

## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield Community:

It is my honor and pleasure to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting to be held on **Monday evening April 30, 2018 at 7:30pm at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium**. Please join us and participate as a member of Medfield's legislative body. Our collective determinations on the 30<sup>th</sup> will become the laws, regulations, and budgets of the Town of Medfield.

This April we have a very substantial agenda of Warrant Articles, so I am declaring an advisory of a possibility we may not be able to conduct and complete all of the town's business in one evening. If that determination is made necessary because of time constraints, then the Annual Town Meeting will adjourn on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> and reconvene on Tuesday evening, May 1, at 7:30pm. Every meeting requires the Moderator to balance 'due consideration' with 'due expedience' – but this year the efficiency and pace of the meeting will need to be closely monitored to make sure that we are allowing for appropriate town dialogue, debate, and discussion on a range of important issues. However, consistent with past process, reasonable time limitations will be placed on certain discussions and the spirit of civility will prevail. .

In order to address the Articles in an expedient and well-ordered fashion, we will group the articles in common cohorts for consideration and action together: We will use our traditional lottery system to determine the timing and order of the treatment of the grouped Articles.

We have a great community to call our home. We value education, open space, safe streets and homes, the well-being of the young and the old, quality municipal services, and the advancement of local commerce. But it takes hard work, open and effective communication, and a deep commitment to the town's best interests for us to achieve these common objectives. Our Annual Town Meeting, even with all of its imperfections, is the night we gather to speak with one another, deliberate as a law-making body, and demonstrate our pledge to balance and advance the forces which will continue to make Medfield a special place. Please join us at Town Meeting and be a part of the hard work, open communication, and commitment to the future.

It is a very strategic time for Medfield. Our actions and decisions at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting will impact our community for years to come. It remains a continuing challenge to align our financial commitment and capability to the needs, wants, and expectations of the community. Our revenue generating capability and property tax burden will be a subject of discussion. It is an important time for all members of our community to participate in our town

meeting and to engage directly with your neighbors in open dialogue about the priorities of the town.

As for procedures, the law of the Commonwealth provides: "The moderator shall preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order, and make public declaration of all votes." At the beginning of our meeting on the 30th, I will describe the specific guidelines for our dialogue and deliberations. My guidance will come from the traditional blend of fairness, prudence, expedience, respectful communication, civility, and focused attention on the best interests of the community.

I ask that you review your Report on the 2018 Warrant. Please bring your copy with you to the Town Meeting as a "scorecard" as we address the warrant articles and the town's operating and capital budgets. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, April 30. And please hold Tuesday evening May 1 on your calendar in the event we need a part of a second evening to address the full range of issues before the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott  
Town Moderator