

Town of



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

Town Hall - 4 Boltwood Avenue - Amherst, MA 01002

CONSENT CALENDAR – 2017 Annual Town Meeting

From the General Bylaws of the Town of Amherst, November 2012:

ARTICLE I, The Town Government, Rules of Order for Town Meeting

1. CONSENT CALENDAR. 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 Calendar” listing all articles and budget areas 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 or budget area shall be removed from the Consent Calendar so that it can be debated and voted upon in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Order. All items remaining in the Consent Calendar shall then be voted upon by a single vote without debate.

A note from the Moderator:

The purpose of the Consent Calendar is to save time by dispensing with separate motions and with oral statements from the Finance Committee and Select Board on articles that can be expected to pass unanimously.

In selecting articles for the Consent Calendar 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 action must be clearly explained in the Finance Committee Report.
3. It must be reasonable to expect that the motion under this article would pass with no controversy.

At the beginning of the first session of the meeting I will read or summarize each article on the Consent Calendar. If you believe that a separate debate or vote on a specific article is necessary, call out “Remove”. I will then ask for a show of hands, and if I see 5 hands, the article will be removed from the Consent Calendar and dealt with in the normal way when we reach its number on the warrant. You will not be asked to explain your request, and a request for removal is not debatable. When we reach the end of the list, I will call for a single vote on the remaining items on the Consent Calendar. If a majority votes yes, all items will be considered passed.

The proposed Consent Calendar has been included in this mailing and is available on the town web site.

*Jim Pistrang
Town Moderator
April 12, 2017*

The Proposed 2017 Annual Town Meeting Consent Calendar:

I propose that the nine Warrant Articles listed below be included in the Consent Calendar of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. Additional information may be found in the Finance Committee report.

**ARTICLE 1. Reports of Boards and Committees
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will hear those reports of Town officers, the Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

**ARTICLE 2. Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills
(Finance Committee)**

To see if the Town will, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 64, appropriate and transfer a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years.

MOTION: I move to dismiss the Article.

**ARTICLE 3. Acceptance of Optional Tax Exemptions
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will authorize a maximum additional exemption of up to 100 percent for taxpayers qualifying for exemption under M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, clauses 17D, 22, 37A, or 41C.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

**ARTICLE 4. FY 2017 Budget Amendments
(Finance Committee)**

A. To see if the Town will amend the budget voted under Article 10 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2017 Operating Budget) to transfer **sums of money** between General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Conservation and Development, Community Services, Library and Debt Service accounts to balance the 2017 Fiscal Year.

MOTION: I move to amend the action taken under Article 10 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Budget by increasing the appropriations and the amounts to be raised by taxation for the Public Safety account by \$155,000, and Conservation and Development account by \$60,000, and Public Works account by \$234,500, and to meet such increased appropriation by decreasing the appropriation and the amount to be raised by taxation for General Government by \$(388,900), and Community Services by \$(60,600).

**ARTICLE 5. Retirement Assessment
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$5,157,420 for the Hampshire County Retirement System assessment.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

**ARTICLE 6. Regional Lockup Assessment
(Select Board)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$35,928 for the Hampshire County Regional Lockup Facility assessment.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

**ARTICLE 7. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund
(Finance Committee)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$400,000 for the OPEB Trust Fund established under the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 32B, Section 20.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

**ARTICLE 10. Reserve Fund
(Finance Committee)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$100,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY 2018.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

**ARTICLE 11. Revolving Fund Reauthorization
(Finance Committee)**

To see if the Town will reauthorize a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, §53E½ for the operation of an After School Program from which the receipts shall be credited for expenditure by the LSSE department as authorized by the Department Head of the LSSE or his/her designee for supplies and services, including salaries and benefits of staffing, and related administrative costs for the program operation with a limit of \$400,000 that may be expended from said revolving fund in the fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2017.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.