

**Westport Finance Committee
Westport Select Board
Westport School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting
January 31, 2024**

Present: Finance Committee : Karen Raus (Chair), Cindy Brown (Vice-Chair), Hugh Morton , Christopher Thrasher, Al Lees(remote) Gary Carreiro(remote)

Present: Select Board: Richard Brewer , Shana Shufelt , Ann Boxler

Present : School Committee : Nancy Staton-Cross Evan Gendreau

Also Present: Susan Brayton, Jim Hartnett, Thomas Aubin

Absent: Zach Lebreux, Michelle Orlando

Karen Raus called the meeting to order at 6:08pm, and a Pledge of Allegiance .

Richard Brewer from the Select Board called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

1.Discussion with the representatives of the Select Board and School Committee: Karen Raus from the finance committee opened up the meeting having everyone introduce themselves. Karen Raus continued mentioning a 5-year plan and one of the things we were asked to work on was a five-year operating plan and a five-year capital plan. We received our first draft of both of those plans. The Finance Committee and Select Board and representatives of the School Committee continued discussing the Fy25 budget for the school.

a.Fiscal 24/Fiscal 25 Budget: Jim Hartnett gave a presentation on Fy25 budget and mentioned these numbers can change. Jim Hartnett then continued and said the free cash certificated at \$2,302,219 ,governor's budget chapter 70 funds \$240,280 above budget estimate which was \$211,888 less than Fy24.(Fy25 inc \$341,110,Fy24 inc \$552,998)Health insurance estimates 7%-10 % increase. School Choice \$30,000 below estimates in Fy24 \$20K less. Charter School \$185,000 below estimates Fy24 \$165 less. State Aid is still waiting for numbers of regional schools still waiting for as well and health and property insurance. The school budget of Fy24 operating budget of \$20,934,910 Free cash \$500,252 which gave a total of \$214,435,162.Fy25 New revenue \$1146,097 operating budget \$22,081,007 with maybe paying off the campground \$70,000 and total \$22,151,207. Increase Fy24-Fy25 3.4% increase \$716,045 and without free cash 5.8% \$1,216,297. These numbers are a proposed working budget.

b.5 -year Operating &Capital Plan : Dick Brewer from the Select Board gave a presentation and talked about where we are with a 5-year financial draft plan ,budget and the financial plans. Dick continued and mentioned in the 5-year financial draft plans there is information about the budget, override, and the structural deficit. The 5-year financial draft plan is on the town website under the town accountant page.

c. Fiscal Policies (overall policies ,budget, free cash)Next step :Timeline& Deliverables:

The Select Board has to present and close their balance budget to the finance committee by February 10, 2024. March 10, 2024, the warrant articles have to be closed.

2.Next Steps: Timeline & amp; Deliverables: Select Board will be meeting on February 12, 2024, and finalize the budget. Once the select board finalizing it will go to the finance committee and then the next meeting the finance committee will be going over the school's budget and highway department's budget. Warrant article are due March 10,2024 by the by-law. Draft for the warrant should be ready by the next select board meeting. There will be a proposed debt exclusion on the April ballot that will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting.

3.Comments and Statements: N/A

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

Adjourn

Select Board: There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm was made by Shana Shufelt and Ann Boxler seconded the roll call vote was 3-0 in favor. The roll call vote Brewer ;aye Shufelt aye, Boxler; aye

Finance Committee: There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm was made by Cindy Brown and Hugh Morton seconded the roll call vote was 6-0 in favor. The roll call vote Raus ;aye Brown ;aye Morton ;aye Lees ;aye Thrasher ;aye Carreiro; aye

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica McKane
Finance Committee Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

Agenda Finance Committee Jan 31, 2024, docx
Fy25draft_five_year_financial_plan 1-23-24pdf
Fy25draft_five_year_capitol_plan 1-23-2. Pdf
Fiscal Fy25draft Budget.docx

