

**Town of
Reading
Massachusetts**



**2016 Special Town Meeting
Report on the Warrant
November 14, 2016**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2016
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Article</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Page #</u>
1	Reports	Board of Selectmen	2
2	Instructions	Board of Selectmen	2
3	Amending the Capital Improvement Program FY2017 – FY2027	Board of Selectmen	3
4	RMHS Construction Costs	Board of Selectmen	3
	APPENDIX		
	Conduct of Town Meeting		6
	Town Meeting Handout Guidelines		13

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss. Officer's Return, Reading:

By virtue of this Warrant, I, on October 26, 2016 notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Reading, qualified to vote in Town elections and Town affairs, to meet at the place and at the time specified by posting attested copies of this Town Meeting Warrant in the following public places within the Town of Reading:

Precinct 1 J. Warren Killam School, 333 Charles Street
Precinct 2 Reading Police Station, 15 Union Street
Precinct 3 Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street
Precinct 4 Joshua Eaton School, 365 Summer Avenue
Precinct 5 Walter S. Parker Middle School, 45 Temple Street
Precinct 6 Barrows School, 16 Edgemont Avenue
Precinct 7 Birch Meadow School, 27 Arthur B Lord Drive
Precinct 8 Wood End School, 85 Sunset Rock Lane
Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street

The date of posting being not less than fourteen (14) days prior to November 14, 2016, the date set for Special Town Meeting in this Warrant.

I also caused a posting of this Warrant to be published on the Town of Reading website on October 26, 2016.


Thomas Freeman, Constable

A true copy Attest:


Laura Gemme, Town Clerk

TOWN WARRANT



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Reading, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Reading, qualified to vote in Town elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Reading Memorial High School Performing Arts Center, 62 Oakland Road, in said Reading, on Monday, November 14, 2016, at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening, at which time and place the following articles are to be acted upon and determined exclusively by Town Meeting Members in accordance with the provisions of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

ARTICLE 1 To hear and act on the reports of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Library Trustees, Municipal Light Board, Finance Committee, Bylaw Committee, Town Manager, Town Accountant and any other Town Official, Board or Committee.

Board of Selectmen

Background: This article appears on the Warrant for all Town Meetings. At this Subsequent Town Meeting, no reports are anticipated.

ARTICLE 2 To choose all other necessary Town Officers and Boards or Committees and determine what instructions shall be given Town Officers and Boards or Committees, and to see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate by borrowing or transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the purpose of funding Town Officers and Boards or Committees to carry out the instructions given to them, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

Background: This Article appears on the Warrant of all Town Meetings. There are no known Instructional Motions at this time. The Town Moderator requires that all proposed Instructional Motions be submitted to the Town Clerk in advance so that Town Meeting Members may be "warned" as to the subject of an Instructional Motion in advance of the motion being made. Instructional Motions are normally held until the end of all other business at Town Meeting.

Finance Committee Report: No report.

Bylaw Committee Report: No report.

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY 2017-27 Capital Improvements Program as provided for in Section 7.7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter and as previously amended, or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen

Background: This Article is included in every Town Meeting Warrant. The Reading General Bylaw (section 6.1.3) states "... *No funds may be appropriated for any capital item unless such item is included in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), and is scheduled for funding in the Fiscal Year in which the appropriation is to be made.*" Bond ratings agencies also want to ensure that changes to a long-term CIP are adequately described.

The following changes are proposed to the FY2017 – FY2027 CIP (current year plus ten years):

General Fund

FY17: +\$6 million

+\$ 6million added to RMHS construction project

Finance Committee Report: Action pending.

Bylaw Committee Report: No report.

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote take under Article 5 of the January 13, 2003 Special Town Meeting, as amended by the vote taken under Article 10 of the November 13, 2006 Subsequent Town Meeting, to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money for the purpose of making extraordinary repairs and additions to the Reading Memorial High School at 62 Oakland Road, including the costs of engineering and architectural fees, plans, documents, cost estimates, interest and related expenses incidental thereto and necessary in connection therewith, said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the School Committee; and to authorize any agency of the Town to file applications for grants, loans, exclusions, or other sources of additional funding to be used to defray the cost of all or any part of the cost of the project; and to authorize the School Committee to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article; or take any other action with respect thereto.

Board of Selectmen as a courtesy to the School Committee

Background: The Reading Memorial High School construction project began in 2004, and TLT Construction Corporation was the general contractor for the project. In the fall of 2007, TLT filed a lawsuit in Middlesex Superior Court against the Town of Reading, claiming that the Town owed additional money for work performed under the contract. In response, the Town filed a counterclaim, alleging that TLT did not complete the contract work on time and that the Town had to correct various parts of the project work TLT did perform.

In 2013, after several years of the litigation discovery process and attempts at reaching a settlement with TLT, the court referred the case to a Special Master, a retired judge, who

conducted a hearing process in lieu of a trial in the Superior Court. The hearings began in December of 2013 and concluded in March of 2015. Closing arguments were presented in July of 2015. Since that time, the Master has been preparing, and issuing to the parties, draft decisions on the various issues that make up the matters in dispute. These issues included payment to TLT for asbestos abatement work, the Town's replacement of the outdoor track, compensation to TLT for additional work outside the scope of the contract, correction of site work, and liquidated damages for failure to complete the work on time. The first draft ruling was issued in January of 2016, and the most recent ruling, which left only a small portion of the claims still to be decided, was issued in September of 2016. The net result of the rulings to date is approximately 3 million dollars, in TLT's favor.

If the process continued, each party would have the opportunity to respond to the draft rulings with proposed revisions, and the Special Master would then prepare a final report to the Superior Court. Under the applicable legal procedure, the court would review the Master's final report and may adopt it, reject it in whole or in part, or send it back to the Master with instructions for additional action. Ultimately, the Superior Court would enter a judgement in the case, whether on its first receipt of the Special Master's report or after such additional action by the Master as it may order. On account of the volume of material to be reviewed, a Superior Court judgment would not be expected until sometime well into 2017. By Massachusetts statute, a court judgment is subject to 12% annual interest, and interest would apply from the date the complaint was filed in November, 2007. As a result, the amount of the judgment would now more than double. If the final court judgment were issued in late 2017, it is expected that the total amount could be close to \$7,000,000 in TLTs favor.

Given these circumstances, the School Committee and TLT have reached a tentative settlement agreement in the amount of \$6.0 million, subject to Town Meeting approval. A draft settlement agreement has been developed and is currently being reviewed by Town Counsel. If approved by Town Meeting, the settlement would be paid through three sources of funding: remaining funds from the RMHS building project (approximately \$800,000), certified free cash, and borrowing - with the debt being paid off over a period of several years. No operating budget funds would be utilized.

As a result of the settlement, it is expected that capital projects currently on the 10-year capital plan (i.e. roof replacements, field replacements, and capital equipment) would be pushed out additional years into the future. Town officials are also exploring the possibility of additional MSBA reimbursement funding for the High School project. Although litigation has taken years, it was a process that legal counsel at the time believed was the best course of action. After almost a decade-long process, however, the School Committee supports moving forward on a settlement in order to bring the litigation process to a necessary close and to best position our Town and schools for the future.

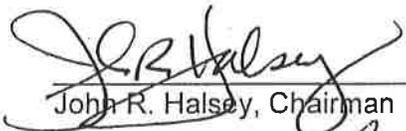
Finance Committee Report: Action pending.

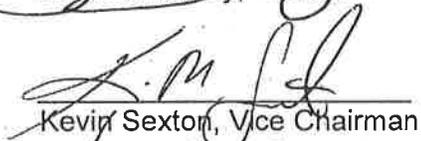
Bylaw Committee Report: No report.

and you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof in at least one (1) public place in each precinct of the Town not less than fourteen (14) days prior to November 14, 2016, or providing in a manner such as electronic submission, holding for pickup or mailing, an attested copy of said Warrant to each Town Meeting Member.

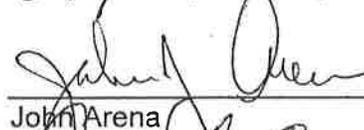
Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time appointed for said meeting.

Given under our hands this 25th day of October, 2016.


John R. Halsey, Chairman

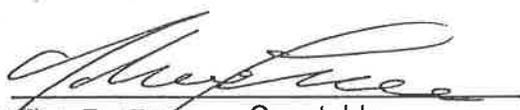

Kevin Sexton, Vice Chairman


Barry Berman, Secretary


John Arena


Daniel Ensminger

SELECTMEN OF READING


Thomas Freeman, Constable

CONDUCT OF TOWN MEETING

Reading's Town Meeting is conducted in accordance with the rules set down in Article 2 of the Charter and the General Bylaws. Although Town Meeting Time Third Edition is the basic source, a Town Meeting Member need only be familiar with what is contained in the Charter. These notes are intended to outline the major points all Town Meeting Members should know, and which by knowing will make Town Meeting more understandable.

Organization

- Town Meeting consists of 192 elected members, of which 97 constitute a quorum.
- There are two required sessions: The Annual Meeting in Spring which is primarily for fiscal matters and acceptance of the annual budget, and the Subsequent Meeting in November. Special Town Meetings may be called at any time that the need arises.
- There are three main committees which review certain Articles and advise Town Meeting of their recommendations:

Finance for all expenditures of funds,

Bylaw for all bylaw changes, and the

Community Planning and Development Commission for all zoning changes.

Their reports are given prior to discussing the motion.

General Rules Of Procedure

- The Meeting is conducted through the Warrant Articles which are presented (moved) as motions. Only one motion may be on the floor at a time; however, the motion may be amended. Often two or more Articles which address the same subject may be discussed together; however, only one is formally on the floor, and each when moved is acted upon individually. Note that the vote on one may influence the others.
- Members who wish to speak shall rise, state their name and precinct in order to be recognized.
- A Member may speak for ten (10) minutes but permission must be asked to exceed this limit.
- Seven (7) Members can question a vote and call for a standing count, and twenty (20) can ask for a roll call vote; however, a roll call vote is seldom used because of the time it takes.

Principal Motion Encountered At Town Meeting

The following motions are the principal ones used in most cases by Town Meeting to conduct its business. Experience shows that the Members should be familiar with these.

- **Adjourn:** Ends the sessions, can be moved at any time.
- **Recess:** Stops business for a short time, generally to resolve a procedural question or to obtain information.
- **Lay on the Table:** Stops debate with the intention generally of bringing the subject up again later. May also be used to defer action on an Article for which procedurally a negative vote is undesirable. Note that tabled motions die with adjournment.
- **Move the Previous Question:** Upon acceptance by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, stops all debate and brings the subject to a vote. This is generally the main motion, or the most recent

amendment, unless qualified by the mover. The reason for this as provided in Robert's Rules of Order is to allow for other amendments should they wish to be presented.

- **Amend:** Offers changes to the main motion. Must be in accordance with the motion and may not substantially alter the intent of the motion. In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, only one primary and one secondary motion will be allowed on the floor at one time, unless specifically accepted by the Moderator.
- **Indefinitely Postpone:** Disposes of the Article without a yes or no vote.
- **Take from the Table:** Brings back a motion which was previously laid on the table.
- **Main Motion:** The means by which a subject is brought before the Meeting.

The Following Motions May Be Used By A Member For The Purpose Noted:

- **Question of Privilege:** Sometimes used to offer a resolution. Should not be used to "steal" the floor.
- **Point of Order:** To raise a question concerning the conduct of the Meeting.
- **Point of Information:** To ask for information relevant to the business at hand.

Multiple Motions Subsequent (Multiple) Motions

If the subsequent motion to be offered, as distinct from an amendment made during debate, includes material which has previously been put to a vote and defeated, it will be viewed by the Moderator as reconsideration and will not be accepted. If the subsequent motion contains distinctly new material which is within the scope of the Warrant Article, then it will be accepted. An example of this latter situation is successive line items of an omnibus budget moved as a block.

Subject To The Following Considerations

- The maker of any proposed multiple motion shall make their intent known, and the content of the motion to be offered shall be conveyed to the Moderator - prior to the initial calling of the Warrant Article.
- Once an affirmative vote has been taken on the motion then on the floor - no further subsequent alternative motions will be accepted. (Obviously does not apply to the budget, for example.)
- Also - There can only be one motion on the floor at any one time. You have the ability to offer amendments to the motion that is on the floor. You also have the ability to move for reconsideration.

Town Of Reading Bylaw - Article 2 Town Meeting

2.1 General

2.1.1 Date of Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the third Tuesday preceding the fourth Monday in April of each year for the election of Town Officers and for such other matters as required by law to be determined by ballot. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Selectmen may schedule the commencement of the Annual Town Meeting for the same date designated as the date to hold any Federal or State election.

2.1.2 Hours of Election

The polls for the Annual Town Meeting shall be opened at 7:00 AM and shall remain open until 8:00 PM.

2.1.3 Annual Town Meeting Business Sessions

All business of the Annual Town Meeting, except the election of such Town officers and the determination of such matters are required by law to be elected or determined by ballot, shall be considered at an adjournment of such meeting to be held at 7:30 PM on the fourth Monday in April, except if this day shall fall on a legal holiday, in which case the meeting shall be held on the following day or at a further adjournment thereof.

2.1.4 Subsequent Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting called the Subsequent Town Meeting shall be held on the second Monday in November, except if this day shall fall on a legal holiday, in which case the meeting shall be held on the following day. The Subsequent Town Meeting shall consider and act on all business as may properly come before it except the adoption of the annual operating budget.

2.1.5 Adjourned Town Meeting Sessions

Adjourned sessions of every Annual Town Meeting after the first such adjourned session provided for in Section 2.1.3 of this Article and all sessions of every Subsequent Town Meeting, shall be held on the following Thursday at 7:30 PM and then on the following Monday at 7:30 PM, and on consecutive Mondays and Thursdays unless a resolution to adjourn to another time is adopted by a majority vote of Town Meeting Members present and voting.

2.1.6 Posting of the Warrant

The Board of Selectmen shall give notice of the Annual, Subsequent or any Special Town Meeting at least fourteen (14) days prior to the time of holding said meeting by causing an attested copy of the warrant calling the same to be posted in one (1) or more public places in each precinct of the Town, and either causing such attested copy to be published in a local newspaper or providing in a manner such as electronic submission, holding for pickup, or mailing, an attested copy of said warrant to each Town Meeting Member.

2.1.7 Closing of the Warrant

All Articles for the Annual Town Meeting shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen not later than 8:00 PM on the fifth (5th) Tuesday preceding the date of election of Town officers, unless this day is a holiday in which case the following day shall be substituted. All articles for the Subsequent Town Meeting shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen not later than 8:00 PM on the seventh (7th) Tuesday preceding the Subsequent Town Meeting in which action is to be taken, unless this day is a holiday in which case the following day shall be substituted.

2.1.8 Delivery of the Warrant

The Board of Selectmen, after drawing a Warrant for a Town Meeting, shall immediately deliver a copy of such Warrant to each member of the Finance Committee, the Community Planning and Development Commission, the Bylaw Committee and the Moderator.

2.2 Conduct of Town Meeting

2.2.1 In the conduct of all Town Meetings, the following rules shall be observed

Rule 1 A majority of Town Meeting Members shall constitute a quorum for doing business.

- Rule 2** All articles on the warrant shall be taken up in the order of their arrangement in the warrant unless otherwise decided by a majority vote of the members present and voting.
- Rule 3** Prior to debate on each article in a warrant involving the expenditure of money, the Finance Committee shall advise Town Meeting as to its recommendations and the reasons therefore.
- Rule 4** Prior to a debate on each article in a warrant involving changes in the bylaw or Charter, petitions for a special act, or local acceptance by Town Meeting of a State statute, the Bylaw Committee shall advise Town Meeting as to its recommendations and reasons therefore.
- Rule 5** Every person shall stand when speaking as they are able, shall respectfully address the Moderator, shall not speak until recognized by the Moderator, shall state his name and precinct, shall confine himself to the question under debate and shall avoid all personalities.
- Rule 6** No person shall be privileged to speak or make a motion until after he has been recognized by the Moderator.
- Rule 7** No Town Meeting Member or other person shall speak on any question more than ten (10) minutes without first obtaining the permission of the meeting.
- Rule 8** Any non-Town Meeting Member may speak at a Town Meeting having first identified himself to the Moderator. A proponent of an article may speak on such article only after first identifying himself to the Moderator and obtaining permission of Town Meeting to speak. No non-Town Meeting Member shall speak on any question more than five (5) minutes without first obtaining the permission of the Meeting. Non-Town Meeting Members shall be given the privilege of speaking at Town Meeting only after all Town Meeting Members who desire to speak upon the question under consideration have first been given an opportunity to do so.
- Rule 9** Members of official bodies and Town officials who are not Town Meeting Members shall have the same right to speak, but not to vote, as Town Meeting Members on all matters relating to their official bodies.
- Rule 10** No speaker at a Town Meeting shall be interrupted except by a Member making a point of order or privileged motion or by the Moderator.
- Rule 11** Any person having a monetary or equitable interest in any matter under discussion at a Town Meeting, and any person employed by another having such an interest, shall disclose the fact of his interest or his employer's interest before speaking thereon.
- Rule 12** The Moderator shall decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the meeting, the question on which appeal shall be taken before any other.
- Rule 13** When a question is put, the vote on all matters shall be taken by a show of hands, and the Moderator shall declare the vote as it appears to him. If the Moderator is unable to decide the vote by the show of hands, or if his decision is immediately questioned by seven (7) or more Members, or if the Moderator determines that a counted vote is required such as for a debt issue or Home Rule Petition, he shall determine the question by ordering a standing vote, and he

shall appoint tellers to make and return the count directly to him. On request of not less than twenty (20) members, a vote shall be taken by roll call.

Rule 14 All original main motions having to do with the expenditure of money shall be presented in writing, and all other motions shall be in writing if so directed by the Moderator.

Rule 15 No motion shall be received and put until it is seconded. No motion made and seconded shall be withdrawn if any Member objects. No amendment not relevant to the subject of the original motion shall be entertained.

Rule 16 When a question is under debate, no motion shall be in order except:

- to adjourn,
- to lay on the table or pass over,
- to postpone for a certain time,
- to commit,
- to amend,
- to postpone indefinitely, or
- to fix a time for terminating debate and putting the question, and the aforesaid several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged in this rule.

Rule 17 Motions to adjourn (except when balloting for offices and when votes are being taken) shall always be first in order. Motions to adjourn, to move the question, to lay on the table and to take from the table shall be decided without debate.

Rule 18 The previous question shall be put in the following form or in some other form having the same meaning: "Shall the main question now be put" and until this question is decided all debate on the main question shall be suspended. If the previous question is adopted, the sense of the meeting shall immediately be taken upon any pending amendments in the order inverse to that in which they were moved, except that the largest sum or the longest time shall be put first and finally upon the main question.

Rule 19 The duties of the Moderator and the conduct and method of proceeding at all Town Meetings, not prescribed by law or by rules set forth in this article, shall be determined by rules of practice set forth in "Town Meeting Time Third Edition" except that to lay on the table shall require a majority vote.

2.2.2 Attendance by Officials

It shall be the duty of every official body, by a member thereof, to be in attendance at all Town Meetings for the information thereof while any subject matter is under consideration affecting such official body.

2.2.3 Appointment of Committees

All committees authorized by Town Meeting shall be appointed by the Moderator unless otherwise ordered by a vote of the Members present and voting. All committees shall report as directed by Town Meeting. If no report is made within a year after the appointment, the committee shall be discharged unless, in the meantime, Town Meeting grants an extension of time. When the final report of a committee is placed in the hands of the Moderator, it shall be deemed to be received, and a vote to accept the same shall discharge the committee but shall not be equivalent to a vote to adopt it.

2.2.4 Motion to Reconsider

2.2.4.1 Notice to Reconsider

A motion to reconsider any vote must be made before the final adjournment of the meeting at which the vote was passed but such motion to reconsider shall not be made at an adjourned meeting unless the mover has given notice of his intention to make such a motion, either at the session of the meeting at which the vote was passed or by written notice to the Town Clerk within twenty-four (24) hours after the adjournment of such session. When such motion is made at the session of the meeting at which the vote was passed, said motion shall be accepted by the Moderator but consideration thereof shall be postponed to become the first item to be considered at the next session, unless all remaining articles have been disposed of, in which case reconsideration shall be considered before final adjournment. There can be no reconsideration of a vote once reconsidered or after a vote not to reconsider. Reconsideration may be ordered by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present. Arguments for or against reconsideration may include discussion of the motion being reconsidered providing such discussion consists only of relevant facts or arguments not previously presented by any speaker.

2.2.4.2 Federal or State Law Affecting Reconsideration

The foregoing provisions relating to motions to reconsider shall not apply to any such motion made by the Board of Selectmen and authorized by the Moderator as necessary for the reconsideration of actions previously taken by Town Meeting by reason of State or Federal action or inaction or other circumstances not within the control of the Town or Town Meeting. In the event such a motion to reconsider is made and authorized, said motion may be made at any time before the final adjournment of the meeting at which the vote was passed, said motion may be made even if the vote was already reconsidered or was the subject of a vote not to reconsider, and reconsideration may be ordered by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present.

2.2.4.3 Posting and Advertising

Notice of every vote to be reconsidered at an adjourned Town Meeting shall be posted by the Town Clerk in one (1) or more public places in each precinct of the Town as soon as possible after adjournment, and he shall, if practicable, at least one day before the time of the next following session of said adjourned meeting, publish such notice in some newspaper published in the Town. Said notice shall include the vote to be reconsidered and the place and time of the next following session of said adjourned meeting. The foregoing notice provisions shall not apply when a motion to reconsider any Town Meeting action is made publicly at Town Meeting before the adjournment of any session of any adjourned Town Meeting.

2.2.5 State of the Town

The Selectmen shall, at each Annual Town Meeting, give to the Members information on the "State of the Town."

2.2.6 Annual Precinct Meeting

Town Meeting Members and Town Meeting Members-elect from each precinct shall hold an annual precinct meeting after the annual Town election but before the convening of the business sessions of the Annual Town Meeting. The purpose of the meeting shall be the election of a Chairman and a Clerk and to conduct whatever business may be appropriate. Chairmen shall serve no more than six (6) consecutive years in that

position. Additional precinct meetings may be called by the Chairman or by a petition of six (6) Town Meeting Members of the precinct.

2.2.7 Removal of Town Meeting Members

2.2.7.1 Notice of Attendance

The Town Clerk shall mail, within thirty (30) days after the adjournment *sine die* of the Annual Town Meeting, to every Town Meeting Member who has attended less than one-half of Town Meeting sessions since the most recent Annual Town Election, a record of his attendance and a copy of Section 2-6 of the Charter.

2.2.7.2 Precinct Recommendation

All Precinct meeting held prior to consideration by Town Meeting of the warrant article pursuant to Section 2-6 of the Charter. Town Meeting Members of each precinct shall adopt a recommendation to Town Meeting on whether each member from the precinct listed in the warrant per Section 2-6 of the Charter should be removed from Town Meeting. The Chairman of each precinct or his designee shall make such recommendations along with supporting evidence and rationale to Town Meeting.

2.2.7.3 Grouped by Precinct

The names of the Members subject to removal in accordance with Section 2-6 of the Charter shall be grouped by precinct in the warrant article required by said section.

2.2.8 Meetings During Town Meeting

No appointed or elected board, committee, commission or other entity of Town government shall schedule or conduct any hearing, meeting or other function during any hours in which an Annual, Subsequent or Special Town Meeting is in session or is scheduled to be in session. Any such board, committee or commission which schedules or holds a meeting or hearing on the same calendar day, but at a time prior to a session of Town Meeting, shall adjourn or recess not less than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled session of Town Meeting.

Any board, committee or commission may, at the opening of any session of Town Meeting, present to that Town Meeting an instructional motion requesting an exemption from this bylaw and asking that Town Meeting permit it to meet at a date and hour at which a future session of Town Meeting is scheduled, and may present reasons for Town Meeting to give such permission. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any board, committee or commission which meets the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B concerning emergency meetings may, upon meeting such requirements, conduct such a meeting or hearing at a time scheduled for a Town Meeting.

2.2.9 Rules Committee

The members of the Rules Committee, established under Section 2-12 of the Charter, shall hold an annual meeting within thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairman and a Clerk and to conduct whatever business may be appropriate. Additional Rules Committee meetings may be called by the Chairman.

In the absence of a Chairman, the Moderator shall convene a meeting of the Rules Committee within sixty (60) days after a vacancy for the purpose of electing a new Chairman.



Town of Reading
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867-2685

FAX: (781) 942-9070
Website: www.readingma.gov

TOWN CLERK
(781) 942-9050

Town Meeting Handout Guidelines

To ensure that all Town Meeting members have access to the same information, distributed in the same manner, please follow the below listed guidelines for handout materials:

Materials that are prepared by a Town Board / Committee / Town Department must include the following:

- Article name and number
- Name of Town Board / Committee / Commission or Town Department
- Date the document was created
- Contact Information
- Approval of Town Clerk's Office

Materials that are prepared by petitioners or other voters must include the following:

- Article name and number
- Contact information of person who created handout
- Date the document was created
- Approval of Town Clerk's Office

All handouts:

- Must contain facts only unless specifically stating "This is the opinion of ____"
- Should be on white paper only
- Should be double-sided copies if more than one page
- May be distributed only by giving adequate copies for all Town Meeting members (192) to the Town Clerk or designee by 6:30 PM on the night in which the subject article will be discussed
- All handouts not approved will be removed and recycled
- All handouts not distributed must be picked up at the end of each night or they will be recycled at the end of each night.

All PowerPoint Presentations:

- Must consult with the Town Clerk before the meeting
- Provide a copy before the meeting
- All presentations will be given using the Town of Reading laptop computer

February of 2010