

**Westport Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Remote Meeting  
March 05 , 2024**

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

Absent: Hugh Morton, Duncan Law

Also Present: Betty Slade Thomas Aubin

Karen Raus called the meeting to order at 6:34pm, 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 mentioning that the Select Board approved there budget that came over for their recommendations to the Finance Committee and we are going to discuss the Draft Warrant Articles and review each one.

**1.Discussion Fiscal 25 budget Town Budget /Draft Warrant Articles:** Karen Raus mentioned the clarification of the town budget presented from the Select Board . So historically, we start off with the final school budget numbers from the previous year. And then we add 54% of the determine what the net revenue is for the current fiscal year budget and then the school is allocated 54% of that number. The school number would be \$21,999,082. The select board has suggested \$400,000 of free cash coming in to help supplement the school budget. And we've talked about that before that in the previous year that number was \$500,000. The plan discussed was to try to reduce that free cash by \$100,000 each year. This way over the course of the five years there will be a dramatic impact on the school. The one extra thing that the school did, what the Select board did in part was a mistake in the calculation. They chose not to change it to go above and beyond the 54% revenue split and give an extra 13% of revenue .The total of 67% of the revenue that was allocated to the school. They didn't really discuss whether or not that was a one-time thing, or they were expecting it to be permanent but that is the number that they presented in their budget. Which added another \$252,125 on top of the \$400,00 of free cash. The Finance Committee discussed the Select Boards town budget and are recommending a meeting with members of the Select Board for further questions on the budget.

The Finance Committee continued to discuss the town budget on a few of the department budget line items.

**Draft Warrant Articles :**Karen Raus mentioned we are going over the articles on the Draft Warrant that has anything that needs a presentation and has a financial implication, the Finance Committee would need to make its recommendation at town meeting whether we're in favor of it

or not or we have no position. Generally, the only time we would take no position is when it's not financial. We would really require it if there's a financial implication that we have to make some sort of recommendation. The Select Board will be finalizing the Draft Warrant Articles in the next meeting.

\*Karen Raus noted Chris Thrasher left the remote finance committee meeting at 8.06pm and Gary Carreiro left the meeting at 8.13pm did not return to the meeting.

**2. Committee/Liaison updates:** N/A

**3.Approval of Minutes:** N/A

**4.Meeting Schedule:** March 12, 2024 (Remote)

**5. Correspondence:** N/A

**7.Topic for next Meeting Agenda:** FY25 Budget and Presentation of Warrant Articles

**8. Adjourn :**There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm was made by Michelle Orlando and Cindy Brown seconded the roll call vote was 5-0 all in favor. Raus ;aye Lees ;aye Brown; aye. Lebreux; aye Orlando ;aye Carreiro ;(left the meeting at 8.13pm) ,Thrasher;(left meeting early at 8.06pm )

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica McKane  
Finance Committee Recording Clerk

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:**

Copy of 02-20-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee.pdf  
02-20-24 Meeting Minutes Finance Committee pdf.  
Agenda March 05,2024 Finance Committee pdf.  
Fy25 SB Budget 02-19-24 revised.xlsx  
5-7-24 ATM Warrant 7<sup>th</sup> Draft.doc

