

## ARTICLE 20:

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Town Charter as recommended by the Charter Review Committee as follows; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and authorizing the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition,

Amend Chapter 2, Section 4-6, of the Town Charter as follows:

Chapter 2-4-6

~~Except in the case of a unanimous voice vote as declared by the Moderator,~~ a. A roll call vote shall be required for all final main motions *on every warrant article and on any matters* with respect to the following subject matters: adoption or amendment of zoning by-laws; adoption or amendment of general by-laws; and fiscal matters which are defined as any appropriation, borrowing, fund transfer, or the creation of or re-authorization of such enterprise or revolving funds as may be authorized by state law, provided, however, that in the event of a vote which the Moderator determines to be near unanimous, the Moderator may elect to take a roll call of only those voting in the minority,  
Or take any other action relative thereto.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

### **RECOMMENDATION: Approval (Unanimous, 13-0-0)**

The Advisory & Finance Committee recommends Town Meeting approve Article 20. Approval of this article will require the use of roll call vote for every warrant article and additional subject matters as listed in the warrant article language. Since Town Meeting votes are recorded electronically, this requirement for roll call votes is readily implementable and would not affect the efficiency of Town Meeting proceedings. Roll call votes will bring greater transparency and accountability to Town Meeting actions, as the roll call votes become permanent public record.

## Plymouth Charter Review Committee 2015

### **ARTICLE 20:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 2, Section 4-6, of the Town Charter as follows:

Chapter 2-4-6

~~Except in the case of a unanimous voice vote as declared by the Moderator, a~~ A roll call vote shall be required for all final main motions *on every warrant article and on any* matters with respect to the following subject matters: adoption or amendment of zoning by-laws; adoption or amendment of general by-laws; and fiscal matters which are defined as any appropriation, borrowing, fund transfer, or the creation of or re-authorization of such enterprise or revolving funds as may be authorized by state law, provided, however, that in the event of a vote which the Moderator determines to be near unanimous, the Moderator may elect to take a roll call of only those voting in the minority.

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The intent of this change is to simply require that a roll call vote be taken for every warrant article that comes before Town Meeting.

This article does not stipulate electronic voting, but as with recent Town Meetings, an electronic vote can be used as a roll call. However, if electronic voting becomes unavailable, this change will require a traditional roll call.

This article does not require roll call voting for any procedural votes, such as a motion to adjourn, a motion to take articles out of order, a motion to call the vote, a motion to extend time, a motion to amend, etc.

This change comes at the request of those who asked for more accountability from Town Meeting members, as the roll call votes will become a permanent record for how each member votes on each article and will be recorded in the minutes.

#### CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE 2015

- Tom Baratka
- Tiffany Cessero
- Tim Grandy
- Karen Keane, Committee Clerk
- Mike Lincoln, Committee Chair
- Douglas O'Roak, Committee Vice Chair
- Anita M. Rocheteau
- Craig Sander
- Scott Stephenson