

## Town Meeting Rules and Procedures

First, Town Meeting Members are required to check in with the Town Clerk and to be seated in the lower part of the auditorium, which is demarcated and reserved for Town Meeting Members. Town citizens and others who are not Town Meeting Members are required to be seated in the upper part of the auditorium.

Second, any Town Meeting Member wishing to speak to any article or pending related matter will first go to the nearest microphone and, upon being recognized by the Moderator, will identify herself/himself by giving his or her name and precinct. If you have not been recognized by the Moderator, you are not permitted to speak to the meeting. On occasion members will informally alert the Moderator that they desire to be recognized to speak on a certain article. While your Moderator will attempt to remember who desires to be recognized on any article, please be advised that the only way in which a member can be sure to be recognized is to go to a microphone and wait to be recognized. Your Moderator will from time to time simply forget to recognize someone who has informally indicated a desire to speak.

Third, by longstanding tradition, while any other voter of the town who is not a Town Meeting Member may not vote, he or she may be recognized to address town meeting providing that the voter in advance of the particular session has obtained permission from the Moderator.

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Fourth, any person having a monetary or equitable interest in, or who is employed as an attorney or otherwise by another person interested in, any matter under discussion shall disclose the fact of his or her interest or employment before speaking thereon.

Fifth, with reference to each article in the warrant the recommendation of the Warrant Committee shall ordinarily be considered to have been presented in the form of a motion by the Chairperson which has been seconded by the Secretary or other member of the Warrant Committee who is a Town Meeting Member. Unless the Moderator otherwise expressly states at the time, the question to be voted on under each article will usually be whether or not to accept the recommendation of the Warrant Committee. In other words, generally the recommendation of the Warrant Committee is the main motion pending under the Article. In the event that the Warrant Committee recommends a NO vote on an article, the question will be presented as a vote on a motion made and seconded to approve the article, i.e. Members will vote YES if they favor the article and NO if they oppose the article, as recommended by the Warrant Committee.

Sixth, pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 2 of the Town's bylaws, the Moderator requires that all substantive or complex motions be reduced to writing and presented to the Moderator before submission to the meeting.

Seventh, by longstanding tradition, "Town Meeting Time, A handbook of Parliamentary Law" 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, will, in addition to the bylaws of the town of Milton

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and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, be the rules of order for this meeting.

Eighth, any member desiring to show slides, make a PowerPoint presentation or any other visual material before the meeting must make appropriate arrangements and inform the Moderator.

Ninth, members are urged to obtain all information needed by them prior to the meeting. However, by tradition the Moderator will recognize any Town Meeting Member for the purpose of requesting additional information relevant to the matter under consideration. All such requests must be directed solely to the Moderator who will attempt to ascertain the most appropriate official who should answer such an inquiry. Answers will not be provided while the member still has the floor in order to prevent the temptation to cross-examine the person providing the information, which is not permitted. However, the Moderator will separately recognize a member once for the purpose of posing a follow-up question. Sometimes the information is not available or is not immediately available and the request for information will simply not be fulfilled.

Tenth, when it is announced by the Moderator that the Meeting will proceed to vote, debate will be closed and the pending question will be put to the Town Meeting.

Eleventh, upon a question being put to the Town Meeting, the Moderator will first determine by voice vote the sense of the Meeting. If the Moderator is unable to decide by the sound of the voices or if his announcement of the vote is doubted by seven Town

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Meeting Members standing in their place, the Moderator shall then proceed to have a standing vote on the question. If the vote is further doubted by twenty-five Town Meeting Members standing in their places, then there will be a roll call of the meeting with the Town Clerk calling the name of each Town Meeting Member in alphabetical order and each Town Meeting Member upon his/her name being called shall rise in place and answer YES or NO.

Twelfth, no vote shall be reconsidered at the same meeting, except upon a motion made within one hour of the adoption of such vote, unless by two-thirds vote, provided that the time which elapses during any adjournment of the meeting shall be excluded in computing the hour since the adoption of the vote

Thirteenth, because of the constraints of state law pursuant to Proposition 2-1/2, the budget articles as recommended by the Warrant Committee to this Town Meeting are at the maximum tax levy limitation permitted by state law pursuant to Proposition 2-1/2. While the Moderator will entertain motions to amend budget articles upward, the Town's total appropriation may not exceed the Proposition 2-1/2 limit. Thus, to avoid potential chaos, and the necessity for additional meetings to balance the Town's appropriation within the levy limit on the amount of revenue that the town may raise by property tax, your Moderator both urges and expects that any Member offering an upward amendment to a budget article will also for the benefit of fellow Town Meeting

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Members specify an offsetting decrease in some other line item, or specify what additional source of revenue is or will be available. In addition, it is also permissible to make increased funding subject to an override ballot vote by the registered voters of the Town.