion C of the Spring Annual Town Meeting - Snow & Ice budget with the source of funding from additional Motor Vehicle Excise Tax.

Motion C under Article 2 passed by majority vote (129-4-0)

Motion D: Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hughes that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from free cash to supplement the Town Clerk's budget as voted under Article 15 – Motion E of the Spring Annual Town Meeting – Town Clerk – Salaries

Ms. White spoke to this article.

Motion D under Article 2 passed by majority vote (122-4-4).

ARTICLE 3: Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds 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

By a vote of 10-0 -0 on September 24, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends **No Action** with regard to the subject matter of Article 3 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION (Requires majority vote):

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that no action be taken on this article.

The motion to take no action on Article 3 passed by majority vote. This vote was taken by a count of hands.

ARTICLE 4: Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds 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

By a vote of 10-0 -0 on September 24, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends **No Action** with regard to the subject matter of Article 4 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION (Requires majority vote):

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that no action be taken on this article.

The motion to take no action on Article 4 passed by majority vote. This vote was taken by a count of hands.

ARTICLE 5: Capital Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established under Article 2 of the warrant for Fall Annual Town Meeting of 2010, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 9-1-0 on September 24, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 5 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION: (Requires two thirds vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate \$1,343,888 from free cash for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established by the vote of Article 2 of the 2010 Fall Annual Town Meeting, as authorized by chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.”

The main motion under Article 5 passed by a two-thirds vote (123-2-1)

ARTICLE 6: Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund established under Article 30 of the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting of 2014, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 11 - 0 - 0 on September 3, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends *Favorable Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 6 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION: (Requires two thirds vote)

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$156,586 from available funds in the Water Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings for the purpose of supplementing the Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 30, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.”

The main motion under Article 6 passed unanimously (123-0-0).

ARTICLE 7: One-to-One Technology Stabilization Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of supplementing the One-to-One Technology Stabilization Fund established under Article 31 of the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting of 2014, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 10-0-0 on September 24, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 7 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION (Requires majority vote):

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that no action be taken on this article.

The motion to take no action on Article 7 passed by majority vote. This vote was taken by a count of hands.

ARTICLE 8: Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Fund (Town Administrator)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by vote of the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting under Article 8 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, as amended, or otherwise act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 10-0-0 on September 24, 2015, the Finance Committee recommends *No Action* with regard to the subject matter of Article 8 as presented in the voted recommended motion below.

MOTION (Requires majority vote):

Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Griesmer that no action be taken on this article.

The motion to take no action on Article 8 passed by majority vote. This vote was taken by a count of hands.

Mr. Sidney moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to adjourn. *The motion to adjourn passed by a majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM until Thursday, October 22, 2016 at 7:30 PM.*

A record of the First Session of
2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting
October 20, 2015

Diane Packer, Town Clerk