

**Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting-Remote Participation
March 14, 2023**

Present: Karen Raus (KAR), Cindy Brown (CB), Hugh Morton (HM), Lawrence Holsworth (LH), Charles "Buzzy" Baron (BB), (Gary Carreiro GC)

Absent: Zachary Lebreux (ZL)

Also Present: Jim Hartnett, Betty Slade

KAR opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

KAR 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 June 16,2021 Governor Baker signed an Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency. This meeting is being recorded.*

1.Fy2024 Town Budget /Warrant Articles : (Kar) opened up the meeting talking about the Fy24 Budget saying the draft of the budget we have, \$300,000 of free cash is being used to pay down the principal of the campground. \$100,000 to add to the towns vacation buy out there was an article that allows that funding this way the dollars can be used whenever there's some significant retirements to go on. Then the balance of that is right now this budget uses free cash in the amount of \$360,252 to help fund the schools and to break that down a little bit, the schools proposed budget by the school committee was \$21,706,159. The allocation of the towns portion that would be allocated to the school based on the 54% split would be a total of \$20,934,910 and using free cash of \$360,252 would put the school at \$21,295,162 and that was the number that the school committee had provided to the Select Board . It's their minimum level request and that would incorporate \$410,997 worth of cuts, so this budget is what incorporates those changes. (Kar) continued saying Cindy and myself and a Select Board member and a School Committee member met yesterday and we're talking about the fiscal 24 budget as well as the override. Very preliminary discussions but nothing's committed but the one member of the school committee was suggesting that they may be coming back and requesting additional free cash above the fiscal 24 budget as well as the override. These were preliminary discussions, but nothing's committed. The one member of the school committee was suggesting that they may be coming back and requesting additional free cash above and beyond what we already provided for in this budget they were going to talk to their executive committee. And determine if that was going to be the case and then let us know Wednesday, so we would know tomorrow.

(Kar) continued to say the Warrant Articles there doesn't seem to be too many meetings that we need to schedule. We have our CPC with Betty that I'll talk to Betty and get her scheduled. There's an article on there for the Personnel Board for \$30,000 for independent classification and compensation study. Going into the details of the warrants, I'm just trying to look for getting the next round of our schedule together .

2.Override Plan, Timetable, and Assignments of tasks : (Kar) said the two items of significance that can't be overlooked in this whole concept of thinking about the override and thinking about using free cash and thinking about the budget is really looking at the development of the campground, which could be significant. The school administration building they need to be somewhere at some point there's going to be costs there and there's significant things to just to look at in the town hall, the annex, the old school. (Kar) continued and said the next meeting for the agenda would be Fy2024 Town Budget and primarily the override. I think the purpose is to get the Select Board, the Finance Committee and the School Committee all on the same page with what the override plan is going to be.

(LH) mentioned there are two public forums currently scheduled to discuss the override one was on the 28th of March and the next ones on the 20th of April.

3.Committee Updates /Liaison Reports: N/A

4.Minutes: The minutes for March 07, 2023, was presented for approval. (CB) motioned and (HM) seconded to approve. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

5.Topic for next Meeting Agenda: Fy24 Budget and Override

6.Meeting Schedule: March 22, 2023

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 8:19pm was made by (LH) and (HM) seconded the roll call vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica McKane Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

03-07-23 Meeting Minutes.docx

0.2023 03 14 AGENDA INDEXED.docx

FY24 FINCOM Draft 03-10-23.xlsx

05-2-23 ATM Articles Index.doc

05-02-23 ATM Warrant 7th Draft.doc

FY24 CIPC Projects.xlsx