



Finance and Warrant Commission

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Michael Powers

Jane O'Donnell, Administrator

A Message from the Chair – Barbara Delisle

As the Finance and Warrant Commission (FinCom) prepares for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, I would like to invite Westwood residents to learn more about the role of the Commission and participate in our upcoming public hearings.

The FinCom is a fifteen members Commission whose members are appointed by the Town Moderator to serve three-year overlapping terms. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Commission:

- ❖ Considers all articles in Town Meeting Warrants and reports in print its advice, estimates, and recommendations to residents.
- ❖ Studies the financial and other affairs of the Town and advises with officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations.

Preparations to address the articles and the major budgets, capital, municipal and school, actually commence in September each year. As a Commission, we educate new members through workshops and presentations made by various representatives in Town; monitor budgets approved at the previous Town Meeting; and receive information on possible articles for the upcoming Town Meeting.

Beginning in January and up until the end of March each year, members of the Commission engage in a thorough review of all Town Meeting warrant articles. Each article sponsor comes before the Commission on at least two occasions and sometimes as often as four times to discuss their article.

The FinCom has scheduled two sets of public hearings, March 2 and March 23 devoted to discussing the important issues on which residents will vote at the May 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting. These hearings are intended to provide residents the opportunity for public participation and input into matters facing our Town. At these meetings and during additional FinCom meetings, members of the Commission are apprised of the intent, background and details of each article. Through sponsor presentations, member questions and input received from the public, Commission members determine their position and formulate recommendations on the articles. Following public input, the FinCom may vote their recommendation(s) at the first public hearing on March 2 or may do so at any of their regular meetings held during the month of March. They may also wait until the final hearing on March 23 when the voting generally occurs.

The FinCom urges your participation at our **upcoming public hearings beginning on March 2 and March 23** and at the Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2020.



FINCOM First Public Hearing(s) Schedule:

Monday, March 2, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

Main Library - Community Meeting Room

**If business is not finalized on March 2, the hearing will continue to
Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 P.M.**

***DISCLAIMER:** Articles may be added or removed prior to the Finance and Warrant Commission's Public Hearings. Updated list of articles will be posted on the website. Please check the website for the most up to date information related to articles that will be presented to the Finance and Warrant Commission at its hearings.*

SELECT BOARD

Select Board-1: Chapter 175 Alarm Systems, section 175.5 Regulations- Revision to language

This article is intended to see if the town would amend the town General Bylaw as related to Fire Alarm Systems Regulations.

Select Board-2: Non-Binding Resolution Regarding Net Zero Energy for School and Municipal Building Construction

This article is intended for the town to review a non-binding resolution, for construction of all new schools and municipal buildings in Westwood be designed with the goal of achieving net zero energy consumption and net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Select Board -3: Overnight Parking Restrictions Change of Hours

This article is intended to revise the Overnight Parking Restrictions for a change of hours and time period.

Select Board-4: Article to accept Municipal ownership of a portion of the former Westwood Lodge property encompassing the soccer/lacrosse field (Lot 8)

This article is intended for the Town to accept Municipal ownership of a portion of the former Westwood Lodge property encompassing the soccer/lacrosse field.

Select Board-5: Article to accept Municipal ownership of a portion of the former Westwood Lodge property (Lot 1) and to authorize a long-term lease of said property to Lifeworks, Inc. for the construction and operation of a 5-unit group home for persons with disabilities

This article is intended for the Town to accept Municipal ownership of a portion of the former Westwood Lodge property to authorize a long-term lease and for the construction and operation of a 5-unit group home.



Select Board-6: Article related to the potential disposition of the Obed Baker House property shown as Lots 42 and 43 on Assessor's Map 21

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take actions in conjunction with the disposition of certain parcels of land, for the rehabilitation and reuse of the Obed Baker House.

Select Board-7: Article related to Town-owned Property on High Street in the vicinity of the Obed Baker House

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Official Zoning Map by re-zoning the currently undeveloped parcel of land in the vicinity of the Obed Baker House.

Select Board-8: Zoning Amendment Relative to Medical Uses *[This article was previously requested as Planning Board Article-5. The Planning Board requested withdrawal of the article from the warrant. The Select Board considered this request and voted to reduce the scope of the article and to change the article sponsorship from Planning Board to Select Board.]*

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw as related to various medical uses.

Select Board-9: Article 97 Morrison Park and Field

This article is intended for discussion to pursue an Article 97 for the majority portion of the Morrison Park and Field property.

Misc.-2: Miscellaneous Articles

This article serves as a placeholder to insert an Article in support of Town Government that may come up before the official Warrant is approved.

Misc.-3: Miscellaneous Articles

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Misc.-4: Miscellaneous Articles

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PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board-1: Zoning Amendment Related to the Renting of Rooms for Residential Properties

Zoning Amendment Related to the Renting of Rooms for Residential Properties

This article is intended to see if the Town will vote to approve certain amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw to include new definitions for renting of rooms for short-term and long-term use.

Planning Board-2: Zoning Map Amendment Relative to Morrison Park and Field

This article is intended to vote to approve certain amendments to the Official Zoning Map as related to the Morrison Park and Field property.

Planning Board-3: Zoning Amendment Related to Prohibitive Uses

This article is intended to approve certain amendments of the Zoning Bylaw to clarify uses not listed and permitted in the Zoning Bylaw.

Planning Board -4: Zoning Amendment Relative to Fire Arms/Explosive Sales and Services

This article is intended to amend sections of the Zoning Bylaw as related to Fire Arms/Explosive Sales and Services.

Please Note:

The Finance and Warrant Commission may continue discussions of any of the above listed articles at its Final Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, March 23.



Final Public Hearing(s)

**Monday, March 23, 2020
7:00 P.M.
Main Library - Community Meeting Room**

**If business is not finalized on March 23, the hearing will continue to
Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 P.M.**

SELECT BOARD – FINANCIAL ARTICLES

Budget-1: Supplemental Appropriations FY20

This article is intended to transfer funds from budget accounts that have a surplus into accounts that are projected to be in deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

Budget-2: Supplemental Appropriations FY20

This article is intended to cover any projected budget deficits with funds from other available accounts which include, but are not limited to, Free Cash and Reserve Funds or other available accounts, such as ambulance revenue, reserved state aid, budget surplus, etc.

Budget-3: FY21 Operating Budgets (Appendix "D")

This article seeks official approval of the Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It includes a detailed accounting of the source of all funds being appropriated, including but not limited to, tax revenue, local receipts, state aid, and appropriations from other specified available funds.

Budget-4: Appropriation (\$ -) – Municipal Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's municipal capital investments for the next fiscal year.

Budget-5: Appropriation (\$ -) – School Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's school capital investments for the next fiscal year.

Budget-6: Appropriation (\$ -) – Sewer Capital Improvements

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Town's sewer capital investments for the next fiscal year. The items in this article are funded from Sewer User fees and/or Sewer Retained Earnings.



Budget-7: Appropriation (\$ -) – Additional Capital Improvements- Ambulance Equipment

This article is intended to appropriate funds for the Ambulance Capital Improvements funded by ambulance receipts.

Budget-8: Appropriation (\$ -) – Additional Capital Improvements- Town and School Projects

This article is intended to appropriate specific funds for the Town and School additional Capital Improvements.

Budget-9: Appropriation (\$ -) – Additional Capital Improvements- Town Wide Recreation Projects

This article is intended to appropriate specific funds for the Town Wide Recreation additional Capital Improvements.

Budget-10: Appropriation (\$ -) – Additional Capital Improvements- Equipment Borrowing Article

This article is intended to authorize borrowing for Capital Equipment.

Budget-11: Appropriation– \$125,000 to Stabilization Fund – FY21

This article is intended to appropriate funds into the Town's Stabilization Account. The Stabilization Reserve Account provides funds that can be used to meet some unforeseen, extraordinary expenditure or to be able to absorb a fiscal shock. Maintaining a healthy stabilization reserve is viewed positively by the rating agencies. It is important that the Town continue to maintain that achievement by appropriating a sum each year. Appropriating funds in is majority vote and out of this account requires a 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting.

Budget -12: Appropriation – \$1,465,000 to OPEB Liability Trust Fund – FY21

This article is intended to appropriate funds to the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Liability Trust Account. The amount for FY21 will be in continuation of recent funding schedules.

Budget-13: Road Improvement Bond – Pavement Preservation, Sidewalk Enhancements and Crosswalk Safety Improvements (\$4,650,000)

This article is intended for the town to discuss issuance of a bond for a town-wide road improvement project to repave and maintain pavement, sidewalk enhancement and improve crosswalk safety.