

2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Dear Westwood Voters:

Since the declaration of the Public State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has changed in many profound ways, some of which are likely to be permanent. Currently Town Officials are focusing on the immediate. The business of the Town of Westwood must go on; therefore, we must conduct our Annual Town Meeting. Town leadership understands that many voters will be reluctant to attend Town Meeting under the current circumstances as they consider the potential risk it may pose to their own personal health. No one will question anyone's decision to avoid Town Meeting out of an abundance of caution. We realize that many residents feel this way, making it difficult to meet our quorum of one hundred and seventy-five -175- voters required to call Town Meeting to order.

Due to these concerns and the need for residents to meet and vote on financial matters that will affect the operations of the Town for Fiscal year 2021, the Westwood Select Board, on May 4, 2020, voted to authorize Town Counsel Patrick Ahearn to file and seek injunction relief in the Norfolk County Superior Court from the 175-voter quorum, (per town bylaws 138-12). On Friday, May 29, 2020, Judge Thomas Connors granted the relief requested, allowing us to hold the 2020 Annual Town Meeting with a reduced quorum of 25% of our registered voters, which will be a minimum of 44 people. This is only a minimum number needed to conduct our 2020 Annual Town Meeting and is in no way a limitation. Any registered voter who wishes to attend the 2020 Annual Town Meeting will be welcome. Due to the quorum reduction, we are restricted by this Court order C.A.No.20 0476, to limit the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to only the financial articles, which are listed in the Finance and Warrant Commission's 2020 Annual Report as articles 1-13 which can be found on pages 10-19.

Our Town leaders have also worked tirelessly to assure our citizens that the 2020 Annual Town Meeting will be conducted in the safest manner possible, while at the same time providing the opportunity for full participation of all registered voters in attendance. See Details below:

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.
Rain Date: (if necessary) Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Flahive Field, Westwood High School, 200 Nahatan Street, Westwood

You are encouraged to bring sunblock and bug spray due to the time of the meeting. Chairs will be provided and carefully placed to observe social distancing recommendations.

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We will not have our usual budget presentation by our Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director, Mrs. Pamela Dukeman. Mrs. Dukeman always does a masterful job with her presentation and we hear many compliments every year about how clear and informative her remarks are. Mrs. Dukeman has graciously recorded this year's presentation in advance of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. You may view it by clicking here. If you prefer to submit questions in advance of Town Meeting, please email them to the Moderator, James O'Sullivan.

All questions will be considered and responded to unless they are duplicative.

- **Voter Registration:** Voter check-in will occur upon arrival at Flahive Field at a clearly marked location. We will be fully adhering to social distancing guidelines, which will be 6 feet away from the next individual. If you are not a registered voter, you will be in a separate section for Visitors.

- **Face Coverings:** All Town Meeting attendees are highly encouraged to wear facial coverings to protect other voters and staff. Plastic gloves will be available also upon request.

- **Microphone Cleaning and Disinfecting:** Appropriate steps are planned to sanitize the microphones used by those who choose to debate.

- **Main Motion:** As Moderator I will read the main motions under the articles and after a second we will go to debate. Please review in advance of Town Meeting the Finance and Warrant Commission's 2020 Annual report you received in the mail and bring it with you to Town Meeting.

Our Town is governed by decisions that are made at Town meeting so please make all efforts to attend this year's Annual Town Meeting.

We are taking all safety precautions to ensure a safe 2020 Annual Town Meeting for all attendees and staff.

I hope to see you at Town Meeting!

Sincerely,

Jim O'Sullivan
Town Moderator
james.osullivan@townhall.westwood.ma.us
moderator@townhall.westwood.ma.us