

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

MARCH 2021 FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 08, 2021

Remote Meeting - ZOOM Webinar

7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12 2020 Order suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL C. 30A Sec. 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this public hearing of the Finance and Warrant Commission of Westwood, MA is being conducted largely by remote participation and we are not allowing in-person attendance by members of the public. Further, we have attempted to create at least 6 feet of space between all in physical attendance. The public is encouraged to join our meeting and participate fully. Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so during the portions of the hearing designated for public comment. You will be queued up by the system operator and prompted when it is your turn to speak. The Chair will continue to give guidance and instructions as needed.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 8, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Finance and Warrant Commission Public Hearing

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83768890296?pwd=VlJobWhVWWcxVVpFbFFQaDNCZWVDdz09>

Passcode: 346747

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,83768890296# or +13126266799,,83768890296#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 837 6889 0296

FinCom Chair Peter Lentz called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Finance and Warrant Commission member not present, Chris Poreda.

The Chair then granted permission to Westwood Media Center to live stream and record the meeting. He also asked if anyone else would like to record this meeting.

Chair Lentz made introductory comments and welcomed all participants including remote members, presenters and members of public and press to the March FinCom Public Hearing. Ms. O'Donnell then called the ROLL.

Members were previously provided with the March First Public Hearing agenda packet for the 2021 Annual Town of Westwood Articles. This meeting included review of Select Board, Planning Board and the School Committee Warrant Articles for 2021 ATM. Presenters were invited to be on hand to provide an overview on each warrant article on their portion of the warrant.

The Chair led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Evening's Presenters:

- Chris Coleman – Town Administrator,

Pam Dukeman – Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director, Select Board Members,

-Abby McCabe – Town Planner,

Dave Atkins –Planning Board Chair, Member Rob Gotti, Members of the Planning Board

- Emily Parks – Superintendent,

Carol Lewis - School Committee Chair, Lemma Jn-baptiste - Director of Business & Finance,

School Committee Members, Maya Plotkin - School Building Committee Chair

The Chair introduced the evening's first presentation. Mr. Coleman presented each article on the Select Board warrant, excluding the Finance Articles which will be presented in detail to the Finance Commission on Monday, March 29 at their Final Public Hearing. The Town Administrator began by reporting that the Select Board had withdrawn the following articles at it's meeting also on March 8, 2021 at 5:00PM. Articles, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were removed and Miscellaneous 1 is now being used as Budget 14 and Miscellaneous 2 & 3 are now being used as Planning Board 4 & 5 at the request of the Planning Board. During and after this presentation, members asked questions and provided feedback on all the articles that Mr. Coleman discussed. The Chair thanked Mr. Coleman and his colleagues for attending and said that the FinCom will look forward to hearing the Financial Articles on March 29.

Chair Lentz then entertained questions from the public and press on the Select Board Articles. The Commission then entertained review of Planning Board 1-4 and the newly created Articles 4, 5, & 6. On hand to present them were Abby McCabe – Town Planner, Dave Atkins – Chair, Planning Board and members of the Planning Board. Mr. Atkins called the roll to continue the

Planning Board Public Hearing which was first held on March 1, 2021. Ms. McCabe and Mr. Atkins explained Planning Board articles 1, 2 and 6. Then Ms. McCabe introduced Planning Board Member Rob Gotti to present *Planning Board -3 Zoning Text and Map Amendments Relative to Medical Uses – Medical Centers or Clinics and Offices of Healthcare Professionals, Planning Board -4 Zoning Amendments Related to Medical Uses – Prohibiting Hospitals, and Planning Board -5 Zoning Amendments Related to Medical uses – Creating Substance Rehabilitation Facility Overlay Districts*. Mr. Gotti provided an extensive presentation, explaining the history of this process which was originally initiated in previous warrants discussions. Mr. Gotti shared the considerable work that had been done since the original iteration of this article to get it ready for the current warrant cycle. He then presented even more extensive materials on the further changes done on Medical Uses which ultimately concluded in adding the new Planning Board Articles 4 & 5 which he said was based on public feedback and further research. Members asked questions and made comments on all the articles but spent a considerable amount of time on the new information regarding the Medical Uses articles.

Chair Lentz entertained questions from the public and press. Ms. O'Donnell opened both the phone and Chat for resident comments, questions and feedback which there was a considerable amount of and interaction with Planning Board members as well. After the presentation, members asked more questions and provided additional feedback. Finally, the Chair thanked Ms. McCabe and her colleagues for attending and for presenting details of the 2021 town meeting Planning Board articles. Mr. Atkins, called the roll to continue the Planning Board Public Hearing to March 16.

Superintendent Emily Parks then focused her presentation, exclusively on School Committee Article *Budget - 13, Elementary Schools Building Project*. The Chair thanked Ms. Parks and her colleagues for attending and for providing so much relevant and detailed information to the Commission. He commented on what an important Article this was and what an excellent job Ms. Parks did in laying out a complete picture of every aspect of the article and the project itself.

Upon completion of her extensive presentation, members asked questions, made comments and provided feedback for Budget -13.

Chair Lentz then entertained questions from the public and press.

The Chair then suggested the approval of the February 2021 meeting minutes. Those minutes were seconded and then approved by 14 in favor.

The Chair then moved for the approval of the Revised October 2020 meeting minutes, which was seconded and approved with 14 in favor.

Chair Lentz thanked members for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was offered and seconded. A ROLL CALL vote was taken with 14 in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:16PM

For a complete video of the 3/8/21 FinCom meeting please see the following link:
<https://westwoodmediacenter.tv/>