

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission
October 8, 2013
Meeting Minutes

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

Finance and Warrant Commission (Fincom) members absent: Peter Neville, Rob Uek.

Permission was granted to WestCat to record the meeting.

Attending tonight's meeting to address Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Board of Selectmen Chair Nancy Hyde	Planning Board
Town Administrator Mike Jaillet	Nora Loughnane, Town Planner
Town Clerk Dottie Powers	Special Counsel Dan Bailey
Bylaw Review Committee Chair Paul Fitzgerald	

Chairman Leblanc Cummings:

- Welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

Members received a summary (attached) document of all articles which were verbally summarized by the presenters.

Town Clerk/Bylaw Review Committee Chair

- Sponsoring a warrant article to edit the Town's Bylaw to require Boards and Committees to file meeting minutes with the Town Clerk.

Board of Selectmen

Some major comments:

- Regarding the three TIF articles – one has been removed; it is unclear at this time whether the discussions for the two remaining will be completed in time for the November 18 Town Meeting.
- Regarding the authorization to sell or lease property – refers to the Obed Baker site; if approved, the Selectmen propose the issuance of an RFP (to solicit interested projects) similar to the process followed with the Colburn building.

Some Fincom member comments/questions:

- Regarding the University Station municipal mitigation (\$900K) article, was there some other way to present this article so Town Meeting would have to vote on spending the funds?
 - Doing so would tie the hands of the Selectmen between now and the May, 2014 Town Meeting on issues that would need to be funded; i.e., hiring, legal costs, possible land acquisition.
 - There should be confidence in the Board of Selectmen to use the funds for the intended purposes.
- Agree that the Selectmen should be given some flexibility on this; these funds were negotiated between the Town and the developer and are part of the executed Development Agreement which the May, 2013 Town Meeting approved. The Fincom can request periodic reports on the expenditure of funds.
 - Separate accounts will be set up as outlined in the Development Agreement.

- The Fincom's role is oversight, not restricting. There has to be some element of trust. The Development Agreement was approved at the last Town Meeting.
- A Fincom member is represented on the *Municipal Facilities Task Force* and will keep all Fincom members informed of their activities which directly relate to the \$900K.
- It is a large amount of money; Fincom members may be interested in seeing how the funds are spent. Assume that would be available to them?
 - Of course.

Planning Board

Town Planner Nora Loughnane summarized the current zoning articles. The Planning Board has a meeting on October 15 at which time the article language will be finalized and subsequently sent to the Fincom in advance of the October 21 public hearing.

Approval of June 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Foscaldo moved approval of the June 17, 2013 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Delisle. Members in attendance at that meeting approved.

Approval of September 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Delisle moved approval of the September 17, 2013 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Foscaldo. Members in attendance at that meeting approved.

Miscellaneous

- Reminder that the next meeting will be the public hearing on October 21. We will continue article discussion that evening, with final versions presented by sponsors. The Fincom will vote its recommendations that evening.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

**Next Meeting – Public Hearing – October 21, 2013
7:30 P.M., High School Little Theatre**