



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**MAY 2, 2023**

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# **WILTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

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### **PROCEDURAL RESOLUTIONS FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

1. The meeting shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.
2. The meeting shall impose a three (3) minute time limit on speakers for all items. If a speaker chooses to address more than one (1) bonding resolution, the speaker will have up to a total of six (6) minutes.

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3. The meeting shall modify a motion to “Call the Question” as follows:

At some appropriate point in time, someone is likely to “call the question.” This is a procedural rule under Robert’s where a participant in the assembly feels that there has been enough discussion of an item, and he/she wishes to cut off the debate. That procedurally is called a motion to “call the question.” (The assembly is urged to avoid making such a motion until all have had one fair chance to voice their views.) The meeting shall adopt a rule to give the Moderator discretion to delay the vote on a motion to “call the question.” In such case, the Moderator will ask how many people would still like to speak, allow such remaining people to speak, and then ask for the vote to call the question.

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4. The meeting shall adopt a Robert's Rule known as "filling the blanks." What that means is this: If there is a motion to cut a particular budget by a specific amount, the Moderator will then ask for other suggestions to see if anyone else proposes a different amount. If there are several suggested dollar cuts, each will be considered to "fill in" the "blank." There will then be debate on all the suggested cuts and a vote will be taken on each proposed cut, starting with the largest, and ending if at any point one of the cuts gets a majority.

## ADDITIONAL RULES REGARDING THE PROCESS

The Town Meeting may not (per §C-30):

1. Appropriate more money than the Board of Finance has recommended for a particular line item;
2. Appropriate money for any purpose not recommended by the Board of Finance and represented by a line item;
3. Reduce any line item below the Town's legal obligations;
4. Reduce one line item to create an increase in another line item.

## **ADDITIONAL RULES REGARDING THE PROCESS**

The Town Meeting may:

1. Reduce particular line items within the Board of Selectmen's recommended budget;
2. Reduce only the total recommended Board of Education budget—not a particular line item.
3. Reduce the debt service appropriation, but not below legal obligations.

# VOTING PROCEDURES

The Charter of the Town of Wilton states that, upon the conclusion of all reasonable discussion on the proposed budget, a machine vote will be taken. This machine vote will occur on Saturday, May 6, 2023 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Clune Center Lobby. Absentee ballots will also be available.

Each voter shall have the following choices on the budget:

a) approve the budget; b) reject the budget because it is too high; or c) reject the budget because it is too low.

To determine the outcome of the budget vote, all rejection votes shall be added together and the total weighed against the total votes for the acceptance of the budget.

Other votes will be on the ballot as well.

# VOTING OPTIONS ON BONDING RESOLUTIONS

With regard to the bonding resolutions on the agenda, there will be adequate time for discussion. However, the only vote on the bonding resolutions will be on the official ballot.