

**Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting-Remote Participation
September 13, 2022**

Present: Karen Raus (KAR), Cindy Brown (CB) Charles “Buzzy” Baron (BB), Hugh Morton (HM) Bob McCarthy (BM), Gary Carreiro (GC), Zachary Lebreux (ZL)

Absent: Tracy Priestner (TP), Lawrence Holsworth (LH)

Also Present: Nicole Pearsall, Susan Brayton

KAR opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

KAR read the following: Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – Meeting being recorded. *Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020, Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Westport Finance Committee is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.*

A reminder that persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by following the remote links: <https://meet.google.com/jph-idsb-ndc>, dial in this number dial: (US) +1 302-440-6804 PIN: 599 966 655#

1. Committee Updates /Liaison Reports: (Kar) opened up the meeting mentioning asking if there anything they may want to update us on. (CB) mentioned I attended the Long-Term Building Committee meeting and there was an article in the shoreline that summarized regarding the old Westport High School. They had an appraisal done to the building and engineering study that building as to what would need to happen to the building if it were renovated for any other purpose of educational purposes, the appraisal came in at \$11 million dollars. There is 62 acres on the property, there's only about 17 lots that could actually be developed off of that, because of number of lots are limited and the cost to demo the school would be around 2 to 3 million on that property it would really wipe out any profit and would be difficult to ever develop that as single-family lots the way it is currently situated. (CB) also mentioned if using it once again as a school. It would need to meet most building codes if retained as an educational facility, but if for anything other than education, there is a significant amount of code requirements that would have to be changed, to make it compliant with current building codes. There were a lot of numbers talked about price per square foot, if it were sold for 11 million it would cost about 29 million or so to renovate the current town hall and perhaps the

annex building, so it will still cost more than what the recovery would be from that building to update the town hall. (CB) mentioned there is still many things in play and is still in the hands of the Board of Selectmen as to what they may choose to do with it, but there's a lot of stuff that's that could still happen with some of the design elements to it, there's far more space in that building than what would be needed for all of the town departments combined. (CB) mentioned it is really just laying out the information that was provided by the appraiser and the engineer architect. (Kar) mentioned the proposal is on the town website and is accessible and asked (CB) if know what the next steps are and if it was presented to the select board and if they are going to decide at any point in time. (CB) mentioned Brian Valcourt is chair of this committee (Long Term Building Committee) and he said that he would talk to the select board.

(Kar) mentioned to (BM) if there was an updated on the Infrastructure Committee (BM) said we discussed in a full phase and phase one is done on a transfer station to move our sewage somewhere around route 6 near the Meat Works building and there is one already in existence near Whites of Westport. (BM) mentioned cost for this project. Sue Brayton mentioned to my understanding there is some grant funds that they are pursuing to cover some of the costs. When sewer lines are put in, it is considered a betterment and it is billed through the bill to the homeowners or the property owners abutting the sewer line because the cost of property values increase just by having that sewer line. (CB) mentioned to my understanding that the money that has been committed to be spent after the studies for the water and sewer lines there is no commitment to actually facilitate or start any kind of construction of the plan and it is still in the early stages.

(GC) mentioned he met with the Personal Board one of the items on the agenda was readjust the potential town planner positions salary because it was not attracting anyone. The vote was unanimous. There was a lot of discussion about it and not only that position, but other positions. Sue Brayton mentioned I just recently received permission from the union to upgrade the position in my office. The Selectman's office approved it last night and still not sure where it is going to go because the union membership is having concerns about it at this time. It is critical that we include the union members in a classification study. Over the years, a lot of things have become distorted in the different positions which have taken on additional duties. Requirements have changed the job descriptions and have not changed for many years and such, so it does need to be reviewed for the union membership as well as non-union. (GC) mentioned looking into companies that can do a reclassification study and (CB) mentioned she could help out as well. (Kar) mentioned it is helpful to raise the level of awareness and if there is a fee for it to just get an estimate of what the fee is and then it needs to be consideration as the annual budgets prepared.

(CB) mentioned the audit committee is going to be meeting next week and will report back after the meeting after the management letter. As for as any infractions or any concerns that they had and do not expect it to be too difficult, but we are meeting with the Treasurer Collector next Monday.

2.Override Discussions: N/A

3.Minutes: The minutes for July 12, 2022, was presented for approval. (BB) motioned and (ZL)seconded to approve. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

4.Topic for next Meeting Agenda: N/A

5.Meeting Schedule: Oct 11,2022

6.Correspondence: N/A

7.Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advanced of the meeting:

(BM) mentioned about a meeting of a meet and greet for the Finance Committee of the new members and recording clerk. (GC) and (CB) mentioned about the next meeting to be in person or hybrid to get to meet the new members and recording clerk. (CB) mentioned she will look into the technology of the hybrid meeting. (Kar) mentioned we do not have to vote on it, but I will be happy to put that on the agenda for next month meeting, but subject to getting some more information about technology for the hybrid meeting.

Adjourn There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at pm was made by (BB and (CB) seconded the roll call vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica McKane Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

7-12-22 Meeting MinutesDraft.docx
Committee & Liaison Appointments UPDATES.xlsx
0.2022 09 13 AGENDS INDEXED.docx