

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

January 2022 MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

ZOOM Webinar

6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, On June 16, 2021, Governor Baker signed into law an Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until April 1, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of his March 12, 2020, Executive Order. This meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so by using the Webinar link below. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The meeting will be live streamed by Westwood Media Center and the public can view the meeting there. Our government channels will be broadcasting the meeting on Comcast channel 12 and Verizon channel 42.

The public is encouraged to watch our meeting via Westwood Media Center live stream and join via Zoom webinar as instructed below. The public will be allowed to make comments, if they wish to do so, during the portions of the meeting designated for public comment.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jan 18, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Finance and Warrant Commission

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84783257398?pwd=YVlqK29aOFVoWHdHRkFKd21nY2tSdz09>

Passcode: 985930

Or Telephone:

877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 847 8325 7398

FinCom Chair Dianne McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and welcomed members to the January Zoom Webinar.

All Finance and Warrant Commission members were present.

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

Chair McCarthy made introductory comments. She then welcomed all participants; remote members, presenters and members of public and press to the FinCom January meeting. Ms. O'Donnell then called the ROLL.

Members were previously provided with the final agenda packet for this meeting and came prepared to hear all presentations.

The Chair then led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair McCarthy then gave members an overview of current issues discussed by Select Board Members at their most recent meeting. She encouraged members to attend those meetings whenever possible.

The Evening's Presenters:

Peter Ittig, Resident 108 Bay Colony Drive	Citizens Petition Articles on Senior Property Tax Exemptions (1&2)
Chris Coleman – Town Administrator and Pam Dukeman – Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director	Summary Preview of 2022 ATM Warrant Articles
Abby McCabe – Town Planner and Chris Pfaff –Planning Board Chair	Summary Preview of 2022 ATM Warrant Articles

The Chair introduced the evening's first presentation. Resident Peter Ittig introduced his Citizen's Petition Articles:

Citizen's Petition -1 Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens Petition (M.G.L. Chapter 59)

Citizen's Petition -2 Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens Petition (M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C ½ and Clauses 17D, 17E, and 17F)

Mr. Ittig supplied a number of related materials supporting his articles which can be found attached using the link below. After The Petitioner finished his presentation, the Chair asked for questions and comments from members. Ms. McCarthy then thanked the Petitioner and requested that he supply the statement that he read at the beginning of his presentation so it could be included with his various accompanying documents supporting his articles.

The Chair then introduced Chris Coleman, Town Administrator and Pam Dukeman, Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director. Select Board Chair John Hickey had planned to attend but was unable to because of an unexpected work commitment. Mr. Coleman and Ms. Dukeman then presented a Summary Preview of 2022 Select Board Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. A copy of their presentation materials including a list of the articles and supporting slides can be found by using the link below. The Chair then opened the meeting to questions and comments from members.

The evening's next presenters were Abby McCabe, Town Planner, and Chris Pfaff, Planning Board Chair who presented the Planning Board's Summary Preview of 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. A copy of their presentation materials is also available with supporting slides that can be found by using the link below. The Chair then asked for questions and comments from members regarding Planning Board Articles.

Ms. McCarthy then introduced "New Business" which included a discussion on the assignment of the 2022 ATM articles and what members could expect from the budget process as the Commission moves through the ATM season. The Chair also made final comments on the 2022 Sub-Committees being complete and thanked all for being hard at work so promptly.

The Chair then opened the discussion to “New Business.” Peter Ittig stated that he did have comments to make, specifically, the Commission did not take a vote to review or approve the write-up in the FinCom official Recommendation prior to mailing to the public ahead of the 2021 Special Town Meeting. When the Chair reminded Mr. Ittig that this issue had been asked and answered at the December Commission meeting, Mr. Ittig stated that he wanted to make this motion again on this issue. A second was asked for and no second was made.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the December minutes, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The Chair then asked for any comments. Mr. Ittig stated that he had several objections to the minutes including a paragraph from the December meeting where it stated that *“Ms. McCarthy then asked if there was any “New Business” before she called for a motion to approve the minutes. Several members expressed their serious concerns regarding one member, Mr. Ittig, misrepresenting his personal opinion as the minority report of the Commission. Members felt this behavior undermined the integrity of the Commission. Mr. Ittig responded. It was clarified that there is only one Report of FinCom on this matter: 2021 Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission Warrant and Recommendations for the Special Town Meeting regarding the Hanlon-Deerfield Project.”* Mr. Ittig made a motion to strike this paragraph from the minutes. The Chair asked for a second on the motion, hearing none. Mr Ittig then made a motion that all his motions be accurately and correctly reported and not by summarizing them but by reporting them word-for-word. The Chair asked for a second, again, hearing none. Mr. Ittig then said that he had a complaint from a citizen that they could not see the documents on zoom clearly and were unable to find information on the town website. He was asked if he was able to assist the resident in finding the information that they were seeking and he said no and that he was just passing on the comment. Mr. Ittig then made another motion that the December meeting documents be easily made available and posted including all of his Citizen’s petition documents from this current meeting. There was no second on this motion. The Chair asked if members were ready to approve the December 2021 minutes which passed with a vote of 13 members in favor and one opposed.

Ms. O’Donnell offered and the Chair agreed to post all related materials from the December Meeting and this meeting on the FinCom website under “Agenda Packets”. Ms. O’Donnell will continue to post the FinCom agenda packets on the FinCom page prior to all FinCom meetings. Ms. O’Donnell asked Mr. Ittig in the future to please send any resident seeking information to her so she can appropriately help anyone in need of assistance.

The Chair again thanked all presenters and members for all their input at this meeting and then asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was offered and seconded. A ROLL CALL vote was taken unanimously in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56PM

For a complete video of the 1/18/22 FinCom meeting please see the following link:

<https://westwoodmediacenter.tv/>

To view all FinCom Agenda Packets with related materials and presentations, please click on the link below.

<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/home/showpublisheddocument/24408/63778622983197000>