

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING- TOWN OF ALNA

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 2021, 6:00 PM, ALNA FIRE STATION**

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Alna citizens will be asked to vote by secret ballot on three warrant articles (attached). A hearing for articles 3, 4, and 5 of the warrant for the December 14<sup>th</sup> referendum vote will be held on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Alna Fire Station, beginning at 6PM.

The purposes of this hearing are to:

1. Provide an opportunity for the sponsors to provide information in support of articles #3, 4, and 5;
2. Provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and testify as to their view on any of the articles;

The format will be as follows:

1. Introduction of Moderator
2. Explanation of procedure by Moderator
3. Testimony from the Public
  - a. Article 3 will be addressed first. Articles 4 and 5 will be addressed together.
  - b. For each article, the moderator will introduce the speaker(s)
  - c. Speakers will have up to 15 minutes to make an initial presentation
  - d. Public testimony and questions

Testimony/Questions from the Public

This is a hearing. It is not the place to debate the articles. Therefore, for this meeting, the Moderator will enforce the following rules:

- Those who wish to testify or ask questions during the public comment period shall place their names on a signup sheet and indicate whether they wish to speak for, against, or neither for nor against the article(s) under consideration
- Each person wishing to testify shall be given three (3) minutes to speak or ask questions, but a few extra seconds may be allowed to finish a sentence or thought. Those testifying may offer written materials.
- Questions should be directed to the moderator, who may refer questions to the speakers or to others designated by the speakers as able to answer. Responses to any questions asked will not be counted against the questioner's time.
- Use of personal names is discouraged. Phrases like 'the previous speaker' or a person's position or title is acceptable.
- When someone is speaking they shall not be interrupted and a respectful silence is to be maintained at all times. If someone feels it necessary to engage in a conversation they are to do it where it will neither interrupt the speaker nor interfere with the ability of people to hear.

The articles approved for inclusion on the special referendum town meeting warrant are attached for reference.

(NOTE: State Law requires a public hearing no later than 10 days prior to a local referendum ballot question.)

**Town of Alna**  
**Articles Approved for Special Referendum Town Meeting Warrant**  
**December 14, 2021**

**Article 1:** To elect a Moderator. Moderator will serve as election warden.

**Article 2:** To elect a candidate to the office of First Selectperson, also serving as Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for the remainder of the current term, which expires at the next regular town meeting in March, 2022.

**Article 3:** To see what sum the town will vote to transfer from the undesignated funds balance (also known as the “surplus”) to the “Unforeseen Contingencies” account.

*(Select board recommends \$25,000.)*

**Article 4.** To see whether the town of Alna will vote to adopt the following policies regarding members of the Selectboard:

1. Each Selectboard member shall have the same authority and responsibility, except that the Chairperson shall also have the responsibility to call and preside over the Selectboard meetings;
2. Each Selectboard member shall receive the same amount of compensation;
3. The Selectboard shall vote one of its members as chairperson each year, in the first regular Selectboard meeting following the Town Meeting;
4. One Selectboard member shall be elected during the regular annual town meeting; and
5. The term for each Selectboard member shall be three years.

Policies 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall go into effect immediately upon adoption.

Policy 5 shall go into effect upon the expiration of the current terms of each Selectboard member. To phase in the staggered terms, the next first selectperson shall be elected in 2022 for a three year term to expire in 2025; the next second selectperson shall be elected in 2023 for a three year term to expire in 2026; and the next third selectperson shall be elected in 2023 for a one year term to expire in 2024.

**Article 5.** If the previous article fails, shall the town at the March, 2022 Annual Meeting select by nomination from the floor a citizen committee of five members, including three former selectmen to:

1. Look at the effectiveness of our current board of selectmen form of government, including terms of office, distribution of duties between 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> selectmen, adequacy of salaries, etc.;
2. Look at alternative structures used by other towns our size, including: equal responsibilities of board members, shorter or longer terms of office, use of paid administrative staff or assistants, etc.;
3. Hold public meetings to take citizen input, discuss options, and to strive for broad citizen consensus around any proposed recommendations;
4. Report findings and specific recommendations for action to the March 2023 Annual Meeting.