

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To the Medfield Community:

Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting for 2004. For a second year, it is my pleasure and honor to preside over the Town Meeting. We continue a distinguished tradition of participatory democracy -- our townspeople have been gathering since Medfield was at the literal outer edge of pioneering America. Over one hundred years before Medfield's militia fought in a war for national independence, the Medfield community was meeting to discuss and decide issues of great local importance.

I appreciate your participation in the Town Meeting. It is our process for addressing and advancing -- together as a community -- the regulations, budgets, initiatives and laws of the town. Statute declares that: "The moderator shall preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order, and make public declaration of all votes." At the commencement of the meeting, I will explain the rules and procedures which will govern tonight's open forum. At the core of these procedures will be: fairness; open, informative and respectful discourse; and deliberative consideration of community interest. I will once again attempt to use my rightful discretion, wisely I hope, to advance these principles. There will be reasonable time limitations on discussion necessary to balance due consideration with due expediency. I will declare at the outset of the meeting that certain Articles must be addressed and voted on in a particular order because of their interdependency. The order of other Articles will be determined by lottery.

As in the recent past, the 2004 Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting is long and diverse. We will consider and vote on 37 warrant articles. I will move the meeting along -- respectful of the fact that we have several meaningful issues to address. Whether we finish conducting the town's common business in one session will depend upon the scope and dimension of the town's discussion and deliberation.

So, again, welcome to the exercise of self-government.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Moderator