

2026 Annual Town Meeting
CONSENT AGENDA PROCEDURE HANDOUT
By Zachary Kosan, Town Moderator

INTRODUCTION:

To streamline the Annual Town Meeting, we will use a Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda allows a single vote to pass a group of noncontroversial items, that is, articles on which all parties agree. Work on some Articles may be incomplete, and the sponsors ask for a vote of "No Action." For other articles, the action is noncontroversial or a formality, and we foresee no debate.

PROCEDURE:

One of the first orders of business at this year's Annual Town Meeting will be a single motion to take action as requested in the Motions Document on all of the articles listed on the Consent Agenda.

1. After the motion is made, the Moderator will call out the numbers of the consent agenda articles individually. Any voter who would like to ask a question about one of the articles or wishes to debate one of the articles should step up to the microphone and say the word "hold" when the Moderator calls the article number.
2. Next, the Moderator will inquire whether the request is for a question or debate. Suppose the purpose of the request is to ask a question. In that case, the Moderator will attempt to obtain a satisfactory answer quickly.
3. However, suppose the purpose is to hold the article for debate. In that case, the article will be removed from the Consent Agenda and restored to its original place in the Warrant to be moved, debated, and voted on in the usual manner.
4. It is hoped that voters will remove articles from the Consent Agenda only in cases of genuine concern.
5. After removing the debatable articles on the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will request a motion to take the requested actions on the remaining articles on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Moderator): I move that the Town take action on the articles listed on the Consent Agenda according to the motions as printed in the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles & Motions document:

- Article 2: FY 2026 Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers
 - Rationale: Supplemental appropriations are necessary to cover expenses beyond budgeted allocations, such as snow and ice removal.
- Article 4: Rescind Authorized but Unissued Debt (NO ACTION)
 - Rationale: Recommendation is No Action on this article.
- Article 5: Set the Salary of Elected Officials
 - Rationale: The Town Clerk is the only salaried, elected position.
- Article 7: FY 2027 Revolving Funds Spending Limits
 - Rationale: Revolving Funds are considered cash accounts of the Town. Spending limits are provided as required by law.
- Article 8: PEG Access and Cable Related Funding
 - Rationale: Funding is from a self-sustaining revolving fund and free cash is allocated to fund cable related expenses such as HCAM.
- Article 9: Transfer to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund
 - Rationale: Funding complies with actuarial schedule and is from free cash.
- Article 10: Transfer to the General Stabilization Fund
 - Rationale: Funding ensures compliance with Town Financial policies and is from free cash.
- Article 11: Transfer to the Capital Expense Stabilization Fund (NO ACTION)
 - Rationale: Recommendation is No Action on this article.
- Article 19: Community Preservation Funds
 - Rationale: Allocations from Community Preservation annual reserves. The 10% reserve allocation is the minimum required by law and is standard year over year.
- Article 39: Appoint Trustees of the School Fund
 - Rationale: This committee was created in 1820 by an act of law to manage funds from the sale of a school property sold at that time. As per the law, members must be appointed at Annual Town Meeting.