

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

CONSENT CALENDAR PROCEDURE

As part of an effort to streamline Town Meeting and save time for discussion of key issues, we will be implementing a new procedure this year, which is used in many communities, called the "Consent Calendar".

Each year there are several warrant articles on which past experience suggests that action will be routine, predictable and non-controversial. The articles listed below have been selected for inclusion in the Consent Calendar. As one of the first orders of business at the Annual Town Meeting there will be a motion to take all of these articles identified in the Consent Calendar and **act upon them by means of a single, brief affirmative main motion** which will be inclusive of the separate and specific motions listed here below for each article. The use of the Consent Calendar speeds up the passage of warrant articles which the Selectmen, Moderator and Town Counsel believe should generate no controversy and can be properly voted without debate.

At the call of the Consent Calendar, the Moderator will call out the numbers of the articles, one by one. Any voter who has doubts about passing any motion, or wishes an explanation of any article included in the Consent Calendar, should say the word "**hold**" in a loud voice when the article number is called by the Moderator. The Moderator will inquire as to whether the request is for a question or for debate. If the purpose of the request is merely a question then an attempt will be made to obtain a satisfactory answer. If the purpose is to hold the article for debate, the article will be dropped from the Consent Calendar and restored to its original place in the warrant to be brought up, debated and voted in the usual manner. It is hoped that voters will remove articles from the Consent Calendar only in cases of genuine concern. After calling the individual articles on the Consent Calendar, the Moderator will ask that all remaining articles be **passed as a unit by unanimous vote** after a brief affirmative motion is made inclusive of all articles, and the printed motions thereunder.

Please carefully review the proposed articles and the printed motions for the Consent Calendar. Thank you for your cooperation in implementing this new procedure.