

**TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 19, 2025**

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium at 100 Lothrop Street in said Easton on Monday, the 19th day of May, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

PRESENTATION BY PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE EASTON (PASE)

A two-page summary of PASE's findings is available here – www.easton.ma.us/PASEsummary. Questions and answers about the committee's work and recommendations are available at www.easton.ma.us/paseFAQ

The Town of Easton has for years grappled with a structural revenue deficit borne out of the statutory limitations of Proposition 2 ½, its status as a Chapter 70 minimum aid school district, and the growth of fixed expenses at higher rates than recurring revenue. This has contributed to lean budgets producing below average staff levels compared to economically comparable communities and districts, and correspondingly lean operating budget proposals to Town Meeting to live within the Town's revenue means.

At numerous Annual Town Meetings, voters have expressed concerns about service levels from the floor and via amendments seeking to increase funding levels for municipal and/or school departments, often by leveraging one-time reserve funds. Recognizing the sincere concern of voters to ensure sustainable and quality services in Easton, but also the impossibility of doing so sustainably in the long-term using one-time reserve funds, the FY2025 operating budget was amended at the Annual Town Meeting on May 20, 2024, as follows:

... and further provide that Town Meeting authorize the establishment of a Committee to be jointly appointed by the Select Board and School Committee to review the Town and School department staffing, programing and overall operating positions, including a comparison to

comparable communities, and making a report to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting along with any recommendations for any appropriate actions or remedial measures, all designed to facilitate the promotion of sustainable and quality services in the Town of Easton.

The Committee shall include the Town Administrator, Superintendent, Finance Director of the Town and EPS, the Chairs of the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee, 2 members of the Easton Educators' Association to be appointed by the union, and no fewer than four (4) residents at large to be appointed by the Select Board and School Committee. A Committee Charge shall be adopted by the Select Board and School Committee at a duly posted public meeting in advance of the solicitation of any volunteers to be considered for appointment.

This nineteen-member committee includes representation from a broad background of town and school elected and appointed leadership, Easton citizens, educators, and public safety personnel who have spent since last summer reviewing Easton's operating position, staffing, programming, and finances to fulfill their charge and deliver recommendations to Easton consistent with the vote of the 2024 Town Meeting.

The May 2025 Annual Town Meeting will open with a presentation by Promoting A Sustainable Easton before voters consider two operating budget choices under Article 1 – the non-override budget balanced primarily through millions in cuts to town and school services and the use of reserve funds; or Article 2 – an override contingent budget which would position Easton to sustain services through a Proposition 2 ½ override. The Article 2 budget, even if passed at Town Meeting, will still need a second vote of approval at the June 10th Special Election to actually take effect.

Visit www.easton.ma.us/PASE for all committee reports, documents, and recommendations.

ARTICLE 1. FY 2026 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the Town charges for the ensuing fiscal year including the salaries of the several elected and appointed officers of the Town, including cost items for collective bargaining agreements, and make appropriations for the same as listed below, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Continued on next page.)

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	AMOUNT
01.120	SELECT BOARD	\$ 451,816
01.131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000
01.132	RESERVE FUND	130,000
01.135	ACCOUNTANT	316,922
01.140	ASSESSORS	357,920
01.145	TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER	384,831
01.150	TOWN COUNSEL	175,000
01.152	HUMAN RESOURCES	167,423
01.155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	437,877
01.160	TOWN CLERK	358,421
01.175	PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	338,015
01.210	POLICE	5,429,371
01.211	PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH	603,000
01.220	FIRE AND RESCUE	5,751,635
01.240	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	384,595
01.310	REGIONAL & COUNTY SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS	1,938,365
01.400	DPW ADMINISTRATION	3,805,223
01.500	HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	1,207,482
01.610	LIBRARY	608,090
01.700	MATURING DEBT & INTEREST	10,263,842
01.910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE	20,419,172
01.920	OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	148,300
01.300	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	51,539,255
60.440	SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	1,465,706
61.450	WATER DIVISION ENTERPRISE	5,127,796
62.430	SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING ENTERPRISE	2,171,877
63.120	P.E.G. ACCESS & CABLE RELATED FEES ENTERPRISE	700,000
	TOTAL FY 2026 BUDGET	<u>\$114,683,934</u>

Submitted by Town Administrator

Explanation: This is the annual operating budget for the Town. The Town Administrator will make a presentation at town meeting regarding Articles 1, 2A, and 2B. All budget documents and details are available at www.easton.ma.us/fy26budget

Select Board Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

School Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 2.A. CREATION OF AN OVERRIDE RESERVE STABILIZATION FUND CONTINGENT UPON PASSAGE OF ARTICLE 2.B.

To see if the Town will vote to establish pursuant to G.L. C. 40, S. 5B, an Override Reserve Stabilization Fund for purposes of defraying future town and school wages and insurances, contingent upon the passage of the alternative override budget detailed in Article 2.B and associated Proposition 2 ½ referendum question, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2.B. ALTERNATIVE FY2026 OPERATING BUDGET CONTINGENT ON PASSAGE OF OVERRIDE ELECTION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the Town charges for the ensuing fiscal year including the salaries of the several elected and appointed officers of the Town, and make appropriations for the same as listed below, with said appropriations to be made in place of any funds appropriated under Article 1, provided that the appropriation of funds and adjustment of funding sources described under the Contingent Override Budget Approval column of this Article 2.B, as printed below, shall be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ referendum question under General Laws Chapter 59, §21C, and that if such referendum fails, any appropriations made under Article 1 shall remain in place, or take any other action relative thereto.

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	Regular Budget (Same amounts as Article 1)	Contingent Override Budget Approval	ARTICLE 2 TOTAL
01.120	SELECT BOARD	\$ 451,816		\$ 451,816
01.131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000		2,000
01.132	RESERVE FUND	130,000	(30,000)	100,000
01.135	ACCOUNTANT	316,922		316,922
01.140	ASSESSORS	357,920		357,920
01.145	TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER	384,831	51,196	436,027
01.150	TOWN COUNSEL	175,000		175,000
01.152	HUMAN RESOURCES	167,423		167,423
01.155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	437,877		437,877
01.160	TOWN CLERK	358,421		358,421
01.175	PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	338,015	10,000	348,015
01.210	POLICE	5,429,371	223,850	5,653,221
01.211	PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH	603,000		603,000
01.220	FIRE AND RESCUE	5,751,635	284,000	6,035,635
01.240	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	384,595		384,595
01.310	REGIONAL & COUNTY SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS	1,938,365		1,938,365

(Continued on next page.)

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	Regular Budget (Same amounts as Article 1)	Contingent Override Budget Approval	ARTICLE 2 TOTAL
01.400	DPW ADMINISTRATION	3,805,223	148,077	3,953,300
01.500	HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	1,207,482	40,229	1,247,711
01.610	LIBRARY	608,090		608,090
01.700	MATURING DEBT & INTEREST	10,263,842		10,263,842
01.910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE	20,419,172	75,000	20,494,172
01.920	OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	148,300		148,300
01.300	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	51,539,255	2,060,000	53,599,255
60.440	SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	1,465,706		1,465,706
61.450	WATER DIVISION ENTERPRISE	5,127,796		5,127,796
62.430	SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING ENTERPRISE	2,171,877		2,171,877
63.120	P.E.G. ACCESS & CABLE RELATED FEES ENTERPRISE	700,000		700,000
	TRANSFER TO OVERRIDE RESERVE STABILIZATION FUND		800,000	800,000
	CAPITAL BUDGET RESERVE		<u>201,710</u>	<u>201,710</u>
	TOTAL FY 2026 BUDGET	<u>\$114,683,934</u>	<u>\$3,864,062</u>	<u>\$118,547,996</u>
	FUNDING SOURCES:			
	TAXATION (Includes tax levy, state aid, local receipts)	\$102,718,626	\$7,300,000	\$110,018,626
	Less: UNAPPROPRIATED EXPENSES RAISED FROM TAXATION (Includes state and county assessments, allowance for abatements and exemptions)	<u>(1,899,307)</u>	<u>(150,000)</u>	<u>(2,049,307)</u>
	NET TAXATION	\$100,819,319		\$107,969,319
	FREE CASH	1,196,089	(1,196,089)	0
	STABILIZATION FUND	2,089,849	(2,089,849)	0
	SEPTIC BETTERMENTS RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT	260,437		260,437
	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS	175,000		175,000
	PLANNING BOARD 53E ½ FUNDS	35,000		35,000
	SEWER ENTERPRISE RECEIPTS	839,844		839,844
	SEWER SURPLUS/BETTERMENTS/DIF	625,862		625,862
	WATER ENTERPRISE RECEIPTS	4,970,657		4,970,657
	WATER SURPLUS	800,000		800,000

(Continued on next page.)

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	Regular Budget (Same amounts as Article 1)	Contingent Override Budget Approval	ARTICLE 2 TOTAL
	SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING RECEIPTS	2,171,877		2,171,877
	P.E.G. ACCESS & CABLE RELATED FEES ENTERPRISE	700,000		700,000
	TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	<u>\$114,683,934</u>	<u>\$3,864,062</u>	<u>\$118,547,996</u>

Submitted by Town Administrator

Explanation: This budget includes funding from a proposed operational override referendum that will take effect if the election scheduled on June 10 is successful. Otherwise, the non-override budget passed in Article 1 will be in place. The article would also create a special purpose stabilization fund known as "override reserve stabilization fund" to offset future wage and insurance cost increases to enhance the longevity of the override revenue increase.

Information about the override can be found at www.easton.ma.us/override

Select Board Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

School Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 3. ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CHAPTER 59, SECTION 5C 1/2 AND SECTION 5, CLAUSE 22I TO ALLOW FOR AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFYING TAXPAYERS AND ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES ON CERTAIN VETERANS EXEMPTIONS.

To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5C1/2, which allows for an additional real estate exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, and to provide that the additional exemption shall be up to 100 percent of the personal exemption, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025, contingent upon passage of an override pursuant to Article 2, and further if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F annually by a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) determined by the Department of Revenue based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025, contingent upon passage of an override pursuant to Article 2, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: Passage of this article will provide additional tax relief to qualifying individuals for the above referenced exemptions. Acceptance of MGL c. 59, section 5C ½ would effectively

double applicable exemptions, being limited only in instances where the additional amount reduces taxes below 10 percent of the full value before adding exemptions or if the additional exemption results in a taxpayer owing less tax than was assessed in the prior fiscal year. Acceptance of MGL c. 59, Section 5, Clause 22I (new provision related to “HERO” act), will increase the amount of tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under the above referenced clauses annually by a cost-of-living adjustment determined by the Department of Revenue based on the Consumer Price Index. The projected annual financial impact of this article is approximately \$150,000 and is contingent upon successful passage of the override budget in Article 2.

Select Board Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 4. FY 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the capital budget needs of the Town for fiscal year 2026 or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>GENERAL</u>	
Fire – Cardiac Monitors	\$107,000
Subtotal	\$107,000
<u>ENTERPRISE</u>	
Water – Ion Exchange Resin Replacement	\$980,000
Water Main Replacement	\$1,500,000
Water – Generator and upgrades for Wells 1 & 6	\$107,000
Water – Wells and Water Treatment	\$75,000
Subtotal	\$2,662,000
<i>TOTAL GENERAL AND ENTERPRISE</i>	<i>\$2,769,000</i>

Submitted by Town Administrator

Explanation: This reduced annual capital budget has been scaled back from prior years to prioritize and include only the most urgent capital needs. The outcome of the override contingent budget will significantly influence Easton’s capacity to fund capital projects and will be reevaluated in the fall once results are known.

Select Board Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 5. SUPPLEMENT FY 2025 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement fiscal year 2025 budgets, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

Explanation: The water enterprise fund will require \$125,000 from water surplus for meter replacements and the solid waste & recycling enterprise fund will require \$200,000 from surplus to cover increased costs and participation in the program.

Select Board Recommendation:

Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 6. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: This is an annual vote to accept the Town Report. Hard copies of the Town Report will be available at voter check-in.

Select Board Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 7. ESTABLISH SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the total expenditures for the following revolving funds pursuant to G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 to be expended in accordance with said bylaws:

FUND	Approved Total Expenditures
Conservation Commission Filing Fees	\$50,000
Planning Board Fees	\$75,000
Town Clerk Records	\$20,000

Recreation	\$300,000
Recreation Field Maintenance	\$50,000
Board of Health Vaccinations	\$10,000
Board of Health Betterment Fees	\$10,000
Agricultural Commission	\$25,000
ZBA Revolving	\$20,000
DPW Road Maintenance Fund	\$50,000
DPW Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund	\$75,000
Police Cruiser Detail Fees	\$50,000
Fire/EMS Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund	\$50,000
Fire/EMS Vehicle Maintenance and Equipment Revolving Fund	\$100,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: This article sets the annual spending limits for all revolving funds established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, section 53E and 1/2.

Select Board Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 8. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as follows:

Select Board, each member	\$1,800
Board of Health, each member	\$1,000
Board of Assessors, each member	\$1,800
Moderator	\$ 100

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: This is an annual article, required by statute, to set the salary levels for all compensated elected officials.

Select Board Recommendation: **RECOMMENDED**

Finance Committee Recommendation: **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 9. PAYMENT OF BILL(S) FROM A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: This article allows for the payment of prior year bills discovered after the close of the fiscal year, should any arise and requires a 4/5 majority.

Select Board Recommendation:

Finance Committee Recommendation:

ARTICLE 10. RESCIND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to rescind \$344,000 of the borrowing authorized under Article 8 of the June 22, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, said funding originally appropriated for water main replacement/repair, but no longer needed as the project is complete, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: This "housekeeping" article will remove the remaining balance of \$344,000 left over from the original \$950,000 authorization for water main replacement/repair on Pond Street, Queset Brook, and Black Brook Road, which was not fully borrowed due to the receipt of supplemental state funding for Black Brook Road and would otherwise remain on the books indefinitely.

Select Board Recommendation: **RECOMMENDED**

Finance Committee Recommendation: **RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 11. FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TRAINING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund safety training costs for the Easton Fire & Rescue Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Explanation: This article will fund one-time safety training costs which are no longer able to be absorbed by the fire budget due to budget cuts. The Easton Fire and Rescue Department is a participant in a regional federal grant with 20 communities to obtain "Blue Card" certification, a nationally renowned program defining best standard command practices, preparing incident commanders to make better fireground decisions, potentially eliminating dangerous mistakes that cause injury, death and unnecessary fire losses. Each participant must complete 3 8-hour days of simulation training and evaluation at an estimated cost of \$50,000. The fire department will also require \$10,000 in training costs related to operating the new ladder truck arriving in July.

Select Board Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 12. TRANSFER TO INJURED ON DUTY INDEMNITY FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed into the Injured on Duty Indemnity Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

Explanation: The Town self-insures for injured on duty medical coverage, however, payroll costs associated with long term injury absences for Police and Firefighters are typically borne out of existing payroll budgets for those departments. The amount of overtime required for shift coverage resulting from an injury in the line of duty varies widely and cannot be reasonably anticipated during the routine budget cycle. This fund, previously established by Town Meeting, provides a relief option as staffing reductions and cuts to budgets in recent years leave little to no flexibility to absorb these costs. Anticipated transfer is \$50,000.

Select Board Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 13. REPORT AND FY 2026 BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the fiscal year 2026 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or take any other action relative thereto.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Appropriations:</i>	
Administrative Expenses	\$123,000
Debt Service	\$586,606
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$246,000
<i>Reserves:</i>	
Historic Resources	\$130,900

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This article proposes the fiscal year 2026 budget for the Community Preservation Committee. Amounts to be funded shall be considered separate appropriations.

Select Board Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

Finance Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

Community Preservation Committee Recommendation: RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 14.

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.


ADA ADVISORY

Anyone in need of special accommodations for the Town Meeting, please contact the Office of the Select Board at 508-230-0501 by May 14, 2025 in order that reasonable accommodations may be made.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 29th day of April the year Two Thousand Twenty Five.


Dottie A. Fulginiti


Craig B. Barger

Marc B. Lamb


Jennifer Stacy

Jamie A. Stebbins

EASTON SELECT BOARD

Easton, Mass may 7 2025

By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.


_____, Constable of Easton

OFFICIAL PROCEDURES TO BE USED AT TOWN MEETING

Approved: Town Meeting - May 1978

1. Main Motion:

Debatable

When a motion has been made, seconded and stated by the Chair, the assembly is not at liberty to consider any other main motion until this motion has been disposed of.

2. Motion to Amend:

Majority Vote Required

Debatable

This motion is to change, add, or omit words in the original main motions.

3. Motion to Amend the Amendment

Majority Vote Required

Debatable

This is a motion to change, add, or omit words in the first amendment.

Method of Vote: The first vote is on changing words of second amendment. If the first vote adopts the change, the second vote is on the first amendment as changed or amended. The third vote is on adopting the main motion as changed or amended.

4. Motion to Commit or Refer:

Majority Vote Required

Debatable, Amendable

When a motion becomes involved through amendments or when it is wise to investigate a question more carefully, it may be moved to commit or refer the motion to a committee for further consideration.

5. Motion to Close Debate

2/3 Vote Required

Not Debatable

When debate does not seem to be shedding additional light on a question, you may move to end it by calling the question: "Mr. Moderator, I call the question." You must be recognized by the Chair before making this motion. As soon as this Motion is made, debate ceases and a vote on closing debate is taken. If the motion is carried, a vote is immediately taken on the question under consideration.

6. Motion to Reconsider:

Majority Vote Required

Debatable

This motion must be made the same day as the original motion was carried or defeated. "A vote can be reconsidered only once."

7. Motion to Adjourn:

Majority Vote Required

Debatable

This motion is always in order except (a) when a speaker has the floor, (b) when a vote is being taken, (c) after it has just been voted down (d) when the assembly is in the middle of some business which cannot be abruptly stopped. A definite time and place must be set.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

These motions (or questions) are not necessarily related to the Main Motion and do not fall within the order of precedence. They may be made as appropriate or necessary.

1. **Question of Privilege:** A motion unrelated to the business taking place, e.g. "Question of privilege, please! It is too noisy. I request that the Chair ask that all talking be stopped."

2. **Point of Information:** Motion used to ask a question or obtain clarification of facts pertaining to the motion at hand. "Point of information, please! What would be the cost to repair this piece of machinery rather than replace it?" There is no vote or debate. The Chair provides the information sought.

3. **Point of Order:** This motion is always in order but can be used only to present an objection to some method of parliamentary procedure. "Mr. Moderator, I rise to a point of order!" Then the objection is stated. There is no vote or debate and the Chair immediately rules on the point of order.

4. **Point of No Quorum:** This motion requires no second and is not debatable. No other motion may be applied to it. It may not be used to interrupt a speaker. When the point is properly raised, the Moderator must then ascertain whether or not a quorum exists.

5. **Secret Ballot:** At any Annual or Special Town Meeting when any article is put to the meeting for a vote, if a voter stands to request a secret ballot, he shall be promptly recognized by the Moderator and if on inquiry by the Moderator such voter is joined by at least 29 other standing voters, the Moderator shall automatically order a secret ballot without a debate.