

Memo

Dt: August 20, 2020
To: Selectboard
Cc: Town Administrator
Fr: Town Moderator
Re: Annual Town Meeting

As we prepare for Town Meeting, I want to make some suggestions to the Board for ways to minimize the time spent making motions, and also reduce the number of times that microphones need to be shared and sanitized.

- Because of the limitations on the number of wireless mics that the system can accommodate, it probably won't be possible to provide each Board member with his/her own mic. Thus, 2 or perhaps 3 microphones may need to be shared among the Board, with sanitizing wipes used to wipe down the mic after each speaker.
- I suggest that only one member of the Board be designated to make all the main motions. Whether it's the Board Chair, or another member, having one person make all the motions will speed things up a bit, and reduce the sharing of mics.
- If the Board agrees to handling the motions this way, I will make it clear to the voters at the beginning of the meeting that this procedure is only for expediency, and in no way reflects the individual Board members positions about the articles. Of course, Board members will be able to speak to any motion they like, subject to the same conditions as other voters.
- I also suggest that we combine as many articles as possible into consent calendars to be acted on as a group. Possible candidates for this approach might be the CPC articles and the Disposition of Town Land to the ConsCom. It might also be possible to combine some of the capital expenditures, perhaps grouping them by department. Town Counsel should be consulted on this to see if there's any issue with combining articles that require 2/3 votes and that are contingent on debt exclusions.

This Town Meeting will be challenging for all of us, and I welcome any other suggestions that the Board has to help make the meeting go smoothly. I'm hoping that we can conduct the meeting in a way that makes voters and staff feel that we've done everything we can to make the day as safe as possible.