

Town of Plympton Finance Committee Information about Proposed Bylaw

The Plympton Finance Committee is proposing the Town adopt the following bylaw at the May 2011 Town Meeting:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Plympton Municipal Bylaw Article 3, Section 4, to add the following language:

“Section 4A: “With respect to any article pertaining to the annual operating budget, or subsequent revisions to the annual budget at the same or subsequent town meetings, the Moderator shall give the Finance Committee the opportunity to offer the main motion.”

What this means is that at Town Meeting, the Finance Committee has the opportunity to present the main motion about the operating budget. This has historically been exactly what happens at Town Meeting and this Bylaw would not change the way the budget is presented at Town Meeting, it is simply including this longstanding practice in the Town's Bylaws.

In the months leading up to Town Meeting, the Finance Committee works with all town departments to develop budget recommendations that become an article on the Town Meeting Warrant. Historically, the Finance Committee's recommendation is the first and main budget motion acted upon by Town Meeting. The Bylaw would not change anyone's right to place holds on budget lines and/or propose amendments to specific budget lines or even the entire budget.

In summary, this proposed Bylaw will incorporate into the Town's Bylaws language that will ensure the longstanding tradition of the Finance Committee making the main motion about the budget. It does not limit anyone's rights to make changes to the budget through the Town Meeting process.

For further information, or if you have any questions, please contact Finance Committee Chairman Max West at finance@town.plympton.ma.us .