

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MODERATOR

Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting for 2008. It is my honor and pleasure, for the sixth time, to invite the citizens of Medfield to attend our Town Meeting to be held on Monday evening April 28 at 7:30PM at the Medfield High School gymnasium.

As we prepare for the meeting, I remain impressed by two great themes of our annual gathering on the last Monday of April. First, we transact the important business of the Town. The Town is a municipal corporation, and we act as the shareholders to address, debate, and decide important questions having to do with budgets, capital expenditures, zoning, and Town governance. This year, the “business” considerations we address as shareholders include articles of strategic importance – land acquisition and the appropriation of funds for major building projects. Similar to a corporate meeting, we come together with each participant having a voice and a vote in the direction and outcome of these fundamental business determinations. The second great theme is the celebration of Medfield’s heritage of self-governance. Since 1651, and throughout the pioneering, colonial, industrial and modern eras of this country, Medfield’s citizens have gathered in a profound demonstration of participatory self-governance. Each year we exercise the cherished rights of expression and assembly – rights that brave men and women have, throughout our history, fought and sacrificed to establish and preserve.

So, whether you like to think of our Annual Town Meeting as a meeting of stakeholders necessarily transacting the business of the Town or as a gathering of neighbors coming together to participate in an exercise of democracy and freedom – or both – I urge you to attend the Annual Town Meeting. We have a large agenda with 42 articles on the Warrant. We strive to conduct the meeting in one evening; however, if the requirements of process and time demand a continuation, we would reconvene the next night on Tuesday April 29.

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.” Therefore, at the beginning of our meeting on the 28th, I will once again describe the guidelines governing our dialogue and deliberations. My guidance comes from a number of sources, including: my best judgment; principles of fairness and expedience; precedents from past meetings; our Town charter and by-laws; the book *Town Meeting Time*; and the statutes and case law of the Commonwealth.

Please review this Report on the 2008 Warrant – and please bring your copy with you to the Town Meeting as a “scorecard” of the warrant articles. I look forward to seeing you on the 28th of April at our high school. Come and enjoy your role as a Medfield “shareholder” or “citizen.”

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott