

Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

March 1, 2022 First Public Hearing

Tuesday, March 1, 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: Mar 1, 2022 06:00 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/87095654542?pwd=Q0NJamdDd2V0RlJQbSt5Ymw0ZmJKUT09>

Passcode: 843484

Or Telephone:

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

Webinar ID: 870 9565 4542

<https://youtu.be/Z9I3rtueyaM>

FinCom Chair Dianne McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed members to the March 1, 2022 Zoom Webinar Public Hearing.

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 March 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.

The Commission, led by the Chair and Vice-Chair introduced motions honoring Assistant Town Administrator/Director of Finance Pam Dukeman who announced her intention to retire later this fall and Town Planner Abby McCabe who announced she would be taking a position starting in mid-March for the Town of Lexington. The motion carried unanimously for both staff members and FinCom Members took a few moments to express their gratitude and appreciate to Pam and Abby!

Chair McCarthy then gave members an overview of current issues discussed by Select Board Members at their most recent meeting. She again, 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	Select Board 2022 ATM Warrant Articles

Pam Dukeman – Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director, Mike Walsh – Chair, Select Board	
Abby McCabe – Town Planner and Chris Pfaff –Planning Board Chair, members of Planning Board	Planning Board 2022 ATM Warrant Articles

The Chair introduced the evening’s first presentation. Resident Peter Ittig re- introduced his Citizen’s Petition Articles as all sponsors had previously been before the Commission at the January 2022 Meeting.

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 few new slides supporting his articles which he shared with members. Those can be found in the FinCom Agenda Packet using the link below. After The Petitioner finished his presentation, the Chair asked for questions and comments from members and then from residents and members of the press. Ms. McCarthy then thanked the Petitioner for his time and moved on to the Select Board Articles.

The Chair introduced Chris Coleman, Town Administrator to give an update on the Select Board Articles. Select Board Chair Mike Walsh was also on hand to give the update. Mr. Coleman let the Commission know that at their meeting on February 28th, the Select Board removed articles SB-1 and SB-3 and 4 miscellaneous articles. They also split a Capital Funding article, thereby creating Budget-12 by using Misc.-1. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Walsh, then presented a full update on the remaining 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. Questions and Comments for public and press followed.

The evening's next presenters were Abby McCabe, Town Planner, and Chris Pfaff, Planning Board Chair along with members of the Planning Board. Mr. Pfaff called the roll and continued the Planning Board's public hearing from their last meeting. Abby then presented an update on the Planning Board's 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Town Counsel Patrick Ahearn and C&ED Director Nora Loughnane also were on hand to provide additional advice and details on the Planning Board Articles. A copy of the 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. Public and Press also provided feedback and asked questions.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the February 2022 minutes, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The Chair asked if members were ready to approve the February 2022 minutes which passed with a vote of 14 members in favor and one opposed.

The Chair also raised the possibility of voting on articles at the March 15 Sub-Committee meeting with the goal of giving every article the attention it deserves and not cramming all the articles into the final public hearing.

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 9:36PM

For a complete video of the 3/01/22 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>