

CHAPTER 60

TOWN MEETINGS

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S60-1. Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting for the transaction of business, except the election of such officers and the determination of such matters as by law are required to be elected or determined by ballot, shall be held on the first or second Monday in May as determined by the Selectmen, in each year at 7:00 p.m.

S60-2. Annual Town Elections

The annual election of such officers and the determination of such matters as by law are required to be elected or determined by ballot shall be held on the third Monday of May in each year.

S60-3. Service of Warrants

Service of the warrant for every Town Meeting, unless a different time or method is prescribed by law, shall be made by posting a copy thereof at the main entrance to the Municipal Building and at least three (3) other public places in said town thirty (30) days at least before the day appointed for an Annual

Town Meeting and ten (10) days at least before the day appointed for a Special Town Meeting. Compliance with this section shall constitute legal notice of any meeting.

S60-4. Duty of Town Clerk

The Town Clerk shall have a number of printed copies of the town warrant and recommendations of the Finance Committee with him on the day of the adjourned town meeting, so that any legal resident voter of the town may have one if he or she asks for it. These printed copies of the town warrant and recommendations of the Finance Committee shall be furnished to the town Clerk by the Finance Committee at least one (1) hour before the time set for the adjourned town meeting.

S60-5. Closing Date for Submitting Articles by Petition.

The closing date and time of day for the submission of articles by petition to be placed in the warrant for an Annual or Special Town Meeting shall be published by the Selectmen in the local town newspapers at least ten (10) days before the closing of the warrant.

S60-6. Continuation of Town Meetings.

Whenever an Annual or Special Town Meeting shall be called, the meeting shall continue until all business is completed, day after day, Monday through Thursday, of each week beginning with the first session, said week or weeks being known as "Town Meeting Week"; provided, however, that the Town Meeting may, by a two-thirds vote, continue a meeting to another day and time and/or another time during the same day. If there is another town meeting within a meeting, the time for convening or resuming said meeting may be delayed until the current meeting is either completed or continued. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the adjournment by majority vote of a meeting in order to convene another meeting at the time for which said meeting is called.

S60-7. Admission to Town Meeting

At any town meeting held for the transaction of town business no person whose name is not on the list of voters shall be admitted to the floor of the hall and these bylaws shall be enforced by use of the check list.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, officials, officers and employees and consultants of the town who are non-residents or non-registered voters may attend and speak on any matter related to their duties in the same manner as any registered voter. Such persons may not, however, vote on any matter, nor shall they be

counted towards any quorum requirement. The Moderator may assign such persons to a specific seating area.

Other persons who may be non-residents or non-registered voters may attend any town meeting upon invitation of the Board of Selectmen or Moderator. The Moderator shall designate the areas in which such persons shall be seated.

Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any representative from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or County Commissioners from attending a meeting and speaking on a matter nor shall the same prevent representatives of the press from attending the meetings. Such persons shall be assigned to a specific seating area by the Moderator. Unless registered voters, such persons shall not vote on any matter nor shall they be counted towards any quorum requirement.

S60-8. Copies of Warrant and Recommendations Furnished.

A printed copy of the warrant and the recommendations of the Finance Committee shall be furnished to voters as provided in S60-4 of this chapter at all town meetings.

S60-9. Order of Consideration of Articles.

A. With the exception of the general budget article, the order for consideration of all town meeting articles shall be chosen in lottery fashion by the Town Clerk, assisted by the Town Moderator. After an article has been drawn for consideration, subsequent articles shall not be drawn until the meeting has acted upon the drawn article. All articles affecting the Classification and Salary Plan must be acted upon before action is taken on the general budget article. The general budget article shall be considered immediately upon completion of all classification and salary plan articles.

B. The Moderator may declare that certain articles, due to legal requirements, must be considered before or after articles or at a certain time. In such a situation those articles shall be considered when directed by the Moderator.

S60-10. Reports, Motions and Resolutions.

All reports, motions and resolutions submitted for the consideration of the meeting involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing. Any report, resolution or motion shall be reduced to writing if the Moderator so directs.

S60-11. Speaking on a Question.

A. No person shall speak more than twice upon any question, except for the correction of an error or to make an explanation, without first obtaining leave of the meeting, nor until others who have not spoken on the question shall speak if they desire.

B. No person shall speak more than five (5) minutes for the second time on any subject, if there are others who desire to speak but who have not been heard on the same subject, without first obtaining leave of the meeting.

C. Every person desiring to speak shall arise, address the Chair, first obtain recognition and stand while speaking, unless the Moderator otherwise directs.

S60-12. Voting.

Voting shall be by secret ballot when required by law or when at least fifteen (15) citizens so request or when requested by the Finance Committee in its written report. Except as required by law all other votes shall be taken by voice vote. If after two (2) voice votes the Moderator is unable to decide by the sound of the voices, or if his declaration of the vote is questioned by seven (7) or more voters, the Moderator shall without debate determine the vote by ordering a standing vote.

S60-13. Precedence of Motions.

When a question is before the meeting, the following motions shall be received and shall have precedence in the foregoing order and the first three (3) shall be decided without debate:

- A. To adjourn
- B. To lay on the table
- C. For the previous question
- D. To postpone for a time certain
- E. To commit, recommit or reform
- F. To amend
- G. To postpone indefinitely

S60-14. Reconsideration of Motions.

A motion to reconsider any vote must be made and voted upon the same day that the vote to be reconsidered was taken and before any vote of adjournment whether such vote of adjournment be final or to a day certain. A vote for reconsideration of any action must carry a two-thirds vote or the same shall be declared lost. There can be no reconsideration of a vote once reconsidered or after a vote not to reconsider. The rules applicable to a motion to

reconsider shall also apply to a motion to rescind. Nothing contained in this section, however, shall prevent the reconsideration or rescission of any vote at a subsequent town meeting duly called and containing a proper article for the purpose.

S60-15. Duties of Moderator.

The duties of the Moderator not specifically provided for by law or by this code shall be determined by the rules of practice contained in "Town Meeting Time, Little Brown 1962" so far as they may be adapted to the circumstances and powers of the town.

S60-16. Quorum.

No quorum requirements shall apply to any Annual or Special Town Meeting.

S60-17. Majority Vote Required.

In order to delete, amend or add any bylaws of the Town of Hull, a majority vote shall be required, except where otherwise provided for by Massachusetts General Laws.