

**Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission**

**September 29, 2015**

**Professional Development Room, Westwood High School**

**Meeting Minutes**

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Chairperson Marianne LeBlanc Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Finance and Warrant Commission Member Peter Lentz, present via phone.

Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings welcomed Members. She informed members that due to the very busy FinCom schedule in preparation for Fall Town Meeting article recommendations, that she would like to assign individual articles in advance for planning & administrative purposes .

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.

**Pam Dukeman – Finance Director**

**Financial Update (Please see attached power point presentation)**

Some FinCom member comment/questions:

In response to Ms. Dukeman's explanation of Bond/BAN sale on August 11, 2015 regarding the "Design of fire station -\$850,000." Is the town setting aside funds over 3-4 year period?

- The bond is a 20 year term.

Question regarding the \$1M BAN sold for design of police station. Will you either pay this off or issue if no police station?

- It has a 1 year term.

How much can the town add to the Capital Stabilization Fund?

- Anything they want. Since 2005, communities can set up savings accounts.

How much is the final new tax growth number for University Station based on 6/30/15 construction?

- The amount will be finalized in fall 2015. I can say the amount is above 1.5 million. We do not have the number yet but it will be ready by the FinCom public hearing on 10/19.

How much does valuation go up or down?

- It depends on the target. The current target is \$1.2M.

What exactly made up the \$2M project estimates for University Station under “Associated direct costs?”

- It was used for police & fire, public safety. We can get that for you.

Also, are we tracking associated direct costs? And are schools included?

- Yes, in the \$500K ballpark for costs now.

Do you have an estimate of new growth?

- We will have that by 10/19. The estimate is that it does exceed \$1.5M. Any additional money could go to a savings account.

What is the projection for meal tax? Is it showing here?

- Right now it is around \$140K per year. Not showing here. It is set up as a reserve account.

**At 7:55 P.M. Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings announced that WestCat had permission to record this meeting.**

**Todd Korchin & Jeff Bina – Sewer Commission Article**

**Grove Street Sewer Connection/Sewer Commission Capital Spending**

Some FinCom member comment/questions:

How much is the cost to design & construct the installation?

- Estimate is around \$400k.

How many residents are we talking about here?

- There are 3 residents.

**Nancy Hyde and Tim Bonfatti – Public Safety Task Force**

**Public Safety Presentation (Please see attached power point presentation)**

Some FinCom member comment/questions:

With proposed new police station, where exactly would their parking lot be?

- The parking lot would move to high street.

Who exactly owns the Scout House land?

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts owns the land.

Do we really need the public space in the Police Headquarters? We already have it at Westwood High School, Library and Council on Aging?

- Always a need.

When will we know the bid results for the new police station?

- The February bids will be back before the Annual Town Meeting. It is timed to come in during mid-March. The bids would have an “up to amount.”

When would road construction begin on Deerfield Extension?

- Road construction is slated to start in November.

So then would the police station work begin?

- The police station would begin during the summer of 2016.

Does the traffic study take into account the potential closing of the Deerfield School?

- No, not at all.

Are there comparables on the number of people processed? Are those metrics used?

- No, what is used for comparables is the number staffed. Although we could get arrest numbers.

How many square feet are the carports?

- Roughly 15,000.

Why no basement?

- Ground water not typically inexpensive construction.

Do we really need that much parking?

- We are currently looking at police/town hall needs, wetland restrictions. Also, Conservation & Planning are meeting jointly.

Deerfield Ave. folks are here with concerns. Has a traffic study been done? Dead End Study?

- A traffic study is being done right now. It will be ready on October 1, 2015.

**Michael Walsh – Chairman, Westwood Board of Selectmen**

**Article Sponsor Presentation (Please see attached power point presentation)**

Some FinCom member comment/questions:

Can we get prices for comparable sites like Weston?

- Tim will get prices for Weston and Harwich.

Can we get comparables for square footage for staff & size of facilities?

- We can try to get a snapshot of how many people are in the building at a given time. That is a tricky measure: staff to square footage.

How many elderly are affected by the home rule petition to appropriate fund to the elderly trust fund?

- 40K a year, around 35-40 people and the average age is 88 years old.

Is there any planned use for the purchase of the land adjacent to the high school? How much land is there?

- We are consulting with the Church now. This would be a once in a lifetime opportunity for the town. There are 4 acres potentially available.

\*Peter Kane and Barbara Delisle recused themselves for this discussion.

What exactly are we considering for the amendment to hours of operation of retail stores article?

- Retailers at University Station who would like to open at midnight on Thanksgiving.

What do we gain if we become a Complete Streets Community?

- We would be eligible to compete for 5 million dollars for projects from the state.

How many unattended collection bins do we have now in town?

- We have 2 or 3 now but it changes from time to time. We also only have control of land that the town owns.

**Abby McCabe, Town Planner & Chris Pfaff, Chairman, Planning Board**

**Article Sponsor Presentation (Please see attached power point presentation)**

Some FinCom member comment/questions:

In regard to the solar panels on individual properties, is there a provision for where they can be placed?

- No there is not.

Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings:

- Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings announced the Sub-Committees for 2015/16. At that time, Nora Loughnan requested that a member of FinCom serve on the Islington Center Task Force. It is a 2-3 year commitment and they will be meeting monthly.
- Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings stated that the agreement reached regarding the Library settlement was a great success and that John Cronin would be happy to meet with the FinCom if we would like to hear more about it.
- Chairperson LeBlanc Cummings opened the meeting to the press & public for comments and questions:  
*Sean Sweeney, Deerfield Avenue* asked if FinCom would consider looking at Bid One and Bid Two together as one package.  
*Alice Smith, Deerfield Avenue* asked if FinCom would consider postponing support for the police station since so far there are no representatives from the neighborhoods or those effected by the project represented on task force.

The Chairperson requested that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting. Member Margery Eramo Young made the motion and Member Barbara Delisle seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 PM**