

Procedure for Hearing the Rest of the Budget Stoughton, MA Annual Town Meeting 2025

Please refer to this if you have questions about the procedural flow for finishing Article 14: General Fund Operating Budget

As of 5/11/2025, there are holds remaining on departments: 141, 145, 152, 155, 161, 162, 210, 220, 241, 300, 411, 421, 433, 541, 543, 610.

On each held department:

- **First:** We will hear any holds that are questions and/or clarifications.
- **After that:** We will hear any proposed amendments.

- If you held a department: Please be near a microphone at the time that department is called.
- If you held a department and you no longer have a question, clarification, or proposed amendment: Please still present yourself at a microphone, identify yourself, and state that you no longer wish to exercise a hold on this department.

If you are proposing an amendment to the departmental budget:

Please clearly state your amendment in the following manner:

- “I move that we amend department _____(number) _____, _____(name) _____ to _____(proposed dollar amount) _____.”
 - If relevant, add: “With _____(dollar amount)_____ to be _____(removed from/added to)_____ line item _____(name of line item)_____” (repeat as needed if there are multiple line items to be named).

- Do not elaborate on your reasoning for this amendment at the time that you propose it.
- After proposing the amendment, it needs to be seconded.
- After it is seconded, you will have **two (2) minutes** to present the rationale for your proposed amendment.

Procedure after an amendment on a department has been proposed:

Continued on Reverse

- After an amendment has been proposed, seconded, and presented, comes the sections for technical questions and pro/con debate. The Moderator reserves the right to limit the number of technical questions or length of pro/con statements for expediency.
 - At any time after the amendment has been proposed, seconded, and presented, a Town Meeting Representative may move the question.
 - **If the question is moved, that must be seconded. It then requires 2/3 majority vote to move to voting on the amendment.** Moving the question is not debatable (meaning: we don't share pro/con views about moving the question, we go straight to voting after it has been moved and seconded). We will first try a voice vote. If that is not conclusive, we will do a clicker vote.
 - If at least 2/3 of the body votes to move the question: We will move to voting on the proposed amendment. **When voting on the amendment, we will use clicker votes so that votes and voters are recorded with detail.** (It is not possible to attribute votes to specific voters with a voice vote.)
 - If less than 2/3 of the body votes to move the question: We will continue with technical questions or pro/con debate until finished, or the question is moved again and passes, at which point we will vote on the amendment.
- Note that we will not be considering amendments that match those documented on Page 35 of the Warrant. Those amendments were considered on 5/7/2025 and were voted down with a vote of 34 yes / 76 no / 5 abstain.

Procedure after all held departments have been addressed:

- After all the held departments have been considered and addressed, we will vote on the budget as a whole (as amended, if any proposed amendments have been approved).