

Delivered to Town Meeting on May 2, 2006  
Dennis L. Giombetti, Board of Selectmen Chair

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen it is a real pleasure and honor to welcome each and every Town Meeting member to the 2006 Annual Town Meeting. It is especially pleasing to welcome our freshmen Town Meeting members, newly elected for the first time. **Welcome to Town Government!!!!**

I would also like to welcome our newly elected Town Moderator Joel Winett, Selectman Jason Smith and our CFO Maryellen Kelley to their first Town Meeting in their respective positions.

We will over the course of the next few weeks discuss, debate and vote on important matter in order to help solve problems or challenges that confront Framingham. We all pride ourselves on being problem solvers by nature and as such we tend to narrowly focus on problems and not on the positive assets of our rich and wonderful town. So I stand before you tonight to request that as we deliberate and work together to solve our problems that we keep in mind the many outstanding attributes that we tend to take for granted.

For example, we have a beautiful new and larger senior center much to the credit of many of you in this room. Our community has outstanding parks throughout our town, such as Roosevelt Park, Tercentennial Park, Bowditch Field, Danforth Park, etc, etc, etc. Our community has a business sector that is the envy of not only our neighboring towns but statewide. World class firms call Framingham their home, Bose, TJ Max, Perini, Staples, BJ Warehouse, Genzyme, Computer Associates and I can go on and on. We are a retail mecca! We have strong neighborhoods. We are fortunate to have the jewel of the State College System. Framingham State College, not only a beautiful campus but highly regarded academically and a great neighbor. We have an excellent school system that a little over a year ago was rated the number 7 best value for the buck out of 147 cities and towns by Boston Magazine. We have passionate, talented, hard-working and diverse population. We have a rich and developing cultural center assisted so well by the START Partnership. Last but certainly not least, we have outstanding public servants, our employees. Their fine work is demonstrated day in and day out whether it be sweeping our streets, fighting a fire or fighting crime or responding to a nuisance complaint. All these and more combine to make our community a wonderful place to live.

So I remind us as we attend to our problem solving task, please keep these outstanding attributes in mind so that we may be more balanced in our approach. In keeping with this theme of community richness I would like to recognize the contributions of two individuals Karen Kiley-LaChance and Clare Friel. As you may know the Friends of the Library as well as the Framingham Public Library are celebrating anniversaries, 50 years and 150 years respectively. So the Board of Selectmen thought it would be appropriate to honor two people who recently retired from the Library Board who were so instrumental in making our Library System so outstanding. Two individuals who have added so much to the Framingham community, two individuals whose families have contributed so much to Framingham's rich history... On behalf of the Board of Selectmen I would like to present each a proclamation.

In conclusion, I would like to update you on the Town Manager Search. As you may know we interviewed the 4 finalist last week. Earlier this evening the Board of Selectmen narrowed the candidates down to 3, Mr. Julian Suso, Mr. Jim Malloy and Mr. James Maloney. The Board will now undertake our due diligence such as on-site visits in their respective community, reference checks, etc. We do hope to be able to make a decision by the middle of May and be in a position to introduce our next Town Manager to you during this Town Meeting.

Thank you for your time and, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, we look forward to working with you over the coming weeks, months and year to address our challenges and to recognize our wonderful community assets.

Thank you very much!!!!