

A REVIEW OF THREE CHARTERS: DARTMOUTH, FALL RIVER, & WINCHESTER cont.

by Betsy Hall

WINCHESTER: Population: 21,374 (2010) Annual budget \$134,042,698 Charter Updated 2017

EXECUTIVE BRANCH 5 member Select Board (3 year term) and 1 Town Manager (No term limit)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH Representative Town Meeting 192 members elected from 8 precincts (3 year term) Fall and Spring Town Meetings annually

From the Charter: **DEBATE:** The moderator shall recognize any nonresident or minor, provided the town meeting so authorizes.

3.4 Limitation on Individual Speakers - Unless granted an extension of time by vote of the meeting, the individual speaking as the initial proponent on a main motion shall not speak for more than ten minutes. Subsequently, any person speaking on any motion shall not speak for more than five minutes unless granted an extension of time by the meeting. No person shall receive more than one extension of time on any pending motion, but this extension shall be for whatever time voted by town meeting.

3.5 Limitation on Debate, Special Circumstances - Upon a motion to lay on the table, not more than ten minutes shall be allowed for debate, and no person shall speak thereon more than three minutes.

FILLING OF VACANCIES – Any vacancy in the full number of town meeting members from any precinct shall be filled until the next annual town election by the remaining town meeting members from the precinct, from among the voters thereof. The balance of the unexpired term, if any, shall be filled at such annual town election.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

□ The town meeting may from time to time, by bylaw, establish standing committees to which shall be referred warrant articles for study, review and report in advance of the sessions of the town meeting.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 5 Elected members (Three year term)

ELECTED BOARDS Planning Board (3 year term), Board of Library Trustees (3 year term), Board of Assessors (3 year term), Board of Health (three year term), Housing Authority (5 year term), Dartmouth Historical Commission (3 year term)

TOWN CLERK Elected for a three-year term

TOWN MODERATOR Elected for a one-year term

REAL ESTATE TAXES Split Tax Rate: Residential: 12.83 Commercial: 12.24