

**RESOLUTION OF THE BARRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**POSTPONING THE FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 27, 2020**  
**(DATE TO BE DETERMINED)**

**WHEREAS**, at the regular meeting of the Barrington Town Council held remotely on April 6, 2020, at which time a quorum of the Council was present and acting throughout; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Gina M. Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-02, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Rhode Island due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Barrington Town Council declared a state of emergency through an emergency ordinance enacted on March 14, 2020, to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in adopting the emergency ordinance, the Town Council delegated emergency authority to the Town Manager to take measures he deems necessary in order to protect public health and safety in response to the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, RIGL 30-15-13 authorizes such local disaster emergency declarations, and

**WHEREAS**, RIGL 30-15-12(b) states that the “chief executive officer of each city or town has powers and duties with respect to emergency management within his or her city or town similar to those of the governor on the state level, not inconsistent with other provisions of law;” and;

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, Governor Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-11, delaying the Rhode Island primary election from April 28, 2020, to June 2, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2020, Governor Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-13, prohibiting all gatherings of more than five (5) people in any public or private space; and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) is currently scheduled for May 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time, it is unknown when the statewide and local states of emergency will be terminated, and further, it is unknown when Governor Raimondo’s orders limiting the size of public gatherings will be rescinded; and

**WHEREAS**, although Governor Raimondo has modified certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act (the “OMA”) with respect to public bodies, allowing remote meetings under certain conditions, there is no secure way to conduct a fair election and ensure the integrity of taxpayers’ votes absent an in-person FTM; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Rhode Island Supreme Court decision of Pine v. McGreavy, 687 A.2d 1244 (R.I. 1997), financial town meetings are not subject to the OMA, but are subject to Title 45, Chapter 3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, governing town meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, RIGL 45-3-26 requires town meetings, including financial town meetings, to be “open to the public;” and

**WHEREAS**, following the above-referenced gubernatorial executive orders, the Town Manager has determined that it is in the best interest of public health and safety to delay the FTM; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Manager intends to announce a new date for the FTM at the earliest possible opportunity, given the current circumstances, and has pledged to make efforts above and beyond what the Home Rule Charter requires to publicize this new date; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the understanding of the Town Council that Governor Raimondo is already reviewing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on municipal financial town meetings, and it is anticipated that some of the statutory deadlines with respect to municipalities will be extended;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Barrington Town Council, hereby approve and ratify the postponement of the Financial Town Meeting scheduled for May 27, 2020, to a date to be announced as soon as possible given the current uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council directs the Town Manager to announce a new date for the FTM at the earliest possible opportunity, given the current circumstances, and further directs the Town Manager to make efforts above and beyond what the Home Rule Charter requires to publicize the new date for the FTM.