



Town of Wareham, Massachusetts

Town Meeting By-Law

TOWN MEETINGS

Section 1. The spring Town Meeting shall be construed to be the Annual Town Meeting and shall be held on the First Tuesday of April of each year and the polls shall be opened at 8:00 o'clock A.M. and shall be closed not earlier than 12:00 o'clock noon, for the election of town officers designated in the official ballots and for voting questions or matters that may be properly submitted to vote in the official ballot. This meeting will be adjourned until the fourth Monday of April at which time the general business of the town shall be transacted.

The Fall Town Meeting shall be held on the fourth Monday of October. (Article 14 of the October 21, 2002 Town Meeting; Approved by the Attorney General December 2, 2002).

The general business portion of the Spring and Fall Town Meetings shall be called to order at 7:00 o'clock P.M. and shall adjourn not later than 10:00 o'clock P.M., except that a meeting may be continued beyond 10:00 P.M. by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. (Article 18 of December 5, 6, and 13, 1994 Special Town Meeting; Approved by Attorney General February 27, 1995).

All articles to be included in the Spring and Fall Town Meetings shall be submitted to the Finance Committee no later than 35 days before the date on which such meetings are scheduled to convene.

Section 2. Town meetings shall be legally called and all petitions for insertion of articles in any warrant shall be in accordance with Section 2-4 of Article 2 of the Wareham Home Rule Charter.

Section 3. Before calling a town meeting, the Selectmen shall post notices of their intention in at least one public place in each precinct within the town ten days before the time for closing the warrant.

Section 4. One hundred (100) voters shall constitute a quorum at any town meeting, except that a quorum of one hundred fifty (150) voters is necessary to vote upon any appropriation of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or more.

Section 5. The duties of the moderator, and the government of the town meeting, not specially provided for by law, shall be determined by the rules of practice contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised (Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Edition) and Town Meeting Time, so far as they are adapted to the conditions and powers of the town.

Also, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 15, whenever a two-thirds vote is required by statute, such a vote may be declared as such by the Moderator without a count and be recorded as such by the Clerk upon such declaration provided, however, that if seven or more voting members of Town Meeting doubt the vote, a counted vote shall be taken. (Article 12 of October 27, 2003 Town Meeting, which reconvened on October 28, 2003; Approved by the Attorney General on November 21, 2003).

Section 6. No person elected Selectman on or after January 1, 1973 shall hold any other elective Town office during his term of office as Selectman.

If a Selectman elected on or after January 1, 1973 holds any other Town elective office during his term of office as Selectman, the office held by him as Selectman shall thereupon become vacant.