

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

October 19, 2015

Little Theatre, Westwood High School

Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Marianne LeBlanc Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Finance and Warrant Commission all Members present.

Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings reviewed the format for the evening's presentations and introduced the sponsors who would be presenting. Members received a copy of all presentations.

At 7:41 P.M. Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings announced that WestCat had permission to record this meeting.

Jeff Bina, Town Engineer – Sewer Commission Article

Some FinCom member comments/questions:

What if anything do the residents who will benefit contribute?

- The Betterment will result in 50% by residents, which is standard practice.

How much are we talking about and what is the time frame?

- The amount is around \$400,000.00 and we will begin this summer and will complete by the fall.

Abby McCabe, Town Planner & Chris Pfaff, Chairman, Planning Board – Planning Board Articles

(Please see attached power point presentation)

Some FinCom member comments/questions:

For Article 1:

Would there be a traffic study completed?

- Yes, that would be required.

Would there be an opportunity to redistrict density for parking?

- The recommendation would be 2 spaces per unit.

Where is option 1?

- 22 Everett Street, an age restricted development. The owners are exploring their options to seek a special permit.

For Article 2:

Are there restrictions on ground-based?

- We did not require specifics. You must follow setback and zoning regulations.

Are the requirements based on kilowatts, correct?

- 15 kilowatts is the threshold size and it is on a case by case basis.

Was consideration given about being more specific?

- We did not want to overregulate. We will handle on a case by case basis. We are trying to allow greater solar use not less while making sure that neighbors are not impacted.

For Article 4:

What is on this parcel?

- It is an unused parcel of land bordering both towns.

Nancy Hyde, Board of Selectmen – Board of Selectmen Articles

(Please see attached power point presentation)

Some FinCom member comments/questions:

For Article 1-6:

What would the costs have been to move the Scout House?

- We knew that was not possible given the existing condition.

How much will the driveway work at the Hanlon cost?

- Estimated at \$25- \$50,000 to do all the road work associated with the project.

What are the results of the traffic study for Deerfield extension?

- We looked at the traffic going both ways and the results were almost equal. They found that the design was in line with the size of the road we are recommending. Also a recommendation

for a speed limit restriction sign. They also found that there were about 30 cars in both directions during drop off and pick up at the Deerfield School.

What happens if the Girl Scouts decide to sell the new house in the future?

- The agreement states that they must offer it back to the town.

If we just didn't do the police station, how much of Deerfield Extension would we be doing?

- We still need to do this. It is a public safety issue for Deerfield Avenue residents and the school.

What if we approve some of these 6 articles but not all?

- It is really all or nothing. These are grouped together because they need to be approved together.

What is the budget for all of this? 1.8/2 million?

- The budget is now 1.6 million add the Scout House back and it is 2.4 million.

How will this project be funded?

- A 2 million dollar bond which is for 10 years at \$220,000 per year.

How is the Scout House pay out going to be funded?

- It is funded out of free cash.

Has the proposed police department been funded and what will the impact of that project have on the proposed school consolidation project at the Hanlon?

- The project has not been funded yet we are going to be coming back to you after Fall Town Meeting to get into specific plans then. The proposed school project is 6 to 10 years down the road.

For Article 10:

How much money have we collected from meal tax?

- We currently have \$123,000 in that account that is pulled back from spring.

Where does extra money go above the \$925,000?

- It would go to the unused tax levy. If we didn't allocate it everyone would get relief.

For Article 11:

Why is the church selling? What are their plans?

- They want to put an addition on the existing building. Similar to what they sold across the street.

If we buy the land, how will we pay for it?

- We will borrow using a 10 year bond for the land only.

What are the potential uses? Are we talking about fields?

- There are no plans for use at all. We just know this is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Are there wetlands there?

- There are no wetlands on this proposed purchase.

How does the School Committee feel about this purchase?

- There was a joint meeting of the BOS & School Committee. We are all on the same page.

How many acres and how much are we talking for cost?

- There are 5 acres and we are discussing approximately \$890K.

For Article 13:

Are there any public safety issues?

- There are no significant public safety issues to open on this one time basis.

For Article 14:

Who would write the proposed grants for this?

- The Westwood Bike Commission, The DPW and the Planning groups.

Would we get to widen the streets here?

- It would all depend on the design and traffic experts and what they would decide.

When would all this be done?

- It would take a combination of our priorities to present to the state.

Is it competitively bid by the state?

- Yes, it would be out of 21 towns.

Can any of this be used for the proposed Deerfield Extension?

- Probably not but once it is adopted we could look at it.

Can residents have input?

- Once we get the provisions approved, we can look at all options.

The Chairperson then requested that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting. A Member made the motion and a Member seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 PM