

**Westport Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting-Remote Participation  
October 11, 2022**

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

Absent: Tracy Priestner (TP), Lawrence Holsworth (LH) Bob McCarthy (BM),

Also Present: Susan Brayton

KAR opened the meeting at 6:36 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) mentioned if there was any Committee updated or Liaison Reports if anyone had any updates. (CB) mentioned there is a Long-Term Building Committee meeting tomorrow and the newly reformed Campground Development Committee meeting on Friday, which will be held at the campground, we will see what that is going to entail, and I do not necessarily have an update from that since the last time we met. (CB) said I would like to report that with Charles Baron's permission to use to disclose his name of this because he and I have been participating in in a weekly meeting, with also town citizens in which they're going to remain nameless until we come up with a plan or some public disclosure in regarding the override. This group has been meeting to address the validity of an override to look at it from a point of view outside. It includes people on the inside if you will, but to also include people on the outside from a perception standpoint as well as from a viability standpoint of having an override. And whether or not it is warranted, how it may be perceived, and if in fact it is necessary. (CB) mentioned it was time that we let the Finance Committee know that this has been going on, it is not a sanction group by any means, and we are not sworn members of any committee. This is just an ad hoc committee that was put together by some people to take a look at this to see what it was going to take to get an override if there needs to be a campaign, how that would be put together. This is on hold until after the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> election to make sure that the Diman Regional High School vote clears one way or the other. Which will be critical to any type of progress that may be made or any initiative to get the

override moving and how much that number should be. We have been looking at other towns, other successful overrides, what types of things have been done. (KAR) said is there a timetable of when the group will put some sort of recommendation together in terms of report? Will the report be distributed to the select board as a recommendation and will the group also come in front of the Finance Committee? What is the process for their next steps? (CB) said that is exactly the point where at right now in the next meeting coming up with the issues that we have to address, I think everyone has kept in mind that by the end of this calendar year we should have a plan in place to know what needs to be done so that we are launching in 2023. And we could get some type of a campaign off the ground if that is the way they choose to go.

(KAR) said the Infrastructure Committee which (BM) had been appointed to, and since (BM) may be on an unknown time when he will be back, I had requested for someone else to take over that appointment and I believe (LH) might be filling in his place. The Infrastructure Committee is looking to have a warrant article on the next town meeting in May to spend a dollar amount of funds for the advancement of the water and sewer.

**2.FY2024 Budget Schedule:** (KAR) said in terms of the budget. I went ahead and sent out emails to all the department heads to get them to get their date scheduled. That was very effective, and I'd like to do that again this year. I can send an e-mail out to everyone a draft of what I was thinking of, for our meetings, and when they would start. They would start in December, so December 6th and December 13th. And then we kick it into gear in January, so we would have weekly meetings in January, so January 3rd, January 10th, January 17th, and January 24th. We would skip a week, which would be the 31st, and then we would be back on February 7th and that would probably be the date of the school meeting. That should conclude our department meetings for the round of the fiscal 2024. (KAR) said once we get into the December, January time, we should pencil in, that there may be potential weekly meetings and that would be on Tuesday's. We do our best not to hold a weekly meeting, but they may be meetings every other week or as needed but softly pencil in your Tuesday's nights just in case.

**3.Override Discussion:** N/A

**4.Minutes:** The minutes for September 13, 2022, was presented for approval. (BB) motioned and (GC)seconded to approve. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

**5.Topic for next Meeting Agenda:** N/A

**6.Meeting Schedule:** Nov 8,2022

**7.Correspondence:** N/A

**8.Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advanced of the meeting:**N/A

**Adjourn** There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm was made by (BB and (CB) seconded the roll call vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica McKane Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

09-13-2022 Meeting MinutesDraft.docx  
0.2022 10 11 AGENDS INDEXED.docx  
FY24 Budget Calender-Proposed.doc