

CHAPTER IV. REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

Sec. 4.1 Membership; Powers.

4.1.1 General.

There shall be a Representative Town Meeting, hereinafter referred to as the RTM, of not more than forty-five (45) members.

4.1.2 Powers.

The RTM shall exercise exclusively, except as otherwise specifically provided by law, those powers specifically assigned to the RTM:

- a) approve or amend and approve budgets passed by the Council in accordance with Chapter IX of this Charter;
- b) approve or reject supplemental appropriations in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in accordance with Chapter IX;
- c) approve or reject bonding ordinances in accordance with Section 5.5.5.1;
- d) accept or reject gifts, grants, and bequests of real and/or personal property with a value in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);
- e) accept or reject all open spaces and roads not a part of an approved subdivision. Reference is hereby made to Section 5.4.10;
- f) all powers granted under the CGS to the town meeting where the objective of such statute cannot be otherwise accomplished by the Town pursuant to CGS, the Charter, or ordinances.

Action in conformity with all provisions of law, now or hereafter applicable to the transaction of town affairs in meeting, shall, when taken by the RTM in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, have the same force and effect as if such action had been taken in a town meeting open to all the electors of the Town.

The RTM shall have the power to veto any legislative ordinance passed by the Council as hereinafter specified in Sections 4.6 and 5.5.5.4 of the Charter. The RTM shall have the power of initiative as specified in Section 4.5.

4.1.3 Relationship with Municipal or Administrative Employees.

The RTM and its members shall not give orders to any subordinates of the Town Manager or of the BOE either publicly or privately. The RTM and its members shall deal officially with the town staff solely through the Town Manager.

Sec. 4.2 Election; Reapportionment; Representation.

4.2.1 Election.

Election of RTM members shall be by voting district proportional to the number of electors residing in such district and shall be determined by the Town Clerk and approved by the Council.

4.2.2 Reapportionment.

The number of members shall be determined by the Town Clerk and approved by the Council, and shall be calculated in the following manner: a) within sixty (60) days after each presidential election, and within sixty (60) days after redistricting of the Town as determined by the Registrars of Voters and approved by the Council, the total number of electors in the Town and in each district shall be certified by the Town Clerk; b) representation in each district shall be determined by taking the total number of electors in the Town, dividing by forty-five (45) and the number so obtained minus any fraction shall be used to divide the number of electors in each district; c) the resulting whole number, regardless of fractions, nearest to the figure so obtained shall be the number of representatives from that district, except no RTM district shall have less than one (1) representative.

In the event a voting district contains less than five hundred (500) electors, such district shall for the purposes of this section be automatically merged with the adjacent district having the least number of electors, and the number of representatives for such combined district shall be determined in accordance with provisions of this section.

4.2.3 Minority representation and majority limitation.

Each political party shall nominate in each voting district the whole number nearest to two-thirds of the representatives allotted to that district. Each elector may vote for a number of candidates up to the allotted district number.

Total Reps:	Max from one party to be nominated:
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	3
5	3
6	4
7	5
8	5
9	6

That number of candidates in each district sufficient to fill the number of RTM members to which a district may be entitled, who have polled the highest number of votes, shall be elected.

Sec. 4.3 Composition and procedure.

Any town meeting under the provisions of the Charter, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be limited to the RTM members. The Town Manager, the Town Clerk, the chairman of the Board of Education (BOE), the Superintendent of Schools, the Town Attorney, and the members of the Council shall be ex-officio members, and shall have all the rights and privileges of the RTM members except the right to make motions and to vote. Fifty (50) percent of the RTM members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for doing business. All RTM meetings shall be open to the public. The RTM shall determine its own rules of procedure, which rules shall include provisions for petition by citizens.

An RTM member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Town Clerk, and such resignation shall take effect on the date of such filing unless a later date is specified. An RTM member who shall remove from the Town shall cease to be an RTM member, but an RTM member who shall remove from the district from which he/she was elected to another district within the Town may serve until the next election of the RTM.

The first RTM meeting shall be called by the Town Clerk, all others by the Moderator or in the Moderator's absence, the rules of the RTM shall be followed. If no RTM rules apply to the absence of the Moderator, the RTM meeting shall be called by the Town Clerk or in his/her absence by the Town Manager and an acting moderator shall be voted on by the members present at the meeting. A Moderator shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. All business shall be conducted in the manner now and hereafter provided by the CGS, except as otherwise provided in the Charter. The Town Clerk shall be the Clerk of the RTM.

Sec. 4.4 Meetings.

Regular RTM meetings shall be held at least once a month on a regular meeting day decided upon by the RTM members except that, whenever there shall be no business to be acted upon at a regular meeting, the meeting may be cancelled by the Moderator and upon notice to the members. Special meetings may be held on the call of the Moderator and must be held after submission to the Town Clerk of a petition signed by ten (10) percent of the qualified electors of the Town.

Sec. 4.5 Power of Initiative.

The RTM, upon a majority vote of its total membership, shall have the power to propose to the Council any legislative ordinance or resolution except an ordinance or resolution appointing or removing officials or specifying the compensation or hours of work of officials or employees or pension or retirement agreements or expressly directing the Council to appropriate funds. Ordinances or resolution submitted to the Council by power of initiative of the RTM and passed by the Council without change shall not be subject to a referendum of electors in the Town. If the Council fails to adopt such ordinance or resolution without change within forty-five (45) days after such proposed ordinance or resolution shall have been filed with the Council, it shall be submitted to the electors, who may adopt or reject the same at a referendum held within ninety (90) days after such proposed ordinance or resolution was originally filed with the Council.

Sec. 4.6 Power of Veto.

The RTM, upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its total membership, shall have the power to reject any legislative ordinance passed by the Council, except an ordinance appointing or removing officials, or specifying the

compensation or hours of work of officials and employees, or pension or retirement agreements, or terms and conditions of employment, or approving an ordinance of consolidation. Such veto shall be filed with the Town Clerk not more than forty-five (45) days after the enactment of such ordinance by the Council.