

The Town Meeting Procedures Report - April 27, 2012

The Town Meeting Procedures met on March 21, 2012 and April 11, 2012, in order to discuss the Articles that directly affect Town Meeting and its procedures:

- 1) ARTICLE 16 BYLAW AMENDMENT/TIME OF TOWN MEETING SESSIONS: which seeks to change the starting time of Town Meeting from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Inserted by the Board of Selectmen);
- 2) ARTICLE 20 BYLAW AMENDMENT/TIME LIMITS FOR TOWN MEETING SPEAKERS: which seeks to amend Title I, Article 1, Section 7(C), of the Town Bylaws ("Time Limits") to change maximum speaking time for Town Meeting debate. (Inserted at the request of Carl Wagner and 10 registered voters)
- 3) ARTICLE 21 BYLAW AMENDMENT/ELECTRONIC TOWN MEETING VOTING: which seeks to amend the Town Bylaws to provide for electronic voting at Town Meeting. (Inserted at the request of Eric D. Helmuth and 10 registered voters)
- 4) ARTICLE 22 ESTABLISH COMMITTEE TO STUDY ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR TOWN MEETING: which seeks to establish a committee of Town Meeting to be appointed by the Moderator to study electronic voting for Town Meeting, determine a charge to the committee as to its responsibility and duties;. (Inserted at the request of Eric D. Helmuth and 10 registered voters)
- 5) ARTICLE 53 APPROPRIATION/ELECTRONIC TOWN MEETING VOTING EQUIPMENT: which seeks an appropriation for the purchase or lease of electronic voting equipment for use at Town Meeting. (Inserted at the request of Eric D. Helmuth and 10 registered voters)

Mr. Helmuth and Mr. Wagner appeared to discuss their individual Articles. The Committee Voted against supporting Articles 16, 20, 21 and 53.

Article 16: It was the consensus that starting the Meeting earlier then 8:00 p.m. would be hardship upon those members who work out of Arlington and who wish to have dinner and spend time with their family prior to coming down to Town hall for an evening of Town Meeting. Therefore it is recommended that Article 16 be voted down.

Article 20: The committee believed that imposing a time limit upon speakers would have no discernable affect upon the length of Time Meeting and may actually stifle valuable debate. The Moderator reported that it was his belief that since the introduction of the electronic timer that most speakers were more cognizant of their time usage and did not approach the 10 minute limit. The Committee recommends voting against Article 20.

Articles 21 and 53: Mr. Helmuth reported that he would not be moving forward with either of these Articles as they were not ready.

The Committee fully supports Article 22 which proposes to establish a committee of Town Meeting members to study electronic voting at Town Meeting. Electronic voting is being slowly adopted by a few Towns across the Commonwealth. The Committee shall study and make recommendations to a future Town Meeting on whether the Town should adopt electronic voting, when the electronic devices shall be used, in what situations, and for what purposes. It will also study what devices are available, the costs and benefits of the devices and the security features available, as well as what procedures and Bylaws would need to be implemented and changed.

The Town Meeting Procedures Committee recommends the following vote:

VOTED:

That the Town hereby establishes a committee, not larger than seven (7) members to be appointed by the Moderator, for the purpose of studying electronic voting and to report back to and make recommendations to future Town Meetings.

The Town Meeting Procedures Committee:

John Worden
Hugh McCrory
Susan Elberger
James O'Connor, Assistant Moderator
John D. Leone Moderator

Arlington Town Meeting – Motion

ARTICLE NO.22

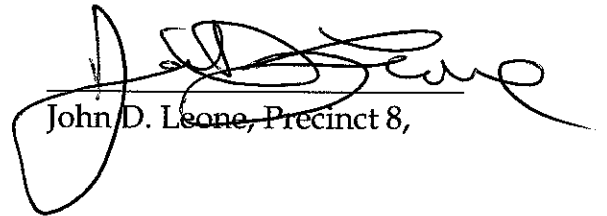
Dated: April 27, 2012

The Town Meeting Procedures Committee does hereby submit the following Motion:

VOTED:

That the Town hereby establishes a committee, not larger than seven (7) members to be appointed by the Moderator, for the purpose of studying electronic voting and to report back to and make recommendations to future Town Meetings.

Signed:



John D. Leone, Precinct 8,

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____