

*Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission*  
*Annual Reorganization Meeting*  
**JUNE 12, 2023 REMOTE MEETING - ZOOM WEBINAR**  
7:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes

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Finance and Warrant Commission Administrator, Ms. Wong, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. She read the Open Meeting Law pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. She welcomed all participants, members, and members of public and press to the FinCom June 12, 2023 meeting.

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

Ms. Wong 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.

Afterwards, Ms. Wong led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then called the ROLL.

Members were provided with the final agenda and the meeting minutes for 03.28.23 prior to the meeting.

**Comments from the Town Moderator, Mr. Jim O'Sullivan- Introduction of New Member:**

Ms. Wong introduced the Town Moderator, Jim O'Sullivan. Mr. O'Sullivan thanked the FinCom members for serving and for their hard work. He provided an update that the vacancy position for FinCom has been filled by a new member, Seth Frederickson. Mr. O'Sullivan then gave a brief introduction of Mr. Frederickson.

**Election of 2023/2024 FinCom Chair:**

Ms. Wong explained the process for electing the new chair for 2023-2024. One member nominated Mr. George Hertz. Mr. Hertz gave a few remarks and gladly accepted the nomination. There were no other nominees. A motion was offered and seconded. Then a ROLL CALL took place. Mr. Hertz was elected as chair for 2023-2024. VOTE: UNANIMOUS

**Introduction of New Chair:**

- Chairperson Hertz thanked Ms. Wong and then gave some introductory comments. He mentioned that he and Mr. Poreda gave a stellar review on Ms. Wong's performance

evaluation. He thought Ms. Wong has done an excellent job in transitioning into the administrator's position. Then he reiterated that it has been a privilege working with this group of FinCom members.

- The Chair nominated Mr. Chris Poreda as Vice Chair.
- Chairperson Hertz asked members to provide their feedback to Ms. Wong via email. Feedback includes what members liked or didn't like, recommendations on where they like to see changes and comments on the subcommittee structure.
- The chair is trying to find out if there will be a special fall town meeting. There may be a potential issue to address if the town plans to amend the MBTA Housing article. In addition, the Chair mentioned that the town of Dover and Westwood held a joint meeting in executive session concerning Hale Reservation. If there is a fall town meeting, the Chair would like to set up subcommittee to work on proposed articles over the summer in preparation for the meeting.

**Member Discussion:**

- The Chair asked members if there are any feedback or comments at this time.
- One member requested for more transparency from town officials during discussions. This member felt the subcommittee meetings showed more transparency compared to public meetings.
- Another member suggested to set the schedule sooner than later so members are allowed to plan their travel appropriately. This member also suggested to invite the new Superintendent of Westwood Public Schools to one of the fall meetings.
- Chairperson Hertz asked Ms. Wong to send out a tentative schedule to members for any feedback. He also asked members to let Ms. Wong know if they prefer to continue with the meetings on Zoom versus in person meetings. The Chair suggested to have the first meeting in person as well as the public hearings and voting meetings in.
- A third member thought it was also important to know what the Public preference would be since it promotes citizens engagement. The Chair asked the Town Moderator if he had any comments to stimulate public viewers. The Town Moderator suggested to ask Westwood Media Center to see how many attend the meeting live versus viewing the video online. Then The Chair asked Ms. Wong to reach out to Westwood Media to gather this

data. Lastly, the FinCom member stated Westwood Media Center Youtube channel would be able to provide stats on how many viewers there are post meeting.

- One member volunteered to be a new mentor for the new member.
- The Chair complimented members for their openness and willingness to speak. He encouraged members to ask questions as all questions are welcomed.
- Mr. Poreda accepted the Chair's nomination for Vice Chair. A motion was offered and seconded. Then a ROLL CALL took place. Mr. Poreda was elected as vice chair for 2023-2024. VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- The Town Moderator asked members to reach out to him if they have any recommendations for new candidates in the future.
- Under Old Business, members were asked to review and approve the meeting minutes for March 28, 2023. A motion was offered and seconded. A ROLL call took place. Eleven members approved the minutes. One member abstained and three members were absent. The Chair thanked Ms. Wong for writing up the meeting minutes in a way where readers are allowed to understand what goes on during the meetings. In addition, he stated the meeting minutes does not put anyone in an uncomfortable situation.

Chairperson Hertz then entertained questions from the public and the press. Ms. Wong read questions from the Q&A Box.

- One resident asked will FinCom have any input on how the remaining funds for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) will be allocated. The Chair deferred the question and stated the funds involved the Norfolk County and the Select Board.
- A second resident asked if the Westwood Fire Department will be a priority with increase in staffing and new fire station. The resident also wanted to know that since the Chair of the Select Board recused himself from Hale Reservation discussions and voting, would the Chair of FinCom also recuse himself. The Chair shared the Town is waiting for the consultant's report on staffing studies for the Fire Department along with operational studies for the a new fire station. The Chair indicated that if an article comes up concerning Hale Reservation, he would discuss this matter with Town Council & Town Moderator concerning the issue of recusal.

Vice Chair Poreda stated the fire station on High Street has been high priority for the Chair over the years. Per the 5 year capital budget plan, there are a lot of demands for funding. Chairperson Hertz hopes the town will prioritize the fire station this year.

Vice Chair Poreda asked Ms. Wong if she received any feedback from other board assistants or administrators in regards to Fincom's meeting minutes. Ms. Wong stated she didn't receive any

feedback from other boards. The Vice Chair elaborated on the importance of the meeting minutes and complimented Ms. Wong on being a great minute taker.

The Chair then thanked members for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was offered and seconded. Twelve members were in favor. Three members were absent.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:31PM**

For a complete video of the 06/12/23 FinCom meeting please see the following link:  
<https://westwoodmediacenter.tv/>