

## **Declaration of Recess and Continuance of Special Town Meeting**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A, I hereby declare the Special Town Meeting originally scheduled for January 28, 2021 recessed and continued to February 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at 105 South Main Street, Middleton. M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A mandates that the moderator "shall announce the declaration of recess and continuance as far in advance of the town meeting being continued as possible."

Based on the ongoing State of Emergency and continuing public health concerns raised by Covid 19, including the current surge in infection rates, I have determined that proceeding with the Special Town Meeting as scheduled would be imprudent and may pose a risk to voters wishing to attend. Additionally, the Covid 19 public health crisis has resulted in difficulty locating an appropriate indoor meeting space and winter weather conditions preclude an outdoor meeting at the present time.

This declaration is made after consultation with members of the Middleton Board of Selectmen, the Middleton Director of Public Health, the Middleton Town Administrator and the Middleton Town Clerk. This declaration is also based upon a review of guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regarding Town Meetings and other Covid related precautions.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A, I do not have the authority to continue a Town Meeting for longer than 30 days from the date of recess, but I do have the authority to issue further continuances. As it is highly unlikely that the Covid 19 public health and safety emergency will have resolved in the next 30 days, I intend to declare additional continuances of up to 30 days each as necessary until the meeting can be held safely. I will continue to consult with the aforementioned Town Officials when considering any further deferrals.

Given at Middleton this 14 day of January, 2021,



Barbara A. Piselli

Middleton Town Moderator