

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

September 16, 2015

Professional Development Room, Westwood High School

Meeting Minutes

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

Finance and Warrant Commission Members absent: George Hertz and Peter Lentz.

Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings welcomed Members. She introduced new member Michael Powers and new FinCom Administrator Jane O'Donnell.

Members received a copy of tonight's presentation.

Nancy Hyde and Mike Jaillet:

- *Update on Public Safety Task Force - Public Safety Facilities Program*
 1. Permanent Building Commission now overseeing the building of Islington Fire Station 2 & BOS are receiving periodic updates. Project is basically on target except for asbestos that was found deep in ground after digging had started so that is currently being removed.
 2. Update on funding for design of new Police Headquarters (Town Meeting - May 2016)
 3. Initial planning for Main Fire Station Renovation (TBD)
- *Brief Overview of Fall Town Meeting Articles*
 4. Acquisition of Scout House Property; transfer of property at Hanlon School to scouts for new scout house.
 5. Exchange of land with American Legion.
 6. Rezoning American Legion
 7. Capital article for new Deerfield Avenue extension and parking lot improvements.

Some FinCom member comment/questions:

Is the town paying for the design & compensation to build the Girl Scout House new building?

- The town will compensate for a new building which the GS organization will build. The town has hired a building designer.

When would the work begin on the Deerfield Avenue extension & the police station project?

- The road work could start this Fall before town meeting vote and the police station project would start in the summer of 2016.

Will there be any financial help from the state available?

- The town already has the Chapter 90 funds and this project is just too small for further funding from the state.

Will the Public Safety Task Force stay intact until the main fire station is addressed?

- No final decision has been made but that would seem to make sense.

How much do you think the cost will be for the Deerfield Avenue extension project?

- The projection is 1.5 – 2 million dollars.

Who has financial authority for the Library reconstruction?

- Well, it is the Permanent Building Commission, the town Moderator, the taxpayers. John Cronin negotiated the settlement and should be commended.

What exactly is the progress on University Station?

- The Station is only ½ built. June 30th was the valuation date for Phase I of the project. The Planning Board is close to announcing Courtyard by Marriott for spring construction, Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant is also in the works and an upscale restaurant should be announced soon. There are 75 out of the 120 apartments already rented. Wegman's is on target to open in early October and is very eager to be a good neighbor.

Abby McCabe & Chris Pfaff

- *Proposed Zoning Amendment Articles for Fall Town Meeting*

Article 1: Amendments to Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD-3) – Section 9.5

Article 2: Amendments to Definitions and Use Cart Relate to Solar Energy Facilities

Article 3: Section 5.57 (Creation of Ways)

Article 4: Housekeeping Amendments – Zoning Map

Article 5: Rezoning Related to Police Station Redevelopment – Zoning Map

Article 6: Rezoning Related to Relocation of Girl Scout Building – Zoning Map

Article 7: Rezoning for Adaptive Reuse of Obed Baker House – Zoning Map

Article 8: Housekeeping Amendments

*Please see attached document for details

Some FinCom members comments/questions:

Members asked several questions and discussed issues regarding Article 2: Amendments to Definitions and Use Chart Related to Solar Energy Facilities as related to the need for Special Permit for projects exceeding 15 kilowatts and “small scale solar” vs. “large scale solar.”

It was also noted that Margery Eramo Young is a member of the task force for Obed Baker when, Article 7 Rezoning for Adaptive Reuse of Obed Baker House – Zoning Map was discussed and she agreed to report back when she received minutes from last meeting.

Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings:

- Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings announced that the Sub-Committees for 2015/16 would be announced either by mail or at the September 29, 2015 meeting.
- Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings, before handing the floor to Member Peter Neville to discuss the FinCom on OPEB Subcommittee Report Update 2015, commended him on the excellent work that he and this group have been responsible for managing. Member Peter Neville then presented the OPEB Update. (*See attached presentation for details.)
- Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings reminded the group that FinCom would have a short Fall season with only 4 meetings until Fall Town Meeting. She also restated from the June 16, 2015 meeting the need & desire of this group to not make decisions in a vacuum while considering the Warrants before them. Group members agreed and commented on the need to hear from Pam Dukeman, Director of Finance in order to get financial projections and have the ability to put numbers in context for long range planning. A member expressed the need to see 3 to 4 years out in order to vote in an educated manner.

Approval of June 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Chairperson requested that a motion be made to approve the June 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Member Barbara Delisle made the motion which was seconded by Member Cynthia Buckley. The vote was unanimous. Members James Ferraro and Michael Powers abstained as they were not in attendance for that meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 PM