

## **ARTICLE 1:**

## **(Local Option Meals Excise)**

This Article asks the citizens present at Town Meeting to vote to implement a 0.75% (three quarter of one percent) local option meals tax. This local option meals tax is in addition to the current 6.25% state sales tax that was recently increased from 5%.

There was considerable discussion on the merits of increasing Foxborough's tax base with this potential increase in sustainable revenue. Topics ranging from long term planning, potential tax reductions, future projects and uses for the revenue were discussed and considered. There was also considerable discussion on what effect this tax may have on the various new and existing restaurants in the town, our residents who patron the restaurants, the visitors to Foxborough and potential town costs and possible further reduction in state aid associated with receiving this tax revenue

There were passionate arguments on the merits as well as the shortcomings of this new tax such as who would be impacted and how the Town may or may not benefit. The town finance department, with input from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, estimates that there is a potential to receive approximately \$305,000 for the remaining 8 months of the 2010 fiscal year if approved at Town Meeting and may generate \$458,000 per year thereafter in added tax revenue that would go to the town's general fund. Many expressed concern that the money would go into the general fund without a specific plan for utilization and the impact that may result from a possible reduction in state aid that would offset some of the new revenue. This expedited process culminating in a special town meeting in the summer without the formal recommendation from the Selectmen gave this Committee pause.

There is an opportunity to revisit this Article during the regularly scheduled Town Meeting in the fall.

**The Advisory Committee voted 4 in favor and 8 opposed to this Article.**

## **ARTICLE 2:**

## **(Local Option Room Occupancy Excise)**

This Article asks the citizens present at Town Meeting to vote to increase the maximum rate of the local option room excise tax from 4% to 6% for all rentals of rooms in hotels, motels and lodging houses. The discussion on the merits of this Article was done in conjunction with Article 1.

The town finance department, with input from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, estimates that there is a potential to receive approximately \$152,400 for the remaining 8 months of the 2010 fiscal year if approved at Town Meeting and may generate \$231,000 per year thereafter in added tax revenue that would go to the town's general fund.

Consideration was given to the fact that this increase tax would most likely be paid by non-Foxborough residents; however the same concerns were expressed.

**The Advisory Committee voted 6 in favor and 6 opposed to this Article.**

**ARTICLE 3:**

**(Unpaid Bills)**

This Article asks the citizens present at Town Meeting to vote to pay the Town Counsel \$4,447.39 for legal services rendered during fiscal year 2009. Foxborough's fiscal year end transfer entries were prepared and approved prior to receipt of this invoice.

It is unfortunate that the process now requires a town warrant vote; however, it was determined through the Selectmen, Town Manager and Town Finance Director that the amount is indeed for authorized services provided and is allowable within the contract.

**The Advisory Committee voted unanimously 12 in favor and 0 opposed to this Article.**