

Draft

**Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting-Remote Participation
February 22, 2022**

Present: Karen Raus (KAR), Cindy Brown (CB) Charles “Buzzy” Baron (BB), Tracy Priestner (TP)

Thomas Schmitt (TS), Hugh Morton (HM) Bob McCarthy (BM)

Absent: Kevin Rioux (KR), Gary Carreiro (GC)

Also Present: Jim Hartnett, Town Administrator, Nicole Pearsall, Town Accountant
Thomas Aubin, School Superintendent

KAR opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

KAR read the following: Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – Meeting being recorded. *Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020, Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Westport Finance Committee is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.*

A reminder that persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by following the remote links: <https://meet.google.com/jph-idsb-ndc>, dial in this number dial: (US) +1 302-440-6804 PIN: 599 966 655#

1. Recording Clerk : (Kar) introduced and welcomed the new recording clerk Jessica McKane and thanked Nicole Pearsall for her years of service.

2. FY23 Department Budget:

a. **Westport Community School FY23 Budget** (Thomas Aubin) School Superintendent was in attendance was looking at correspondence from the school committee they’re looking at March 8th ,2022 for a meeting with the finance committee and school committee is in the process of finalizing their Budget” B “.

KAR asked the committee to request a joint meeting with the Select Board, and School committee to review the comprehensive fiscal situation of the Town, which includes the FY23 budget, FY24 budget, and other projects that have financial implications: Campground development, School Administration offices, other capital improvement projects not funded, Old

High School use, Other Town Buildings (Town Hall/Annex), Diman. The Committee agreed and KAR indicated that she would contact the Select Board Chair for the meeting request. (BM) thanked (Thomas Aubin) for taking the time with the email he forwarded to the Finance Committee that further explained the school budget.

3.Municipal Budget: (Kar) presented the board of selectmen recommended budget and committee members were in discussion over the cuts to majority of the departments. (Kar) mentioned town administrator did a tremendous job putting together the budget and uses of free cash. Certified free cash is \$1,580,989.00, and there are several warrant articles that are looking to use free which leaves an estimate of remaining free cash of just over \$67,000. Jim Hartnett, Town Administrator spoke about unfunded projects based on limited funds they have and mentioned council of aging was awarded a passenger van thru a state grant which \$17,000 will be deducted off the list.

4.Warrant Articles: (Kar) mentioned the town Administrator forwarded a draft of warrant article. (CB) mentioned the revolving fund from the recreation department if the structure changed. (Nicole Pearsall) Town Accountant mentioned that it was on her list for research.

(Kar) stated it appeared the only presentation would be the CIPC presentation. (Nicole Pearsall) Town Accountant mentioned she has an email out to Betty Slade she will look into when they can present or if someone else can. Jim Hartnett, Town Administrator mentioned there might be a warrant article on Diman Regional Vocational School project. (TP) asked town administrator on moving forward and funding the project is there is a referendum and what is the vote requirement because voting for this project does not follow the typical charter agreement that we have with Diman Regional Vocational School regarding tuition and seats. Jim Hartnett Town Administrator mentioned he thinks it would be a simple majority but will look into it.

Both the CPC and the Diman articles will require the scheduling of presentations

5. Override Discussion: N/A

6.Committee Update /Liaison reports: N/A

7. Minutes: No minutes for approval

8.Topic for Next Meeting Agenda: School Committee on March 8th for their presentation

9. Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be on March 8th at 6:30 pm remotely due to the pandemic

10. Correspondence: N/A

11.Topic not anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting: N/A

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before this meeting, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm (BB) motioned and (TP) second and the roll call vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica McKane, Recording Clerk