

**Westport Finance Committee (Fincom)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Westport Town Hall**  
**November 10, 2015**

Present: Mark Carney (MC), Shana Shufelt (SS), Dick Brewer (DB), Gary Carreiro (GC), Hugh Morton (HM), Charles “Buzzy” Baron (BB), Tracy Priestner (TP), Bob McCarthy (BM), Karen Powell (KP)

Absent:

SS, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the traditional salute to the flag.

**Reports:**

**Administrator:** None.

**School Building:** TP reported that at the meeting earlier this evening that the committee chose an OPM. She was not at liberty to say whom it was as they were not notified as yet.

**Accountant:** None.

**Special Town Meeting:**

Article 7: \$580k for design of new police station. Discussed at previous meeting in detail with the Police Chief. This was included in the 5-yr capital plan shared during the FY16 budget process. The BOS are recommending the use of short term borrowing. The discussion included concerns about overall cost and managing it as there is no RFP yet so the amount could be less once the architect is chosen. HM motioned and BM seconded to recommend to town meeting a yes vote with funding from free cash. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 4: \$57,461.39 for prior year bills. All have been previously discussed. These are bills that were received after June 30<sup>th</sup> and there was insufficient funds in the department budgets to cover. BB motioned and GC seconded to recommend payment out of free cash. HM recused himself from the physicians bills. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 1: \$63,295 in transfers for the current FY16 budget. Only \$35,210 is from free cash the rest are interdepartmental. BB motioned and HM seconded to recommend the transfers as presented. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 2: This is for a transfer of \$5k from the Transfer Station to the Board of Health to cover overtime costs not previously budgeted due to the implementation of the new time clock system and the discontinuance of comp time. BM was appalled that a narrative was not received from the Board of Health pertaining to this nor any correspondence was received by him as the liaison to both departments. HM motioned and GC seconded to recommend the transfer as presented. The vote was 8-1 in favor with BM voting no for reasons stated above.

Article 8: This article is to transfer ownership of the Westport Middle School from the School Department to the Board of Selectmen. This requires a 2/3 vote. This has been in the works since the vote to close the school last fiscal year. An article was done at the annual town meeting to fund this transfer. BB motioned and TP seconded to make the transfer. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Article 3: This article is to fund several items to the school department from free cash in the sum of \$316k. Dr. Ann Dargon, Superintendent, was in attendance as well as Melissa Pacheco and Tony Viveiros of the School Committee. See attached powerpoint detailing the

items. Much discussion was around the necessity of these items now and why they were not in the original school budget. Also if they are one time costs under the definition for the use of free cash. Good arguments were made by all that attended. This is a non-binding article in that once the transfer is made to the School Department, it is to be used at their discretion. Dr. Dargon assured the committee that it is going to be used only for the items in the article and she will forward to the committee documentation showing exactly how the money was spent, if approved at town meeting. The vote was taken separately. BM motioned and BB seconded to recommend \$64k for 2 Sped Teaching Assts. The vote was unanimous in favor. BM motioned and TP seconded to recommend \$7k for 1 LPN. The vote was unanimous in favor. BB motioned and TP seconded to recommend \$180k for 4 Interventionists. The vote was 7-2 in favor with HM and BM opposing. BB motioned and TP seconded to recommend \$45k for 1 Half Time Curriculum Director. The vote was 6-3 in favor with HM, BM and SS opposing. BB motioned and TP seconded to recommend \$20k for Sports Uniforms. The vote was 6-3 in favor with HM, BM and SS opposing.

**Other:** GC resigned from the Agricultural Open Space Committee and a new rep needs to be appointed as soon as possible. TP motioned for BB to become that rep. KP seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Adjournment and next meeting: There being no further business to come before this meeting, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. was made by TP and seconded by BB and the vote in favor was unanimous. The next scheduled meeting will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Botelho, Recording Clerk