

**Westport Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting-Remote Participation
March 15, 2022**

Present: Karen Raus (KAR), Cindy Brown (CB), Tracy Priestner (TP), Hugh Morton (HM), Kevin Rioux (KR), Gary Carreiro (GC)

Absent: Charles "Buzzy" Baron (BB), Thomas Schmitt (TS), Bob McCarthy (BM)

Also Present: Jim Hartnett, Sue Brayton

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.FY23 Municipal Budget Approval: (Kar) opened up the meeting mentioning, use free cash in Article 2 ended up being done from other departments rather than free cash, we actually have more free cash than anticipated the amount \$108,335. (GC) mentioned to recommend increase \$10,000 each for fuel for highway, fire, police department for each department. (Kar) mentioned that was reasonable. (GC) asked Jim Hartnett if there was an additional \$50,000 in revenue motor vehicle Jim Hartnett said it depends, there might be, in the fincom budget it was bumped up to \$50,000.

(Kar) mentioned to add in the town planner since the last version the accountant did come across an additional funds for a budget transfer. There were \$15,000 or \$18,000 extra revenues from that and then we added \$50,000 to the motor vehicle excise tax revenue and then we added the town planner in. (Kar) also mentioned we have an estimate, a change to that to add \$30,000 of operating expenses that we fund for free cash to the three departments, and at this time, it doesn't sound like we have any other suggested changes

An update in our last meeting when we were, inclined to fund the school department, the \$300,000 from free cash provided that we reach an agreement that they would be satisfied with that and reduce their budget in and not pursue additional funds. So, I did reach out to the chair of the school committee, and we spoke, and she is going to present that to their next school committee meeting.

(Kar) motioned a vote contingent upon in regard to the funds for the free cash for the amount offered for the school committee (CB) said, I move that we approved the budget as presented and as most recently viewed contingent upon the school committee's acceptance, of the amount that has been offered out of free cash to additionally fund their operations. (HM) second the motion (Kar) asked for roll call CB) said I, (HM) said I (TP) said I, (KR) said Nay, (Kar) said I, (GC) said I would rather wait till school committee votes. (Kar) mentioned let us hold a meeting next week to vote. (CB) said she withdraws the motion.

3.Warrant Articles: (Kar) went over the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that was provided by Jim Hartnett and just identify which ones are financial in nature. And then secondly, identify if we feel we need more attention or need to schedule the presentation in order to be able to make a vote or if we're comfortable with the information that we already have. Jim Hartnett mentioned the ones highlighted in yellow on the Town Meeting Warrant can change in amount. (Kar) mentioned there are Articles need of Presentation:

Article 5,6,11,18,20

In addition, please see attachment file of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

5. Override Discussion: N/A

6.Committee Update /Liaison reports: N/A

7. Minutes: N/A

8.Topic for Next Meeting Agenda: Approve the Budget

9. Meeting Schedule: Next meeting will be on March 22nd,2022 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 8:00pm by (Kar), (TP) motioned and (CB) second and the roll call vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica McKane, Recording Clerk

Reference Documents:

May2022 ATM presentation 03-15-22 docx
FY23 FINCOM BUDGET Draft 03-15-22.xlsx
FY23 FINCOM BUDGET Draft 03-15-22 v2.xl
Free Cash 3-15-22.xlsx
5-3-22 ATM Warrant 11th Draft.doc
5-3-22 ATM Articles Index.doc