

Town of Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission

2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Summaries Notice

Schedule of Public Hearings:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

and

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Main Library- Community Meeting Room– 7PM

(Date, Time & Location subject to change if necessary)

(Also Available on Westwood Media Center)



In the event of severe weather, please check the Town of Westwood web site
for weather related postponement information.

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us



Finance and Warrant Commission

George Hertz, Chair
Christopher Poreda, Vice-Chair
William C. Bruce Jr.
John Carey
James Ferraro
Lauren FitzPatrick
Seth Frederickson
Michael Gay
Caitlyn Jurczak
George Laham
George Maroun
Kristina Patyiewicz
Sean Weller
Alexander Yale

Victoria Wong, Administrator

A Message from the Chair & Vice Chair – George Hertz & Chris Poreda

As the Finance and Warrant Commission (FinCom) prepares for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 6, 2024, we would like to invite Westwood residents to learn more about the role of the Commission and participate in our upcoming public hearings.

The FinCom is a fifteen-member Commission whose members are appointed by the Town Moderator to serve three-year overlapping terms. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Commission:

- ❖ Considers all articles in Town Meeting Warrants and reports in print its advice, estimates, and recommendations to residents.
- ❖ Studies the financial and other affairs of the Town and advises with officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations.

Preparations to address the Annual Town Meeting warrant article(s) commence in September each year. As a Commission, we educate members through subcommittees and presentations made by various representatives in Town; monitor budgets approved at the previous Town Meeting; and receive information on possible articles for the upcoming Town Meetings. Members of the Commission engage in a thorough review of the Town Meeting warrant articles.

Beginning in January and up until the end of March each year, members of the Commission engage in a thorough review of all Town Meeting warrant articles. Each article sponsor comes before the Commission on at least two occasions and sometimes as often as four times to discuss their article.

The FinCom has scheduled two public hearings, February 27 and March 26 devoted to discussing the important issues on which residents will vote at the May 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting. These hearings are intended to provide residents the opportunity for public participation and input into matters facing our Town. At these meetings and during additional FinCom meetings, members of the Commission are apprised of the intent, background and details of each article. Through sponsor presentations, member questions and input received from the public, Commission members determine their position and formulate recommendations on the articles. Following public input, the FinCom may vote their recommendation(s) at the first public hearing on February 27 or may do so at any of their regular meetings held during the month of March. They may also wait until the final hearing on March 26 when the voting generally occurs.

The FinCom urges your participation at our **upcoming public hearings on February 27 and March 26** and at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6, 2024.



FINCOM First Public Hearing(s) Schedule:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Westwood Public Library (Also available on Westwood Media Center)

If business is not finalized on February 27, the hearing will continue to

Wednesday, February 28, at 7:00 P.M.

DISCLAIMER: *Articles may be added or removed prior to the Finance and Warrant Commission's Public Hearings. Updated list of articles will be posted on the website. Please check the website for the most up to date information related to articles that will be presented to the Finance and Warrant Commission at its hearings.*

**Article numbers are draft only and are subject to change.*

SELECT BOARD

Select Board-1: Street Acceptance – Ellis Street (a portion of)

This is a standard article to present a private road, that has been constructed and/or brought up to Town's standards, for acceptance as a Town way.

Select Board-2: Street Acceptance – Porter Street (a portion of)

This is a standard article to present a private road, that has been constructed and/or brought up to Town's standards, for acceptance as a Town way.

Select Board-3: Street Acceptance – Hedgerow Lane

This is a standard article to present a private road, that has been constructed and/or brought up to Town's standards, for acceptance as a Town way.

Select Board-4: General Bylaw Amendment – Dog Leash Requirements

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood General Bylaw Chapter 184 [Animals] to require that all dogs be leashed and under control while on public property unless within an area designated, identified, and authorized for dogs to be off-leash, to clarify various terms used throughout Chapter 184, and to modify fines prescribed in Chapter 184 for compliance with applicable state law.

Select Board-5: Home Rule Petition – An Act to Establish Quorum Requirement Solely to Open Meeting

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter to provide that while a quorum is required to open a town meeting, no quorum requirements shall thereafter apply.

Select Board-6: Home Rule Petition – An Act Changing the Town Clerk Position from Elected to Appointed

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter to change the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed, provided, however, that the current Town Clerk shall serve until her tenure expires, and, should she continue to serve as clerk at that time, she shall be the first appointed town clerk.

Select Board-7: Home Rule Petition- An Act Authorizing a Finance and Warrant Commission of Eleven (11) to Fifteen (15) Members

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter to provide for a Finance and Warrant



Commission of 11 to 15 members and to clarify that members of the Commission may serve on other committees in an ex officio capacity only.

Select Board-8: Home Rule Petition - An Act Restructuring the Personnel Board Role

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter to restructure the Personnel Board, to change its function to advisory.

Select Board-9: Home Rule Petition - An Act Making Changes to the Permanent Building Commission

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter to make the following changes to the make-up and jurisdiction of the Permanent Building Commission: require a representative of the School Committee to be a temporary voting member on the Permanent Building Commission for school projects; authorize but not require the appointment of a temporary voting member representing the proponent of any other project; placing projects of \$1,000,000 or more within the jurisdiction of the Commission; and allowing the Commission to decline jurisdiction over projects based upon the limited size, scope, or cost of the projects.

Select Board-10: Home Rule Petition - An Act Making Technical Revisions to the Town Charter

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter by making technical revisions thereto.

Select Board-11: Home Rule Petition - An Act Making Ministerial and Clerical Revisions to the Town Charter

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter by making ministerial and clerical revisions thereto, including correction of grammar and punctuation, minor reformatting, rendering certain terms consistent throughout the Charter.

Select Board-12: Home Rule Petition - An Act to Amend the Town Charter to Include the Housing Authority

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a home rule petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter to include the 5-member housing authority to be appointed and elected as required by state law.

Select Board-13: Adoption of Fee Schedule for Sealing of Weights and Measures

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to approve a Fee Schedule for Sealing of Weights and Measures, as an alternative to the fee schedule set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 98, Section 56.

Misc.-1: Miscellaneous Articles - used to create Budget Article #11

On February 5, 2024, the Select Board voted to use Miscellaneous Article #1 to create Budget Article #11, Appropriation Fire Squad Truck Borrowing.

Misc.-2: Miscellaneous Articles - used to create Budget Article #12

On February 5, 2024, the Select Board voted to use Miscellaneous Article #2 to create Budget Article #12, Appropriation High School Roof Restoration Borrowing.

Misc.-3: Miscellaneous Articles - used to create Budget Article #13

On February 5, 2024, the Select Board voted to use Miscellaneous Article #3 to create Budget Article #13, Appropriation Conant Road Culvert Construction Borrowing.



Misc.-4: Miscellaneous Articles – used to create Select Board Article #13

On February 5, 2024, the Select Board voted to use Miscellaneous Article #4 to create Select Board Article #13, Adoption of Fee Schedule for Sealing of Weights and Measures.

Misc.-5: Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Misc.-6: Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Misc.-7: Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Misc.-8: Miscellaneous Articles

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Misc.-9: Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Misc.-10: Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board-1: Amendments to Zoning Bylaw & Zoning Map Related to Mixed-Use & Multi-Family Residential Overlay District

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to Zoning Bylaw Section 9.9 [Mixed-Use & Multi-Family Residential Overlay District (MUMFROD)], and certain amendments to the Official Zoning Map affecting the MUMFROD; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Planning Board-2: Amendments to Zoning Bylaw & Zoning Map Related to Wireless Communication Facilities

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to Zoning Bylaw Section 9.4 [Wireless Communication Overlay District (WCOD)] and Section 9.7 [University Avenue Mixed Use District (UAMUD)], and/or to the Official Zoning Map, in order to permit the potential expansion of wireless communication service coverage throughout Westwood; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Planning Board-3: Amendments to Zoning Bylaw Related to Definitions

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to Zoning Bylaw Section 2.0 [Definitions] to revise, expand, clarify and/or illustrate the definition of various terms used within the bylaw; or take any other action in relation thereto.



Planning Board-4: Amendments to Zoning Bylaw Related to Zoning Map References for Overlay Districts

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to Zoning Bylaw Section 9.1.2 [Adult Uses Overlay District (AUOD) - Location], Section 9.4.2 [Wireless Communications Overlay District (WCOD) - Location], and Section 9.8.2 [Substance Rehabilitation Facility Overlay District (SRFOD) - Location] to remove specific street addresses and parcel descriptions of properties included within various overlay districts, to instead reference the Official Zoning Map, and to confirm that the location of said overlay districts are as shown on the Official Zoning Map; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Planning Board-5: Amendments to Zoning Bylaw Related to Accessory Apartments

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to Zoning Bylaw Section 8.5 [Accessory Apartments] to more clearly describe design requirements for Accessory Apartments, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Planning Board-6: Amendments to General Bylaw Related to Solid Waste

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to General Bylaw Chapter 342 [Solid Waste] to regulate the use, location, and maintenance of temporary construction dumpsters at non-residential and multi-family residential properties; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Planning Board-7: Amendments to Zoning Bylaw & Zoning Map Related to Housekeeping

To see if the Town will vote to approve certain housekeeping amendments to various sections of the Westwood Zoning Bylaw and/or the Official Zoning Map as may be necessary to correct errors or inconsistencies and to clarify such sections, which may be discovered prior to the conclusion of the public hearing, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Please Note:

The Finance and Warrant Commission may continue discussions of any of the above listed articles at its Final Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 26.

Final Public Hearing(s)

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Westwood Public Library (also available on Westwood Media Center)

If business is not finalized on March 26, the hearing will continue to March 27 at 7:00P.M.

SELECT BOARD - FINANCIAL ARTICLES

Budget-1: Supplemental Appropriations FY24

This article is intended to transfer funds from budget accounts that have a surplus into accounts that are projected to be in deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

Budget-2: Supplemental Appropriations FY24

This article is intended to cover any projected budget deficits with funds from other available accounts which include, but are not limited to, Free Cash or other available accounts, such as ambulance revenue, etc.

Budget-3: FY25 Operating Budgets (Appendix "D")

This article seeks official approval of the Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It includes a detailed accounting of the source of all funds being appropriated, including but not limited to, tax revenue, local receipts, state aid, and appropriations from other specified available funds.



Budget-4: Appropriation (\$ -) – Municipal Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's municipal capital investments for the next fiscal year.

Budget-5: Appropriation (\$ -) – School Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's school capital investments for the next fiscal year.

Budget-6: Appropriation (\$ -) – Sewer Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's sewer capital investments for the next fiscal year. The items in this article are funded from Sewer User fees and/or Sewer Retained Earnings.

Budget-7: Appropriation (\$ -) – Additional Capital Improvements (Ambulance)

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the purchase, lease, or lease/purchase of ambulance equipment for the next fiscal year. The items in this article are funded from Ambulance Receipts.

Budget-8: Appropriation (\$ -) – Additional Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's other capital equipment, projects, and/or improvements.

Budget-9: Appropriation (\$ -) – Stabilization Fund – FY25

This article is intended to appropriate funds into the Town's Stabilization Account. The Stabilization Reserve Account provides funds that can be used to meet some unforeseen, extraordinary expenditure. Maintaining a healthy stabilization reserve is an important part of the Town's credit rating.

Budget -10: Appropriation – (\$ -) OPEB Liability Trust Fund – FY25

This article is intended to appropriate funds to the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Liability Trust Account. The amount for FY25 will be in continuation of recent funding schedules.

Budget -11: Appropriation – (\$ -) Fire Squad Truck Borrowing

This article is intended to authorize borrowing to pay the costs associated with purchasing a Fire Department Squad Truck.

Budget -12: Appropriation – (\$ -) High School Roof Restoration Borrowing

This article is intended to authorize borrowing to pay the costs associated with the High School Roof Restoration.

Budget -13: Appropriation – (\$ -) Conant Road Culvert Construction Borrowing

This article is intended to authorize borrowing to pay the costs associated with the Conant Road Culvert Construction.