

**TOWN MEETING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
(TMSIC)**

**TOWN HALL
52 MAIN STREET
MILFORD, MA 01757**

Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Thursday, March 8, 2018, in Room 14 of the Town Hall. Renaldo A. DeLuzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present at the meeting were six members of the committee: Renaldo A. DeLuzio (Chairman), Michelangelo Bon Tempo (Clerk), Dr. Richard A. Heller, Kathryn L. Mastroianni, Richard A. Morrison, Michael P. Visconti, Jr. Absent from the meeting were Steven J. Trettel and Andrea C. Wexler.

1. On February 26, 2018, Richard A. Morrison filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office and the Town Clerk claiming that Chairman Renaldo A. DeLuzio violated the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. Chairman DeLuzio forwarded the complaint to the members of the Committee and called for a special meeting to address the complaint.

By general consent the complaint was received and placed on file.

Chairman DeLuzio announced that he would entertain a motion to refer the matter to Gerald M. Moody, Town Counsel, to prepare a response to the complainant.

Mr. Bon Tempo so moved.

The motion was carried unanimously.

2. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and corrected. Dr. Heller moved to approve the minutes as corrected.

The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Dr. Heller moved to send a letter prepared by Chairman DeLuzio requesting the Board of Selectmen to adopt by policy several changes in Town Meeting to said Board.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Pursuant to a motion made and carried during the last regular meeting, Chairman DeLuzio prepared the above-mentioned letter that recommended the following:

- a start time of 7:00 p.m. for Special Town Meetings
- the consolidation of street acceptance articles under a single Article in the warrant
- the consolidation of routine housekeeping authorizations under a single Article in the warrant

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- the establishment of standard dates for the Annual Town Meeting and the October Special Town Meeting

The letter was reviewed by the committee and placed on file.

4. No one from the public being present, an invitation to speak was unnecessary.

Other Matters

Pursuant to a stipulation of a motion made and carried during the regular meeting of February 26, 2018 on Speaker Time, Chairman DeLuzio moved to retain the original language of said motion with regards to the vote necessary to extend a speaker's time.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Standing Votes of the Town Meeting by inserting the following vote entitled "Speaker Time" which shall provide as follows:

1. Except with the consent of two-thirds of the Town Meeting members present and voting, initial presentation of articles by sponsors shall not exceed 10 minutes in total, whether presented by one individual or several. A vote to extend a presentation will be for another 10-minute period.
2. Except with the consent of two-thirds of the Town Meeting members present and voting, no person addressing the Town Meeting for the first time on any article shall speak for more than 5 minutes, and subsequent statements or presentations by the same person shall not exceed 3 minutes each no exceed 3 in number.
3. A speaker's concise response to the question directed to him by or through the Moderator shall not be considered a speech for purposes of this standing vote.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

The motion was carried: 4 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained.

Per the instructions of the committee, Chairman DeLuzio consulted with Town Counsel Moody and Atty. Michael J. Noferi, Town Moderator, on the question of whether consent to extend a speaker's time required a majority vote or two-thirds vote. Town Counsel opined that it could be either. The Moderator offered no opinion. Chairman DeLuzio reasoned that since the Speaker Time by-law mirrored the language of the long-established by-law of the town of Framingham, the two-thirds vote requirement should be retained in the text of the Article.

All parliamentary handbooks agree that a motion to limit or extend debate requires a two-thirds vote to pass. Hence, the article requires the language of a two-thirds vote, and the article once it becomes a motion on Town Meeting floor would require a two-thirds vote to pass and become a by-law.

Mr. Bon Tempo moved to reconsider a motion made and carried during the regular meeting of February 26, 2018 on Town Meeting End Time.

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The motion to reconsider was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bon Tempo moved to amend said motion by adding the following phrase: "An adjourned Town Meeting shall reconvene at 7:00 p.m.", such that the entire article would read as follows.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Standing Votes of the Town Meeting by inserting the following entitled "Town Meeting End Time" as follows: "Debate on a motion introduced before 10:00 p.m. shall continue to the motion's disposition. No motion on any additional article shall be introduced after 10:00 p.m. without a majority vote of those present. An adjourned Town Meeting shall reconvene at 7:00 p.m.", or take any other action in relation thereto.

The amendment to the motion was carried unanimously.

The motion as amended was carried unanimously.

As stated in the regular meeting minutes of February 26, 2018, this article is based on the results of the Town Meeting Survey Final Report and Addendum Comments wherein a majority of Town Meeting members responded that Town Meetings were too long. The article as amended retains the provision that triggers an adjournment time of 10:00 p.m. and now couples it with a provision for reconvening at 7:00 p.m. This, coincidentally, is in accord with the results of as the aforesaid Survey Final Report wherein the members were in favor of an earlier start time of 7:00 p.m. for Town Meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Michelangelo Bon Tempo
Clerk