

**Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission**  
**January 28, 2015**  
**Library**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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Chairman LeBlanc Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

Finance and Warrant Commission members absent: Jim Ferraro, Craig Foscaldo.

Permission was granted to WestCat to record the meeting.

Tonight's agenda was devoted to hearing summaries of warrant articles to be presented at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting on May 4.

The Fincom had scheduled a meeting for January 27 but it was canceled due to inclement weather. As a result, Chairman LeBlanc Cummings stated tonight is a full agenda.

***Petition Article – Michael Brier***

Mr. Brier thanked the Commission for their time and showed an approximate 20 minute presentation regarding his petition article to require the Town to establish a baseline and ongoing energy score for all municipal and school buildings.

Chairman LeBlanc Cummings asked Fincom member and Energy Liaison Peter Kane for comment on this issue. Some of Peter's comments:

- The Town is doing a good job and is moving toward what is requested in this article and as a result, he thinks a warrant article is not necessary.
- School department does not want to spend funds on upgrading their buildings....they feel resources better spent on teachers. There are no funds allocated for energy issues in the FY16 proposed school budget.

Some other member comments:

- What is requested appears to be micro managing and a warrant article is not needed.
- The Town now employs an energy staff person who should provide sufficient emphasis on this topic.

***Petition Article – Ned Richardson***

Mr. Richardson is an attorney representing Lambert's Plaza whose request is to rezone Lambert's Plaza from Single Residence B (SRB) to Highway Business (HB). The petitioner feels this is an administrative issue and should present no issues. The Planning Board has a public hearing scheduled on February 24 at which time the Planning Board will make a recommendation on this article.

***Board of Selectmen Articles***

Present at tonight's meeting:

Selectmen Chair Pat Ahearn

Selectmen Nancy Hyde and Mike Walsh  
Town Administrator Mike Jaillet  
Finance Director Pam Dukeman

Members received a list of Board of Selectmen sponsored articles and the Selectmen provided verbal comments on each, some of which included:

- The design of Fire Station II is on track. The construction project will go out to bid in March and those bids will be opened in advance of Town Meeting. The Fincom would have a good idea of the cost by the time they vote at their final March public hearing. Additional information will be provided at the March 2 Fincom hearing.

Some Fincom member comments/questions:

- Chairman LeBlanc Cummings asked what work has been done around energy efficiency issues...at the Fall Town Meeting this topic was raised by some residents. It is of primary interest in Town and the Fincom wants to keep up with the subject.
  - The Town is conservatively looking at this issue. Fincom member Peter Kane has been coming to the Public Safety Task Force meetings and the subject and its costs are being discussed.
  - The Fincom will be shown the increased costs of the energy items for Fire Station II.

#### ***Special Counsel to Board of Selectmen Dan Bailey***

Attorney Dan Bailey provided a handout relating to the University Station developer's application for I-Cubed funding (approved at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting); specifically, information on the debt service coverage.

#### ***Planning Board Articles***

All Planning Board members and Town Planner Nora Loughnane attended tonight's meeting. Fincom members received a list of the intended articles and Nora provided comments on each. The Planning Board will conduct its public hearing on February 24.

#### ***Chairman's Update***

- The next Fincom meeting on February 10 will include budget updates from both the School Superintendent and the Town Finance Director.

#### ***Member Comments***

- Not much detail on warrant articles was provided tonight; e.g., the stormwater bylaw article is quite comprehensive and Fincom received only verbal comments...no document to further review.
  - Chairman will express that concern.
- There was much discussion regarding the proper level of spending on energy issues in the new public safety facilities; in particular, the current fire station II project.
  - What is the payback on the energy efficiencies?
  - The building will be a good energy building but there has to be a balance.

- It appears decisions have already been made about Fire Station II, but hopefully not too late for the proposed new Police facility.
- The Chairman stated there are limited funds and there has to be a balance. The Fincom has made it clear that energy efficiencies are important to them and expect to hear about this topic specifically at the March 2 public hearing.
  - Thank you to Peter Kane and Geroge Hertz for what they have and will continue to do on this issue.
  - Establishment of an energy policy is expected to be on the agenda for the February 11 meeting of the Long Range Committee; Fincom members Barb Delisle, Rob Uek and Craig Foscaldo serve on this Committee.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 P.M.**

**Next Meeting February 10, 2015**

**Library**