

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**February 11, 2019**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question:** What is the action being requested of Town Meeting Members?

**Answer:** To hear the reports of Town Officers and the Finance Committee regarding the state of the Town and the Budget Outlook.

**Question:** Why was a Special Town Meeting called if no action is requested other than hearing reports?

**Answer:** The purpose of the Special Town Meeting is to ensure that Town Meeting Members and the public are fully informed about the budget options for FY2020 and the impact of placing a Proposition 2 ½ Override question on the ballot for the March 26<sup>th</sup> Town Election.

Under state law, only the Select Board may vote to place an override question on the ballot, and by Winchester's Town Charter, Town Meeting may not take up budget and financial matters until the first Monday in May, this year May 6. Convening a Special Town Meeting to hear the reports of Town Officers and the Finance Committee regarding the state of the Town and the budget outlook is a way to inform Town Meeting Members and discuss the budget options and override impacts before the Town Election on March 26.

**Question:** What information will be presented?

**Answer:** Town Officials will present information on various options for future budgets:

- FY2020 No Action – if the Town elects to take no action to increase revenues or reduce expenditures.
- FY2020 Austerity Budget – if the Town elects not to increase revenues, only to reduce expenditures; and
- FY2020 Override Budget – if the Town elects to increase revenues and expenditures to keep pace with growth and foreseeable needs.

In addition, the report will explain the anticipated override amount needed to sustain the Town's municipal services, schools, and capital program over the next three to four years.

**Question:** If I do not support the financial plan that is presented should I vote "no" on the motion to receive and file the reports?

**Answer:** No, the motion to accept the reports is separate and distinct from the substantive issue being put before voters on March 26. Town Meeting Members are only voting on the procedural motion to accept and file the reports presented at the Special Town Meeting. These reports are official records of the Town Meeting. Town Meeting is not being asked to vote for or against putting an override question on the ballot. All registered voters, including Town Meeting Members, may vote on the override question on the March 26 Town Election ballot.

**Question:** Will questions be allowed under the article?

**Answer:** Yes, the Town Moderator has stated that he will allow questions.