

Weston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2023

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town of Weston, which was duly called and posted in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, via a Zoom video conference. It was broadcast live and recorded by Weston Media Center. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:02PM.

Present for the meeting were:

Finance Committee: Lisa Reitano (Chair), George Berbeco, Jonathan Harris, Karen Meslin, John Sallay, Zachary Sadek, Matthew Seltzer, and Bharath Venkataraman.

Also Present: Leon Gaumond (Town Manager) and Susan Kelley (Finance Director)

Jonathan Harris was appointed to serve as Secretary Pro-Tempore and charged with keeping the minutes of the meeting. The Zoom video conference meeting was recorded by Weston Media Center and is available on-line.

1. The minutes for the Finance Committee meeting held on December 7, 2022 were unanimously approved.
2. There were no resident comments.
3. Leon Gaumond presented an overview of some items in the FY24 Town Budget. He said that he has had budget meetings with all the departments and was preparing the budget documents, which will be presented to the Select Board on January 24th. The preliminary School Budget will be announced on January 17th.
4. Leon went on to say that the following items are currently unknown: Local Aid, Property and Liability Insurance, Health Insurance, Electric and Gas costs, and the Teacher's Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) results.
5. Middlesex Retirement costs will increase 9.9% increase or about \$600,000.
6. New budget requests include police and fire equipment, advertising, Cherry Brook Culvert, and water main replacements.
7. The Town's Master Plan was last done in 1965, and Leon noted that the Planning Board and Select Board believe it should be updated.

8. Moody reaffirmed the Aaa Bond Rating but mentioned that the Weston had lower reserves that other comparative towns and Leon may try to strengthen the reserves.
9. George Berbeco asked about the Josiah Smith Tavern and Leon said that the revised lease is being reviewed.
10. Lisa Reitano spoke about the School Budget. Utilities and Out of District tuition are going up.
11. The Committee discussed the Teacher's CBA negotiations, during which the Teachers are asking for a large wage increase. It was decided that the Finance Committee School Subcommittee would draft a statement regarding the views on the negotiations and present it for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Harris