

MINORITY REPORT OF LEO F. BARTOLINI, JR., MEMBER OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR TOWN MANAGER LEGISLATION, ON ARTICLE FOUR OF THE 2012 SOUTHBOROUGH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

As I have recommended several times during the last nine months that the Committee has met, I strongly believe that Article Four should be split into two articles: (1) article creating a five member board of selectmen; and (1) article creating a Town Manager.

At the beginning of this process, with a few exceptions, I was supportive of the Town Manager having control over all budgets and personnel of Town boards. During the last nine months that the Committee has met, I have changed my mind because I have realized that supporting this article will give a lot of power to a Town Manager and take that power away from an elected Board with strong commitments and concerns for the Town of Southborough, namely the Board of Selectmen. Southborough is not a city; Southborough is a small town with less than 10,000 residents. People moved to Southborough because of what it is.

I now have the same concerns that other elected boards (Planning Board, Board of Health, and Library Trustees) have previously raised regarding their departments and the proposed Town Manager.

We as a Town need more time to study this proposed major change in our Town government structure.

At this time I feel a very strong compromise of supporting a warrant article for a five member board of selectmen would be a great initial step forward for the Town. I recommend that the current warrant article be amended to move forward the addition of two Selectmen and leave the remaining Town Manager portion for further study and debate at a later date.

A five member board of selectmen would serve the Town better because the work load would be distributed equally among five individuals rather than three, and we would have two more voices at the table to talk about important issues facing the Town.

In conclusion, as a life time resident of the Town, I strongly care about this Town and its future, I believe my proposal is the step in the right direction.

Date: _____

Leo F. Bartolini, Jr.