

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

A special hello to my neighbors:

I'm thinking back to last November 18th when we came together for a Special Town Meeting to address articles related to zoning at the former Medfield State Hospital. We anticipated gathering again for our 2020 Annual Town Meeting on the first Monday of May.

Instead, our world and our community have been challenged in an unprecedented manner by uncertainty and change. And change will be a theme for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. We will meet outside at the high school's turf field. We will meet on a Saturday morning at the very end of June. We will have a quorum requirement reduced from 250 voters down to 25 voters. We will limit our purpose and agenda to the essential legislative business of the town including, most specifically, the budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and articles of financial consequence. We will have a historically brief Town Meeting. We will be following guidance from our Board of Health.

Generally, I enjoy urging all of Medfield's voters to come to our Annual Town Meeting. We have established a very proud heritage, over three and a half centuries, of direct and open self-government. We have embraced our role as the legislative branch and we always appreciate the opportunity to gather as a community. However, this year will be different. I envision a tightly orchestrated, limited agenda, and reduced quorum version of our Annual Town Meeting conducted in an expeditious fashion, in a safe and positive outdoor environment, to be held on **Saturday, June 27 commencing at 11:00am on the Calvin Fisher Field at Medfield High School**. The rain date will be Monday, June 29 at 6:00pm.

Please consider your attendance as "always welcome" but, perhaps, not as necessary as I would normally declare as your Moderator. We have a limited scope of town legislation, principally budgetary, on the warrant. Our Selectmen, Warrant Committee, School Committee, town boards, and our town administrative officials have worked exceptionally hard under very difficult circumstance to prepare and recommend a budget for the town's consideration and approval. At the next appropriate time for a Special Town Meeting, we look forward to gathering again to address the more customary range of legislative articles and initiatives.

In the near future, we have much to talk about as a town. Recent events, and the resulting reductions in state aid and local receipts, have put more pressure on an already delicate financial situation. We have worked very hard and we have stayed dedicated to advancing and balancing the values of this great community: quality education, excellent municipal services, unparalleled open space, safe streets and homes, the well-being of the young and the old, neighborhood engagement, recreation, a library, and the advancement of local commerce. Continuing to advance and balance our shared values will require the full attention and an all-out effort by the town.

As for procedures for the meeting, 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 27th, I will describe the guidelines for our dialogue and deliberations. My guidance will come from the traditional blend

of fairness, prudence, expedience, respectful communication, and consideration of the best interests of the community.

Please carefully review the *Report of the Warrant* and, if you attend, bring it with you to the meeting. The *Report* provides an excellent overview of town finances and the full text of articles under consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator