

**Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting
February 20, 2024**

Present: Karen Raus (Chair) , Cindy Brown)Vice-Chair), Al Lees, Hugh Morton ,Christopher Thrasher ,Gary Carreiro, Zachary Lebreux Duncan Law ,Michelle Orlando

Also Present: Jim Hartnett, Nicole Pearsall

Karen Raus called the meeting to order at 6:31pm, and a Pledge of Allegiance .

Karen Raus 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 March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed a Supplemental 2023 Budget Bill allowing remote and hybrid meetings options for public bodies through March 31, 2025. This meeting is being recorded.*

Karen Raus (Chair) opened the meeting with continuing with budget department meetings:

1.Department Budget Meetings:

- A. Highway Department :** Gary Carreiro presented the Highway Departments Fy25 budget. Gary Carreiro mentioned the budget is level funded. The Finance Committee questioned and discussed a line item in the highway department budget.
- B. Accounting Department :** Nicole Pearsall presented the Accounting Department Fy25 budget. Nicole Pearsall mentioned the budget is level funded with a two percent increase in salary for department head and contractual increase for the assistant at three percent. Nicole mentioned the opeb study went up due to doing the full study. We are still working on the audit, which draft should be available soon and also working with Abrahams Group Springbrook on the installation that we should be going live July 1st of this year.

2.Discussion Fiscal 25 budget; 5-year operating/capitol plans Warrant articles: Karen mentioned the town budget and the Select Board made its recommendations and sent us over their budget . Jim Hartnett mentioned a couple of the changes that got made that the Select board is recommended. \$120,000 for a highway engineer with projects that are coming up. Also \$65,000 for a building inspector. And then \$5000 which would go to the recreation director. The recreation director will work an additional 2 1/2 hours a week throughout the year to help with the beach issues, the budget and hiring lifeguards. The Finance Committee members continued to discuss the budget.

3. Committee/Liaison updates: Duncan Law mentioned his first meeting with the Internet Advisor Committee will be this week.

4.Approval of Minutes: The minutes for February 06,2024 , was presented for approval Cindy Brown motioned and Hugh Morton seconded to approve. The roll call vote was 9-0 in favor

Morton ;aye Raus ;aye,Brown ;aye Carreiro;aye Law;aye,Lebreux ;aye,Thrasher;aye Lees ;aye Orlando ; aye

5.Meeting Schedule: March 05, 2024 (Remote)

6. Correspondence: There was an email sent from a Westport resident with regard to the town budget. The Finance Committee members mentioned anyone who would like to join our meetings if anyone has any questions about the budget.

7.Topic for next Meeting Agenda: FY25 Budget and Draft Warrant Articles

*Karen Raus noted Duncan Law left the remote finance committee meeting at 7.54pm and did not return to the meeting.

8. Adjourn :There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm was made by Cindy Brown and Michelle Orlando seconded the roll call vote was 8-0 all in favor. Raus ;aye Morton ;aye Thrasher ;aye Lees ;aye Brown; aye. Lebreux; aye Carreiro ;aye Orlando ;aye , Law;(left meeting early at 7.54pm)

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica McKane
Finance Committee Recording Clerk

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

Select Board Budget
02-06-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee.pdf
2024 Feb 20, 2024, Agenda .docx
Fy25 SB Budget 02-19-24.xlsx
Fy25 Town Accountant Budget Narrative.pdf
Fy25 Town Accountant Accounting Budget .pdf
Fy25 Highway Budget info.pdf
Fy25 Budget Fincom 2-19-24-.xlsx

