

Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting
March 19 , 2024

Present: Karen Raus (Chair) , Cindy Brown (Vice-Chair), Al Lees, Christopher Thrasher, Gary Carreiro (joined the meeting at 6:45pm), Zachary Lebreux, Duncan Law, Hugh Morton, Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Shana Shufelt, Keith Novo, David Cole, Rene Kochman, Sue Brayton, Jim Hartnett

Karen Raus called the meeting to order at 6:31pm, and a Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Raus read the following: This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts '*March 12, 2020, order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A Section 20 and on March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed a Supplemental 2023 Budget Bill allowing remote and hybrid meetings options for public bodies through March 31, 2025. This meeting is being recorded.*

Karen Raus (Chair) opened the meeting by mentioning we will be reviewing Warrant Articles and the Internet Advisor Committee was present to give a presentation of their warrant article.

*Christopher Thrasher from the finance committee mentioned he will not participate in this conversation of the Internet Advisory Committee, and he will be recusing himself from the conversation and any kind due conflict of interest.

1.Review Warrant Articles: Karen Raus opened the meeting to representatives of the Internet Advisory Committee , Shana Shufelt who gave a presentation titled Article 32 Municipal Light Plant. In the presentation there are proposing for an elected five-member board. There were questions and discussions from the finance committee after the presentation.

Note * In the middle of the presentation other members of the Internet Advisory Committee joined the meeting and which became a quorum and Shana Shufelt called the Internet Advisory Committee to order at 6.40pm with Keith Novo , Duncan Law , David Cole , Rene Kochman present.

*Motion Internet Advisory Committee Shana Shufelt said there being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm was made by Rene Kochman and David Cole seconded the roll call vote was 5-0 all in favor. Shufelt;aye, Law;aye Kochman;aye, Novo;aye, Cole;aye.

Jim Hartnett was present at the meeting and assisted to explain a number of articles to the Finance Committee. Karen Raus also asked if there were any other pending/changing information for the FY25 budget. Jim Hartnett did not indicate any changes to the numbers provided by the Select Board's budget submitted in February.

There were questions and discussions by Finance Committee members about the Route 6 Water and Sewer project. Karen Raus requested if any other questions from the finance committee email the comments directly to her would attempt to get the answers to from the Infrastructure Oversight Committee, or with Jim Hartnett directly.

2.Recommendations for Annual Town Meeting:

The Finance Committee did not vote to make recommendations on any of the articles during the meeting. The Town Administrator needs to finalize the Warrant, and Karen Raus indicated the Finance Committee will have all its recommendations no later than the April 9, 2024. The goal would be to make all the recommendations in the next two meetings (March 26, 2024 and April 2, 2024) in order to provide the Town Administrator time to incorporate all the recommendations into the warrant.

3. Committee/Liaison updates: N/A

4.Approval of Minutes: The minutes (as one motion) for all the dates of February 20, 2024, March 05, 2024, and March 12,2024 , was presented for approval Al Lees motioned and Cindy Brown seconded to approve. The roll call vote was 9-0 in favor Brown; aye Carreiro;aye, Law;aye, Lebreux ;aye Orlando;aye Thrasher;aye, Morton;aye ,Lees;aye, Raus;aye.

5.Meeting Schedule: March 26,2024 (Remote)

6. Correspondence: N/A

7.Topic for next Meeting Agenda: FY25 Budget and Warrant Articles

8. Adjourn :There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm was made by Cindy Brown and Hugh Morton seconded the roll call vote was 9-0 all in favor. Raus; aye, Lees; aye, Brown; aye. Lebreux; aye, Thrasher; aye, Morton ;aye Law ;aye, Carreiro; aye, Orlando; aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica McKane
Finance Committee Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

Fy25 Request -Board of Health ACO sddon.xlsx

2024 ATM IAC Brief to FinCom.pptx

2024 Agenda March19.docx

02-20-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee.pdf

03-05-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee.pdf

03-12-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee.pdf