



Finance Committee

Town Meeting Preview Meeting

February 27, 2021

To determine whether the Town will vote to replace the policy established in Article 4 of the 1976 Annual Town Meeting relative to establishing and publishing budget guidelines.

Article 4 of the 1976 Town Meeting:

The Finance Committee shall annually establish a guideline for budget increases to be considered in fiscal year planning by the Board of Selectmen, the Concord Public School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee and will publish said guideline in the local press prior to November 30 of the previous fiscal year.

Proposed:

The Finance Committee shall annually establish budget guidelines for the next fiscal year for the Select Board, the Concord Public School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee and will publish said guidelines on the Town website no later than five (5) weeks before the scheduled close of the warrant.

Substantive changes include:

- **Date for publishing** is now relative to the scheduled closure of the warrant instead of a fixed date on the calendar.
- **“Guidelines” is now plural** since, in practice, separate guidelines are given to each entity based on their budget drivers.
- The guidelines will be **posted on the town website** instead of the local paper. Recent town survey results indicate this is the means by which most people get information.
- **“Selectmen” is replaced with “Select Board”.**