Town of Williamstown

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 23, 2024

BYLAW MODIFICATIONS AS TO WARRANT DEADLINE AND BUDGET CYCLE

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to modify Town bylaws as follows:

A. <u>Bylaw modification of deadline to submit warrant articles</u>
Replace text of bylaw § 4-3 Insertion of articles in warrant with the following text:
Any article to be inserted in the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting must be submitted to the Select Board on or before the 50th day preceding said meeting. All citizen petitions must be signed by the required number of petitioners who must be voters of the Town, and all such petitions shall be placed in the warrant as presented.
Rationale: Current bylaw 4-3 requires 45 days' advance filing of warrant articles, which in some years means the Select Board has only one meeting in which to consider them for the warrant, so this proposal adds five more days to the notice period. Also, current 4-3 is being rewritten to clarify that the filing deadline applies not only to citizen petitions, but also to proposed articles from any source, including town boards and committees.

B. <u>Bylaw section 14-1 modification of budget preparation process</u>
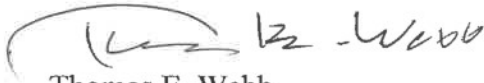Insert the following as a new first sentence in bylaw 14-1:
On or before the 15th day of November in each year, the Select Board shall meet and discuss with the Town Manager priorities to be included in the budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

The Charter Review Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland moved Article 33 and it was seconded Jeff Johnson. This motion passed with a majority vote. Hearing no further discussion the moderator declared Article 33 passed by majority vote.

A true copy, attest

Thomas E. Webb
Acting Town Clerk