

Town Meeting, Proposed New Rule Starting May 2018

CONSENT AGENDA. At least five business days prior to the opening of the first session of the Annual Town Meeting or any Special Town Meeting, the Moderator shall propose to all members a "Consent Agenda" listing all articles which, based on the records of recent town meetings, the Moderator deems to be non-controversial. At the first session of the meeting, at the request of any five members present, any article shall be removed from the Consent Agenda so that it can be debated and voted upon in accordance with the provisions of Town Meeting's Rules. All articles remaining in the Consent Agenda shall then be voted upon by a single 2/3 vote without debate.

A note from the Moderator:

This year, I am proposing to introduce to our agenda a new procedure called the Consent Agenda that has been adopted by Town Meetings across the Commonwealth. I described this procedure to you at our October 2017 Special Fall Town Meeting. The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to save your time by dispensing with the reading of and voting on individual articles that can be expected to pass overwhelmingly and instead, voting on them all together with one vote.

In selecting articles for the Consent Agenda I have used the following criteria:

1. The article must be a routine article that has appeared regularly in recent years.
2. The meaning of the article and the recommendation of the Warrant Committee must be clearly explained in the Warrant.
3. It must be reasonable to expect that the Warrant Committee recommendation for the article would pass with no controversy.

At the beginning of the first night of Town Meeting, the Moderator will read or summarize each article on the Consent Agenda. If a Town Meeting Member has a question about the article or believes that a separate debate or vote on a specific article is necessary, he/she shall call out "Remove". The Moderator will then ask for a show of hands, and if five (5) members raise their hands, the article will be removed from the Consent Agenda and dealt with in the normal way when we reach its number on the warrant. A member can call out "Remove" for any reason, they will not be asked to explain their request and a request for removal is not debatable. When we reach the end of the list, The Moderator will call for a single vote on the remaining articles on the Consent Agenda. If 2/3 of the members present vote aye, all articles remaining in the Consent Agenda will be considered passed.

The proposed Consent Agenda is written below and is available on the town web site.

Bob Hiss
Town Moderator
April 23, 2018

The Proposed 2018 Annual Town Meeting Consent Agenda:

The Town Moderator proposes that the 19 Warrant Articles listed below be included in the Consent Agenda of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. A full description of each article may be found in the 2018 Warrant.

Article No.	Title	Submitted By	Warrant Committee Recommendation	Page Number
1	Hear Report of Town Officers	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town vote to accept the report of the Town Accountant.	16
2	Authorize Treasurer to Collect Taxes	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town vote YES.	16
3	Authorize Treasurer to Enter into Compensating Balance Agreements	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town vote YES.	16
4	Authorize Moderator to Appoint Legislative Committee	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town vote YES.	16
6	Audit Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 6 as printed in the Warrant	19
7	Union Wage Set Aside	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that no appropriation be made under this article	20
8	Employee Benefits Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 8 as printed in the Warrant	20
16	Sewer Enterprise Fund Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 16 as printed in the Warrant	37
18	Chapter 90 Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 18 as printed in the Warrant	38
20	Appropriation for Rehabilitation of Town's Stormwater System	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 20 as printed in the Warrant	40
21	Appropriation for Sewer System Improvements	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 21 as printed in the Warrant	40

24	Cemetery Appropriation	Board of Cemetery Trustees	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 24 as printed in the Warrant	42
27	Blue Hills Regional Technical School Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 27 as printed in the Warrant	44
28	Consolidated Facilities App	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 28 as printed in the Warrant	45
29	Interest and Maturing Debt Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 29 as printed in the Warrant	45
30	Stabilization Funds Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 30 as printed in the Warrant	46
31	Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 31 as printed in the Warrant	47
33	Affordable Housing Trust Appropriation	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 33 as printed in the Warrant	47
34	Authorize Use of Revolving Funds	Board of Selectmen	RECOMMENDED that the Town take affirmative action on Article 34 as printed in the Warrant	48