

ARTICLE 19

VOTE/APPOINTMENT OF TOWN TREASURER

To see if the Town will vote to convert the office of Town Treasurer from an elected to an appointed position through ballot question or referendum pursuant G.L. c. 41 §1B, Home Rule Legislation, or other suitable method; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

VOTED: That (1), Town Meeting hereby approves the conversion of the Town's elected Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes from an elected position to an appointed position pursuant to G. L. c. 41 sec. 1B; and (2), that in accordance with G.L. c. 41 sec. 1B, the Board of Selectmen are hereby requested and authorized to place the following question on the 2018 Annual Town Election Ballot:

"Shall the town vote to have its elected Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes become an appointed Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes of the town?

Yes _____ No _____"

(4-1) Mr. Byrne voted in the negative.

COMMENT: The Board of Selectmen recommends favorable action on initiating the process to convert the Treasurer and Collector position from an elected to an appointed office in the interests of realizing long-term and structural gains in organizational efficiency and effectiveness relative to the Town's financial management. An appointed Treasurer and Collector reporting directly to the Town Manager will yield greater consistency, certainty, and clarity in setting and achieving the Town's financial goals, which often involve long-range decisions. Conversion requires approval of Town Meeting to place the measure before the voters, and subsequently, a majority of voters at the 2018 Annual Town Election.

The Board notes its enthusiasm for our newly elected Treasurer, Mr. Carman, and the ways in which he and the Town Manager have already begun working together effectively. Our new Treasurer should, and indeed will have the opportunity to administer his Office for one year before this ballot question would be put to voters. He would also serve the full three-year term of his Office if voters so opted to convert the position. Moreover, we also recognize and commend the long, excellent service of the now retired former Treasurer, Mr. Gilligan.

Nonetheless, this Board maintains its view that it would benefit Arlington's long-term stability and success by investing the Treasurer position in a more streamlined governmental operation. Accordingly, we urge favorable action on putting this question to the voters of the Town.