

# AGENDA

## FINANCE AND WARRANT COMMISSION

### JANUARY 2023 MEETING

Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 &

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 (if needed)

### REMOTE MEETING - ZOOM WEBINAR

**7:00 P.M.**

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Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, On June 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law an Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until March 31, 2023, of the remote meeting provisions of his March 12, 2020, Executive Order. This meeting will be conducted via in-person & remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so either in- person or by using the Webinar link below. In-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted based on space availability following CDC, State and Local guidelines, every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means and in-person. 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 or on our government channels 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.

#### Tuesday, January 31, 2023

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jan 31, 2023 07:00 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/86331408281?pwd=endQc1pUTDJvMEJNMEJSaUtBNUU5QT09>

Passcode: 029992

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13052241968,,86331408281# or +13092053325,,86331408281#

Or Telephone:

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

US: +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282

(Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 863 3140 8281

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcqDcEMKwY>

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023 (if needed)**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.  
When: Feb 1, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Finance and Warrant Commission (if needed)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86146073137?pwd=Y1J4Tmk1QXBFcnJKNYtOYUVqaVVEdz09>

Passcode: 145640

Or One tap mobile :

US: +19292056099,,86146073137# or +13017158592,,86146073137#

Or Telephone:

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

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or  
+1 646 931 3860 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1  
253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or +1 564  
217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282  
(Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 861 4607 3137

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86146073137>

- I. Call to Order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. Grant permission to Westwood Media Center to live stream and videotape the meeting.  
Ask if anyone else wishes to record this meeting.
- III. Welcome all participants including members, presenters, and members of the public and press.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **Member Roll-Call.**
- VI. Chair's update – Update on FY24 Budget and ATM 2023 Warrant Articles.
- VII. Vice Chair's update – Report on Hale Reservation Info Session.
- VIII. Other business that may properly come before the board not previously anticipated by the Chair–
- IX. Old Business –Scheduling Subcommittee Meetings, Approval of 01.17.23 Minutes.
- X. Public and Press -
- XI. Adjournment – **Roll-Call Vote.**

**Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission**  
**JANUARY 17, 2023 REMOTE MEETING**  
**ZOOM WEBINAR**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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Finance Commission Chairperson George Hertz called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He read the Open Meeting Law pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

Finance and Warrant Commission members who were present: William Bruce Jr., John Carey, James Ferraro, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Rene Gauthier, Mike Gay, George Hertz, Angeila Hughes, Caitlyn Jurczak, George Laham, George Maroun, Kristina Patyjewicz, Christopher Poreda and Sean Weller.

Chairperson Hertz 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.

He then welcomed all participants, members, presenters and members of public and press to the FinCom January 17, 2023 meeting.

Afterwards, Chairperson Hertz led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Finance Commission administrator, Ms. Wong then called the ROLL.

Members were provided with the final agenda and all other related materials prior to the meeting.

**The Evening's Presenters:**

**- Louis Rizoli (Chair of Westwood Housing Authority & President of Westwood Affordable Housing Associates, Inc.), Jane O'Donnell (Housing Coordinator) - Informational Overview of WHA/WAHA**

The Chair introduced the evening's first presentation. Louis Rizoli (Chair of Westwood Housing Authority & President of Westwood Affordable Housing Associates, Inc.) and Jane O'Donnell (Housing Coordinator) were present. Mr. Rizoli gave a brief history of WHA/WAHA on how it was established. He also referenced the WHA/WAHA webpage for more detail on their history. At the end of his presentation, Mr. Rizoli spent considerable time answering members' questions. The Vice Chair asked Mr. Rizoli if they could provide a breakdown on the expenditures for the WAHA units. Ms. O'Donnell will gather this information for FinCom

members. Chairperson Hertz thanked Mr. Rizoli and Ms. O'Donnell for attending and for giving a wonderful presentation.

***- Marianne LeBlanc Cummings (Select Board Member), Chris Coleman (Town Administrator), Pat Ahearn (Town Counsel) – Summary Preview of 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles***

Next, the Chair introduced the evening's second presentation. Marianne LeBlanc Cummings (Select Board Member), Chris Coleman (Town Administrator), Pat Ahearn (Town Counsel), Molly Kean (Asst. Town Administrator/HR Director) and Tish Healey (Assistant to Town Administrator) were present. Marianne presented a summary preview of 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. She mentioned there are seven miscellaneous placeholders for warrant articles. Towards the end of her presentation, Ms. Cummings, Mr. Coleman and Mr. Ahearn spent considerable time answering members' questions. Chairperson Hertz thanked Ms. Cummings, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Ahearn, Ms. Kean, and Ms. Healey for their excellent work and time on answering members' questions. He then suggested to members to watch the Select Board's January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for more specifics on initial warrant article requests.

***- Nora Loughnane (Director of Community & Economic Development), Christopher Pfaff (Planning Board Chair) – Summary Preview of 2023 Annual Town Meeting "Planning Board" Warrant Articles***

The Chair introduced the evening's final presentation. Nora Loughnane (Director of Community & Economic Development) and Christopher Pfaff (Planning Board Chair) were present. Ms. Loughnane gave a general overview of the five Annual Town Meeting "Planning Board" warrant articles for 2023. She answered member's questions after presenting each warrant article. Ms. Loughnane mentioned the Planning Board is going to file a plan of compliance that shows the town adopted a reasonable district in size that allows by right use for multi-family housing within ½ mile of a MBTA train station. Chairperson Hertz thanked Ms. Loughnane and Mr. Pfaff for attending and look forward to seeing them at the future FinCom meetings. Ms. Loughnane welcomed members to attend the Planning Board Public Hearing on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Member Discussion:

- Chair's update: Chairperson Hertz attended three budget steering committee meetings. He reported that the town and school are facing some real challenges. The town and school are putting their best effort in bringing the budgets within the available funding.
  - School Challenges - In reference to Chapter 766, transportation costs increased significantly and are out of the town's control. The Chair mentioned Ms. Wong sent out an email asking members to pick up the School's proposed budget booklet at Town Hall. He then advised the Education Subcommittee to pick up these books. Members may request Ms. Wong to mail out a copy if for any reason they are not able to pick it up. Lastly, the Chair stated school contracts for teachers are not resolved yet.
  - Municipal Challenges- They are also dealing with inflation of fuel costs. In addition, they are waiting for group insurance commission and MWRA assessments. For the public safety side, fire department and police contracts are also not resolved yet.
  - Other towns are also facing the same challenges as the Town of Westwood.
- Chairperson Hertz assigned a mentor for each new member. One member made a recommendation in putting together an onboard manual for new members. The Chair asked members to send thoughts or suggestions to Ms. Wong for the onboard manual.
- One member asked when the subcommittees will receive all the budget information. The Capital Budget Subcommittee will gather budget information during their Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, the School proposed budget information is available at Town Hall. The Municipal and School Budget presentations will be at FinCom's Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- FinCom Subcommittee reports are due on Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- One member proposed to reschedule the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting date. The Chair will look into rescheduling.
- There were two questions that require follow up. Chairperson Hertz will reach out to the Finance Director to find out information on how other towns are facing their financial challenges. Secondly, Vice Chair Poreda will reach out to Town Counsel to see if members are allowed to approve meeting minutes if they are late to the meeting and have watched the meeting afterwards. The Chair and Vice Chair emphasized members' input on meeting minutes is extremely important even if the member is not allowed to vote.

- Members were asked to review and approve the meeting minutes for December 07, 2022. A motion was offered and seconded. A ROLL call took place. Thirteen members approved the minutes. One member abstained. One member was not present for the vote.

Chairperson Hertz then entertained questions from the public and the press.

- A resident expressed concern about the funding for Westwood's Fire Department's staffing and equipment. The resident is also concerned about how the funds were distributed to the school building project.

The Chair thanked members for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was offered and seconded. Fourteen members were in favor. One member was not present for the vote.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 8:18PM**

For a complete video of the 01/17/23 FinCom meeting please see the following link:  
<https://westwoodmediacenter.tv/>