

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield Community:

After a long winter on the east banks of the Charles River, spring has finally arrived. One sure sign of spring is the annual opportunity to gather together as a community, as we have for over 360 years, to address the important local issues of the day. One of the proudest traditions of New England life, and one of the most effective instruments ever conceived for self-government, is the open town meeting. In Medfield we celebrate that heritage of self-government. It is therefore my great pleasure, as your Town Moderator, to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting which will be held on **Monday evening April 28, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium.**

I thank and commend the residents of Medfield for your great participation in our two special town meetings in the last six months. I urge you to come to our Annual Town Meeting and continue your contribution as a member of Medfield's legislative body. It is a powerful fact that our collective determination will set the course for Medfield's future. Our votes and resolutions on April 28 become the laws, regulations, and budgets of our town.

I believe we have a special place to call our home. We care about Medfield and we share a common purpose. We understand it takes hard work, open and active communication, and a deep commitment by many to building an extraordinary community to live, to work, and to raise families. The Annual Town Meeting, even with all of its imperfections, is a night when we gather to speak with one another and, year over year, to demonstrate our pledge to superior education, safe streets and homes, a library of knowledge, the well-being of the young and the old, quality municipal services, the advancement of local commerce, and the value of open space and recreation.

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 28th, 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. As usual, there is a constant need to balance 'due consideration' with 'due expedience' which will require a reasonable time limitation on certain discussions.

I ask that you review this Report on the 2014 Warrant – and please bring your copy with you to the Town Meeting as a “scorecard” as we address the warrant articles and the town’s operating budget. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, April 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator