


TOWN OF ROCKLAND

**ARTICLES IN WARRANT AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
AND THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**2019 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2019
7:00 P.M.**



**AT THE
ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Please bring this booklet to Town Meeting

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

EVERY VOTER desiring to speak shall arise and address the Chair, after recognition is obtained, state his name and address and stand while speaking, using the microphone in the front, unless otherwise directed. No motion made by anyone will be in order unless this procedure is followed.

ANY VOTER has the right to speak for or against any Article. A **NON-VOTER** may speak as long as they have the permission of the Moderator. After you speak on an Article, return to your seat. If you have a question on any Article before the house, address the Chair and I will direct the question to the proper person for an answer.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE recommendation is the first and main motion under each Article and under each Budget. Any attempt by a Department Head or anyone to move another figure would be an amendment to the main motion.

A motion to pass the Article over is the same as defeating the Article.

IF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DISAPPROVES AN ARTICLE it is an automatic motion to **PASS THE ARTICLE OVER** and that will be the first action on the Article.

After the Finance Committee reports on an Article, if they so desire, and the Article is referred to a certain **BOARD, COMMITTEE, or DEPARTMENT HEAD, IT WILL BE THE RULE** that they will be recognized first for their report. **IF I FORGET, REMIND ME.**

A UNANIMOUS VOTE IS BEST AND SAVES TIME. If I do not see or hear any objection I will declare it, **“A UNANIMOUS VOTE”**.

If an Article requires a 2/3rd or 4/5th vote and it is not **UNANIMOUS, IT IS THE** Moderator’s responsibility to see that a vote is taken.

IF A HAND VOTE is immediately questioned by seven (7) or more voters who stand to question the **VOTE**; it will be counted by the Tellers.

ARTICLE III SECTION 10 OF THE TOWN BY-LAWS STATES:

NO VOTE SHALL BE RECONSIDERED except after the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voters present and voting on a motion to reconsider such vote. Any voter may move to reconsider except that no motion to reconsider shall be made by any adjourned session of the same meeting unless he has given notice of his intention to move reconsideration at the session of the meeting at which the vote was passed. A vote shall not be reconsidered a second time or after a motion to reconsider has failed to pass.

TOWN BY-LAW ARTICLE II

SECTION 4. All reports, motions, and resolutions submitted for the consideration of the meeting involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing and other reports, motions or resolutions shall be reduced to writing if the Moderator so directs.

TOWN CHARTER

SECTION 3.06. All action taken at any and all Town Meetings shall be only upon those items contained in the Warrant for said Town Meeting and all articles in the Warrant shall be acted upon in order unless otherwise voted at any such Town Meeting, and printed copies of each such Warrant, with the recommendations of the Finance Committee is hereinafter set forth, shall be furnished to the voters of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.02 (a) (iv) Article II of this Charter.

Kevin T. Henderson
Town Moderator

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are frequently used in the Annual Town Warrant and at Town Meetings. In order to provide everyone with a better understanding of the meaning, the following definitions are provided.

RAISE AND APPROPRIATE:

The amount allowable by General Law to be raised for annual appropriations based on Property Tax Levy Limits and estimated local and state receipts.

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Available Funds include Undesignated Fund Balance in the General Fund and Unreserved Fund Balance in the Water and Sewer Funds as well as Overlay Surplus and the Host Community Trust Fund Balance.

UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE: (often referred to as “Free Cash”)

Fund Balance is the amount certified annually by the State Bureau of Accounts by deducting from surplus revenue all uncollected taxes for prior years. This fund may be used by a vote for the Town Meeting.

OVERLAY:

The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges for the purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements granted and avoiding fractions.

OVERLAY SURPLUS:

This is the accumulated amount of the Overlay for various years not used or required to be held in the specific Overlay Account for a given year, certified by the Board of Assessor, and may be used by a vote of the Town.

RESERVE FUND:

This fund is established by the votes at an Annual Town Meeting only and may be composed of an appropriation (not exceeding 5% of the tax levy of the preceding year). It is available throughout the year by vote of the Finance Committee for Unexpected and/or Extraordinary expenditures.

STABILIZATION FUND:

This is a fund created to provide a reserve. Appropriations from the Stabilization funds may be made at an Annual Town Meeting by a two-thirds vote for any lawful purpose.

CHERRY SHEET:

Named for the cherry colored paper on which the Massachusetts Commission of Corporations and Taxation traditionally has printed it. The cherry sheet carries the state aid figures that must be used by the Assessors in determining the amount to be raised by taxation.

It lists the amounts of county tax and state assessments, as well as the established tax distributions from the General Fund, reimbursements, agency funds and the Sales and Use Taxes.

**TOWN OF ROCKLAND
WARRANT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

DECEMBER 2, 2019

LIST OF ARTICLES

Article #	Department	Subject	Amount
1	Board of Selectmen	Rescind Article 1 of the Annual Town Meeting	\$ (75,000)
2	Board of Selectmen	Amend Article 4 of the Annual Town Meeting	See Below
3	Board of Selectmen	Authorize Town to enter into MOU with DCF For Federal Title IV-E Reimbursement	N/A
4	Board of Selectmen	Borrowing Elementary School Building	\$ 86,607,521

ARTICLE #1

Will the Town vote to rescind Article 1 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: Article 1 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting was voted to transfer money from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund into the following year's Stabilization Fund balance. The Finance Committee Reserve Fund can only be spent or transferred in the same year it was appropriated. This article must be rescinded so that the Town can complete the Tax Rate Recapitulation and set the tax rate for this year.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Finance Committee

ARTICLE # 2

Will the Town of Rockland vote to amend Article 4 of the Annual Town Meeting as shown below:

<u>Dept./Line Item</u>	<u>Voted Amount</u>	<u>Proposed Amended Amount</u>
School Department – Dept. 300	\$27,786,474.00	\$27,561,474.00
Water Department – Dept. 450	\$3,292,770.65	\$3,362,770.65
Sewer Department – Dept. 440 (With \$40,000 offset from Sewer Fund Balance for Pension and Health Insurance)	\$2,537,897.00	\$2,577,897.00
Revaluation – Dept. 142 to be amended to reflect \$43,000 to be transferred from Overlay Surplus to fund Revaluation		
<u>Total Raise and Appropriate</u>	<u>\$70,708,317.09</u>	<u>\$66,540,191.89</u>
<u>Total Raise and Appropriate</u> <u>General, Water, Sewer</u>	<u>\$70,593,317.09</u>	<u>\$66,202,542.91</u>

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Emergency: Adjustments are being made in the budget voted at the Annual Town Meeting as certain items were omitted from the budget, including payments from enterprise accounts to the general fund to offset insurance and pension costs for Water and Sewer employees, and a transfer from Overlay Surplus to fund revaluations in the Assessing Department. Other adjustments reflected above address a delay in Medicaid reimbursements to the School Department, and payments to the Commonwealth and Plymouth County which are made directly to those entities and are not subject to town meeting approval. While there are no reductions to any services, these adjustments must be done at this time so that the Town can complete the Tax Rate Recapitulation and set the tax rate for this year.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Finance Committee
Recommended by the School Committee

ARTICLE #3

Will the Town vote to authorize the Superintendent of Rockland Public Schools, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into Memorandum(s) of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Department of Children and Families, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in order to obtain Federal Title IV-E reimbursement(s) for foster care transportation and to provide that payments for such foster care transportation under such MOU(s) may be made from such reimbursement(s) as a result of the foster care transportation being performed without appropriation of said reimbursement(s), pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 70, or to take any other action relative thereto?

Emergency: This authorization by Town Meeting is necessary to receive reimbursements from State and Federal Grants. The vote must take place no later than March 1, 2020 in order to receive reimbursements for 2019.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Recommended by the School Committee

ARTICLE #4

Will the Town of Rockland vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Rockland School Building Committee for the Rockland Elementary School Building Project, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose, as authorized under General Laws, c. 44, and to apply the premium received by the town upon the sale of any bonds or notes there under, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of the issuance of such bond or notes, to pay project costs and reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed by the amount of the premium so applied. The Rockland ES project is proposed to be located at 1 Lt Col Brian Duffy Way, Rockland MA. This building project is for a new elementary school which will accommodate all students in grades 1–4. The project will include demolition of the Memorial Park and Jefferson school buildings and repurposing of those sites for athletic fields/recreational areas and related uses. The Rockland Elementary School facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”). The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser

of (1) sixty-seven and eight one hundredths percent (67.08 %) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Emergency: This project must be brought forward and voted by the Town at this time to comply with the approval and funding schedule provided by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The MSBA is the granting authority for school building projects and establishes deadlines for projects to move forward. The deadline for this project to be approved is February 27, 2020.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

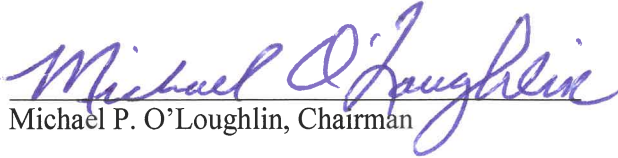
Recommended by the Finance Committee

Recommended by the Capital Planning Committee

Recommended by the School Committee

Given under our hand this 5th day of November, 2019,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Michael P. O'Loughlin, Chairman


Larry J. Ryan, Vice Chairman


Michael P. Mullen, Jr., Selectman

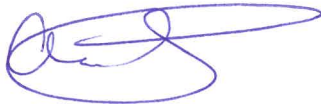

Richard Penney, Selectman


Kara L. Nyman, Selectman

RETURN OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this 15th day of November 2019, posted this warrant in each of the six precincts in the Town of Rockland.

ATTEST:
CONSTABLE



Precinct 1	T.K.O. Shea's	932 Hingham Street
Precinct 2	Sullivan Tire	1 VFW Drive
Precinct 3	Town Hall (Rockland Town Offices)	242 Union Street
	Rockland Public Library	20 Belmont Street
	Rockland Senior Center	317 Plain Street
	Rockland Post Office	39 Webster Street
Precinct 4	UPS Store	319 Centre Avenue
Precinct 5	Butterfield's Restaurant	372 Market Street
Precinct 6	Rockland Housing Authority	8 Studley Court