

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission
September 23, 2014
High School Professional Development Room
Meeting Minutes

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

Finance and Warrant Commission members absent: Tom Looney, Margery Eramo Young.

Permission was granted to WestCat to record the meeting.

Attending tonight's meeting to address Special Town Meeting warrant articles:

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| Board of Selectmen Chair Pat Ahearn | Police Chief Jeff Silva |
| Selectman Michael Walsh | Town Planner Nora Loughnane |
| Town Administrator Mike Jaillet | Planning Board Chair Steve Rafsky |
| Fire Chief Bill Scoble | Town Clerk Dottie Powers |
| Finance Director Pam Dukeman | Compass Management Consultant Tim Bonfatti |

Chairman LeBlanc Cummings stated tonight's meeting is to hear from the Special Town Meeting warrant article sponsors. The Town Meeting is scheduled for November 17 and the Fincom public hearing and member voting will be held on October 20.

Town Clerk Dottie Powers

The warrant article requests Town Meeting to consider reducing the late fee for licensing a dog from \$50 to \$25. Increasing the fee in 2013 has caused many hardships, especially if a resident owns more than one dog. The new animal control laws had suggested the higher amount; however, it is at the town's discretion to charge what they choose, up to \$50.

Planning Board

Town Planner Nora Loughnane briefly summarized the seven zoning articles (handout provided at 9/9/14 Fincom meeting) – six of which involve amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and one proposes an addition to the Town's General Bylaws.

The precise language of each proposed article could change as a result of discussions in the course of the Planning Board's public hearing scheduled for September 30.

Board of Selectmen

At the September 9 Fincom meeting, Selectmen Chair Pat Ahearn provided details on all of their articles. Discussion continued tonight.

- The warrant article concerning design funds for the Islington Fire station includes modifying the existing DPW garage for the temporary Fire station and the relocation/construction of a DPW garage (estimated cost of \$300K). Depending on which option was chosen could also involve replacement of the Islington tennis courts.

- Selectman Ahearn asked Fincom members whether there should be one or two articles presented to achieve the necessary result for the new Fire facility.
 - There was a very lengthy discussion focusing on opinions that the DPW garage would be a distraction to the primary issue which is constructing a new Fire facility.
 - Some Fincom members thought a temporary location or structure for the DPW should be sought rather than to construct a new facility.
- Chairman LeBlanc Cummings stated the public facility discussion has been ongoing for a long time and the question now is how best to present options to residents; concerns raised tonight seem to complicate the original focus.
- Compass Management consultant Tim Bonfatti provided a handout which included a cost breakdown for both the Fire and Police facilities.
- Finance Director Pam Dukeman addressed the issue of funding and provided members with some current debt schedules and explained where opportunities were presented to replace debt drop off.
- Information was also provided to Fincom members regarding the adoption of the additional MA .75% meals tax.
- At approximately 9:10 P.M., Selectman Ahearn called a meeting of the Board of Selectmen; a motion was made to remove the “stormwater” article; the motion carried by both Selectmen and the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman’s Update

- The Fincom public hearing and voting will be held on October 20 at 7:30 P.M. at the library.
- The Chairman and members agreed on assignments for article comments which will be included in the Fincom’s Special Town Meeting report to residents.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

**Next Meeting – Public Hearing
October 20, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.
Library**

| 2014 Special Town Meeting Members Assigned Comments | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Article Description | Member Writing |
| Seven zoning articles | Nora's Comments |
| Two budget articles | Sheila |
| Roadways and Takings – University Station | Margery |
| Potential road acceptance | Sheila |
| Building permit fee- University Station | Sheila |
| Design funds – Fire and Police and potential capital articles | Marianne/George |
| Meals tax | Rob |
| Deerfield field9/29/2014 funding | Sheila |
| Town procurement bylaw | Sheila |
| Special license for sale of wine..... | Julie |
| Algonquin gas easement | Sheila |
| Remove Fire from civil service | Peter Neville |