

***Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission
January 29, 2014
Meeting Minutes***

Chairman LeBlanc Cummings called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Finance and Warrant Commission (Fincom) members absent: David Blessing, Rick Cocivera, Tom Looney, Kevin McManus, Rob Uek.

Permission was granted to WestCat to record the meeting.

Tonight's major agenda item was to hear summaries of Planning Board warrant articles to be presented at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting on May 5.

Chairman LeBlanc Cummings:

- Thank you to Town Planner Nora Loughnane, Planning Board Chair Bruce Montgomery and Planning Board member Steve Rafsky for attending tonight's meeting.

Planning Board Sponsored Town Meeting Warrant Articles

At the January 28 meeting, members received a handout summarizing the Planning Board warrant articles.

Nora stated the current article list (10) is in draft format and as the process continues through the spring perhaps some articles will be removed.

Approval of January 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Delisle moved approval of the January 7, 2014 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Eramo Young. Members in attendance at that meeting approved.

Chairman's Update

- If School Supt. John Antonucci is unable to attend, the scheduled Feb. 4 Fincom meeting will be canceled.
- Members agreed all the articles could be reviewed in one public hearing evening on February 24.
- The February 25 meeting can be devoted to hearing from the OPEB actuary as well as an FY15 budget update from Finance Director Pam Dukeman.
- The Chairman then worked with members to assign Fincom article write-ups.
- The Chairman today discussed with Town Administrator Mike Jaillet the September 28 article discussion recusal by Selectman Chair Hyde. Mr. Jaillet indicated that Chairman Hyde had sought guidance from the State Ethics Commission and was advised to recuse herself and she took their advice.
 - Town officials have to abide by the State Conflict of Interest Law. There are two options to handle a possible conflict:
 1. Disclose what the conflict is and then not vote.
 2. Recuse oneself entirely. This method would bear no influence on the decision because no one knows the interest.

Miscellaneous

Fincom member Barb Delisle suggested additional members be encouraged to serve on the Fincom's OPEB Subcommittee. Currently Peter Neville is the only member of the OPEB Subcommittee and Barb feels Peter should have some backup as well as other members should be brought up to speed on the many particulars involved with this subject. The OPEB issue (and the Town's significant liability) has become quite important in recent years. Barb also suggested when making Fincom appointments, the Town Moderator should seek residents with some expertise in this field.

- Peter Neville responded that he does not think additional assistance is necessary at this time. He does not feel overburdened; there would be need for additional help if further activity occurs.
- The OPEB actuary that updated the Town's valuation as of June 30, 2013 will attend the February 25 Fincom meeting if a meeting with the Selectmen occurs prior to the 25th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

**Next Meeting – February 4, 2014
7:30 P.M., Library**