FALL TOWN MEETING 2023 - ARTICLE 29 – SUMMARY

This article seeks to make several changes to the composition of and the powers and duties of Finance Committee.

Composition

* Seeks to change the number of Finance Committee members from 15 to 11
* Allows FC members to also be members of TM
* Staggers the expiration of terms
* Prohibits more than 2 members from each precinct from serving concurrent terms
* Limits FC members from serving more than 2 terms
* Prohibits any FC members from concurrently serving as an officer of any political campaign committee for town office, or for influencing the outcome of a townwide election, nor as an officer of any 501(c)(4) [political group.

Appointments

* Deletes current appointment process – moderator, select board chair, FC chair
* Requires TM members to appoint, by majority vote, a FC member for each precinct
* Gives Moderator authority to appoint 3 members whose backgrounds diversify the committee by: education and experience; self-identified demographic factors; status as a TM member or not
* Staggers terms of appointments by precincts
* Requires appointments to be completed within 60 days of the last session of spring town meeting
* Prohibits any questions relative to an applicant’s protected class unless that membership is identified as a potential impediment to their work on FC

Duties

* Allows for public hearings to be held virtually
* Requires public hearings to be recorded for public dissemination, especially to TM members
* Gives new authority to Town Moderator, Town Manager and Town Counsel to determine which non-budgetary articles FC may analyze and report on
* Requires FC to report on all reviewed articles to TM members 7 days before Town Meeting
* Requires reports to include a “balanced picture fairly representing all dimensions of the committee’s deliberation.”