

*Town of*



# AMHERST *Massachusetts*

Town Hall - 4 Boltwood Avenue - Amherst, MA 01002

## **CONSENT CALENDAR – 2018 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 17, 2018*

*The Proposed 2018 Annual Town Meeting Consent Calendar:*

I propose that the eight Warrant Articles listed below be included in the Consent Calendar of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. Additional information may be found in the Finance Committee report.

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

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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)**

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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)**

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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 2018 Budget Amendments  
(Finance Committee)**

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- A. To see if the Town will amend the budget voted under Article 9 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2018 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 2018 Fiscal Year.
- B. To see if the Town will amend the action taken under Article 10 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2018 Reserve Fund) to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from the Fund Balance Reserved for Overlay Surplus account to the Reserve Fund to balance the 2018 Fiscal Year.
- C. To see if the Town will amend the action taken under Article 9 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Operating Budget, by appropriating to the Health Claims Trust Fund a sum of money for employee health insurance and to meet such appropriation transfer a sum of money from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund, said appropriation to be reimbursed to the General Fund via a temporary health insurance premium surcharge to employers and employees until such time the total appropriation has been reimbursed.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

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

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To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$5,565,471 for the Hampshire County Retirement System assessment.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.

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

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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.

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

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$500,000 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.

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**ARTICLE 9. Reserve Fund  
(Finance Committee)**

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To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$100,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY 2019.

MOTION: I move in terms of the Article.