

Calculator needed for town meeting

To the editor:

Going to a Financial Town Meeting (FTM) can be a mathematical challenge. The docket you receive as you walk into the gym contains the Budget Committee's proposed municipal and school budget, tax levy projections and several pages of resolutions. So good news, the Budget Committee's proposed budget is at least written down. For the next budget amendment from the floor of the meeting, you need to listen carefully for the amended budget amounts that are called out from a microphone and repeated several times.

Contrary to a recent letter, this is where you really need your calculator. While juggling papers on your lap, folks with calculators are double checking the numbers while a brave few are working the numbers on paper. Did the budget amendment include all the numbers needed? Are the numbers right? Can they be repeated again? And since there can be up to four budget amendments (one possibly from the School Committee/Town Council and three from three lucky voters at the meeting), this happens at least three times, sometimes four times! Can you repeat all those budget amendment numbers again, please?

With the new proposed Financial Town Referendum (FTR), you will have the Budget Committee's proposed municipal and school budget and every additional proposed budget amendments available for review at the Financial Town Hearing. All of the numbers will be available two weeks prior to voting at the Financial Town Referendum. This is great! No need to juggle papers and calculators in the voting booth. You'll know in advance what your budget options and their tax implications are before you vote.

On November 8, your vote will decide which method is the future for Tiverton.

Joan Chabot

Tiverton