

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Summaries Notice

Schedule of Public Hearings

Monday, March 4, 2019

Monday, March 25, 2019

7:00 P.M.

Main Library - Community Meeting Room



In the event of severe weather, please check the Town of Westwood web site
for weather related postponement information.

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us



Finance and Warrant Commission

Julianne Bride, Chair
Thomas Kilgarriff, Vice-Chair
Cynthia Buckley
Barbara Delisle
James Ferraro
Lauren FitzPatrick
George Hertz
Ellen Larkin Rollings
Peter Lentz
Dianne McCarthy
Howard Messing
Michael O'Hara
Jennifer Perkins
Christopher Peroda
Michael Powers

Jane O'Donnell, Administrator

A Message from the Chair – Julianne Bride

As the Finance and Warrant Commission (FinCom) prepares for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, I would like to invite Westwood residents to learn more about the role of the Commission and participate in our upcoming public hearings.

The FinCom is a fifteen member Commission whose members are appointed by the Town Moderator to serve three-year overlapping terms. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Commission:

- ❖ Considers all articles in Town Meeting Warrants and reports in print its advice, estimates, and recommendations to residents.
- ❖ Studies the financial and other affairs of the Town and advises with officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations.

Preparations to address the articles and the major budgets, capital, municipal and school, actually commence in September each year. As a Commission, we educate new members through workshops and presentations made by various representatives in Town; monitor budgets approved at the previous Town Meeting; and receive information on possible articles for the upcoming Town Meeting. In an effort to keep informed on key topics, FinCom sometimes appoints liaisons to town boards, committees and task forces.

Beginning in January and up until the end of March each year, members engage in a thorough review of all Town Meeting warrant articles. Each article sponsor comes before the Commission on at least two occasions and sometimes as often as four times to discuss their article.

The FinCom has scheduled two sets of public hearings devoted to discussing the important issues on which residents will vote at the May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting. These hearings are intended to provide residents the opportunity for public participation and input into matters facing our Town. At these meetings and during additional FinCom meetings, members of the Commission are apprised of the intent, background and details of each article. Through sponsor presentations, member questions and input received from the public, Commission members determine their position and formulate recommendations on the articles. Following public input, the FinCom may vote their recommendation(s) at the first public hearing or may do so at any of their regular meetings held during the month of March.

The FinCom urges your participation at our **upcoming public hearings beginning on March 4 and March 25** and at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6, 2019.



First Public Hearing(s) Schedule:

**Monday, March 4, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Main Library - Community Meeting Room**

**If business is not finalized on March 4, the hearing will continue to
Tuesday, March 5, at 7:00 P.M.**

DISCLAIMER: *Articles may be added or removed prior to the Finance and Warrant Commission's Public Hearing. Updated list of articles will be posted on the website. Please check the website for the most up to date information related to articles that will be presented to the Finance and Warrant Commission at its hearings.*

TOWN CLERK ARTICLE

Bylaw Amendment – Electronic Voting

This article is intended to amend the Code of the Town (bylaws) to include the option to use electronic voting at Town Meeting.

SELECT BOARD ARTICLES

Accounting – PEG Access Cable Funding

This article is intended to serve as a placeholder for the town to discuss the options associated with the allocation of PEG Funding. The Town Administrator, IT Director and Westwood Media Center are reviewing the options provided in MGL in relation to the Massachusetts Municipal Modernization Act and proposed changes the FCC rules to see which option is best for Westwood, and if a Town Meeting article is required to enact that option.

Street Acceptances

This article is a standard article to present private roads, if any - that have been constructed and/or brought up to the Town's standards - for acceptance as Town ways.

Discontinuance of Public Way[s and/or Surplus Layout(s)]

This article is intended to provide the Board with the authority to discontinue the surplus layout for a portion of Hedgerow Lane for which the right-of-way was abandoned by action of the Board of Selectmen in 2018. This surplus layout is no longer needed due to the development of the new Hedgerow Lane as part of the Westwood Estates Definitive Subdivision. The three existing lots with frontage on the surplus layout will be reconfigured so as to have appropriate frontage on the newly developed Hedgerow Lane.

Road Improvement (Chapter 90 Funds)

This is a standard article that authorizes the acceptance and use of any state funds, including Chapter 90 funds that are allocated for maintenance of the Town's public ways. Traditionally, this Article includes language that would authorize minor eminent domain takings that might be required.



Road Improvement Bond – Pavement Preservation, Sidewalk Enhancements and Crosswalk Safety Improvements

This article is intended to serve as a placeholder for the town to discuss issuance of a bond for a town-wide road improvement project to repave and maintain payment, sidewalk enhancement and improve crosswalk safety.

Charter Amendment – Change “Board of Selectmen” to “Select Board”

This article is intended to remove the gender reference of the office of the “Board of Selectmen” and change it to a non-gender referenced “Select Board” in the town charter. This would include changing references of “Selectmen” to “Select Member”, “Chairman” to “Chair” and any other gender specific titles to a gender neutral in all instances the titles appear in the Charter.

Authorization for University Avenue Area Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

This article is intended to authorize the Select Board to enter into Tax Increment Financing Agreement(s) to encourage the construction of new commercial office buildings in the University Avenue Area.

Participate in Community Electricity Aggregation for Residential and Commercial Use

**This article is co-sponsored with the Westwood Environmental Action Committee*

This article is intended to authorize the Town/Select Board to select a company to aggregate electricity for its residents and businesses which will encourage the supply of electricity produced by renewable energy.

Sale of Town Owned Property – Laura Lane/Gay Street Property

This article is intended to authorize the Select Board to sell a small piece of land between a public way and a non-conforming occupied residential lot known on Assessor’s Map and Lot 16-452.

PLANNING BOARD ARTICLES

Zoning Amendment Related to Accessory Use in Highway Business

This article is intended to allow accessory retail uses such as cafeterias, snack bars, gift shops, and vending machines within buildings in the Highway Business (HB) zone, where such uses are primarily intended to serve employees and clientele. .

Zoning Amendment Related to Medical Uses

This article amends existing definitions for medical uses, adds definitions for uses not currently defined, and specifies where those uses may be permitted in Town.

Housekeeping – Zoning Article (2017 Amendments)

This article is intended to approve certain housekeeping amendments to the various sections of the Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map.

Fence Height

This article is intended to amend the definition for “Structure” in relation to fence height to increase the fence height from 6 to 7 feet.

Private Residential Garage or Storage Area for more than 3 vehicles

This article is intended to amend the requirements for vehicle parking and storage of registered vehicles on residential properties in the Accessory Use Table.



Amendments to Section 8.4 [Residential Retirement Community (RRC)]

This article is intended to make various amendments to the Residential Requirement Community Section 8.4 of the Zoning Bylaw including adding a requirement to provide affordable housing units and revise the building height definition. .

Endorsement of the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update

This article is intended to request Town Meeting endorsement of the updated Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) that is currently being reviewed by the Planning Board and Open Space & Recreation Planning Committee.

Housekeeping – Zoning Article (2019 Amendments)

This article is intended to approve certain housekeeping amendments to the various sections of the Zoning Bylaw and map.

Please Note:

The Finance and Warrant Commission may continue discussions of any of the above listed articles at its Final Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, March 25th



Final Public Hearing(s)

**Monday, March 25, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Main Library - Community Meeting Room

**If business is not finalized on March 25, the hearing will continue to
Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 P.M.**

SELECT BOARD – FINANCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

Supplemental appropriations FY19

This article is intended to transfer funds from budget accounts that have a surplus into accounts that are projected to be in deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

Supplemental appropriations FY19

This article is intended to cover any projected budget deficits with funds from other available accounts which include, but are not limited to, Free Cash and Reserve Funds or other available accounts, such as ambulance revenue, reserved state aid, budget surplus, etc.

FY20 Operating Budgets (Appendix “D”)

This article seeks official approval of the Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It includes a detailed accounting of the source of all funds being appropriated, including but not limited to, tax revenue, local receipts, state aid, and appropriations from other specified available funds.

Appropriation (\$ -) – Municipal capital improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town’s municipal capital investments for the next fiscal year.

Appropriation (\$ -) – School capital improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town’s school capital investments for the next fiscal year.

Appropriation (\$ -) – Sewer capital improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town’s sewer capital investments for the next fiscal year. The items in this article are funded from Sewer User fees and/or Sewer Retained Earnings

Appropriation (\$ -) – Other Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town’s other Capital Improvements not captured in the above articles for the next fiscal year.

Appropriation (\$ -) – Specifically Funded Capital Improvements (i.e. Ambulance Funds)

This article is intended to appropriate specific funds for the Town’s other Capital Improvements not captured in the above articles for the next fiscal year.



Appropriations – to Stabilization Fund – FY20

This article is intended to appropriate funds into the Town's Stabilization Account. The Stabilization Reserve Account provides funds that can be used to meet some unforeseen, extraordinary expenditure or to be able to absorb a fiscal shock. Maintaining a healthy stabilization reserve is viewed positively by the rating agencies, especially now that Westwood has achieved its reserve fund goal. It is important that the Town continue to maintain that achievement by appropriating a sum each year. Appropriating funds in is majority vote and out of this account requires a 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting.

Appropriation – to OPEB Liability Trust Fund – FY20

This article is intended to appropriate funds to the OPEB Liability Trust Account. The amount for FY20 will be in continuation of recent appropriations.

Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.