

*Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission
May 4, 2015
High School Little Theatre
Meeting Minutes*

Chairman LeBlanc Cummings called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

Finance and Warrant Commission members absent: Barb Delisle, Mike O'Hara.

Permission was granted to WestCat to record the meeting.

Town Meeting Article 11

The Board of Selectmen conducted their meeting (called to order by Chairman Pat Ahearn) at this Fincom meeting to discuss Town Meeting Article 11 seeking funding to construct a new Islington Fire Station.

At a previous meeting, the Fincom voted to recommend borrowing up to \$8M for the new fire station. Since then, bids were received for the construction which exceeds the \$8M and as a result, the Selectmen now request an increase to the borrowing limit up to \$8,650,000.

Selectman Nancy Hyde:

- At a special meeting on May 2, the Selectmen considered several options before voting to request the \$650K increase. Some other options discussed:
 - Pull the Article and bring back at a future time.
 - Scale down the project.
 - Go out to bid again.
- Four bids received were higher than anticipated; overall building trade costs have risen.
- At the June Fincom meeting, Selectmen will update on the proposed new police station.

Fincom and Public Safety Task Force member George Hertz stated the Task Force unanimously supported requesting the additional funds. The new fire station is an excellent project which has resulted from the hard work of many volunteers and Town staff.

Other member comment:

- Fincom members should remember the additional debt service cost (approximately \$42K) for the \$650K which will begin in the FY17 budget and will continue every year. Members should recall that discussion of future new tax revenue was to be considered for tax relief.
 - Chairman LeBlanc Cummings followed up that appropriate use of new tax revenue is very important to the Fincom. Long term capital needs for police, fire, schools, all need to be evaluated.

Craig Foscaldo moved the Fincom reconsider its original \$8M recommendation. Seconded by Tom Looney. VOTE: unanimous.

Craig Foscaldo moved the Fincom recommend the fire station funding up to \$8,650,000. Seconded by George Hertz. VOTE: unanimous.

Chairman's Update

- Fincom member Tom Looney's term is expiring; thank you for your service to the Town.
- Other members whose terms expire that may wish to be reappointed should contact Town Moderator Alice Moore.
- No date has been set for the June Fincom meeting.....members will be contacted.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 P.M.