

FROM THE MODERATOR – PLEASE READ

NEW THIS YEAR: POSSIBLE GROUPING OF CONSENT ARTICLES

As many of you know, at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting our Town adopted a new By-law regarding Town Meeting voting procedures. Under the By-law the Moderator may propose a group of Warrant Articles to be taken up together, so that several Articles may be disposed of at one time in a single vote (thus saving considerable time on matters the Hall considers routine). Note that the Moderator only proposes the list; the Hall must approve it. Thus, prior to asking for the vote, I will ask if any voter wishes to “hold” any Article in the proposed group and, if so, then that Article is removed from the group and taken up separately. **The full text of the By-law is set out below.**

On the back of this sheet I have listed the particular Articles that I am proposing to group together. Please review the actual Articles in the Warrant and consider whether you wish to hold any of them. If you have any doubt whether a particular Article should be in the grouping, I encourage you to hold the Article. **This process will take place at the beginning of the Warrant review, so please take the time now to review the Articles.**

Text of Southborough Code chapter 41 (“Town Meetings”), section 6(C):

The Moderator may select any two or more warrant articles to create one or more groups of so-called “consent” articles. For each such group of “consent” articles, the Moderator shall ask the voters at the Town Meeting, article by article, if any Town Meeting member wishes to “hold” a particular article, and any such “held” article shall be removed from the group of “consent” articles. For the remaining “consent” articles in the group that have not had a request to be “held”, the Moderator may ask for a single vote of the Town Meeting for the entire group of the remaining “consent” articles, and such single vote shall have the same effect as an individual vote (to either approve or disapprove) each of the non-“held” “consent” articles in the group.

No.	Title	Subject Matter
1	Hear committee reports	<i>Annual consent to hear reports from Town bodies</i>
2	Acceptance of donations	<i>Annual acceptance of payments from non-profits</i>
3	Short-term borrowing	<i>Annual authorization to Treasurer for short-term borrowing against anticipated revenue</i>
4	Allocate bond premiums	<i>State requires matching bond premiums to the capital project associated with the bond</i>
6	Authorize 3+ yr. contracts	<i>Annual authorization to award contracts from 3-7 years in length</i>
8	Water enterprise fund	<i>Create water enterprise fund as State law best practice</i>
9	Funding union contracts	<i>Annual funding of new union contracts</i>
12	Transfers to water fund	<i>Transfer water budget to new enterprise fund from Article 8</i>
14	Retiree vacation/sick time	<i>Annual funding of retiree vacation/sick time</i>
15	Capital repairs	<i>Annual funding of capital repairs and maintenance</i>
16	Golf revolving fund	<i>Create revolving fund to apply golf revenue to golf course</i>
17	Spending limits	<i>Annual setting of spending limits on all revolving funds</i>
28	Public trees By-Law	<i>Tree care/preservation By-law necessary to receive "Tree City" designation – no cost to the Town</i>