

**West Newbury Finance Committee
Minutes of the meeting
Monday, September 26, 2016**

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the first floor hearing room of the 1910 Building with the Finance Committee present. FinCom and the BOS discussed and reported individual committee votes regarding fall Town Meeting article requests.

Fin Com Meeting

Chairman Codair called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. in the second floor hearing room of the 1910 Building with Ms. Grammer, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Winch in attendance.

There being no public comment, the Committee considered its agenda.

Review of Articles

Article #2: To see if the town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000.00 to reduce the current year tax rate. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

The BOS increased the article request from \$100,000.00 to \$144,300.00. Due to the change, FinCom reopened the discussion regarding the article.

FinCom voted to approve the revised dollar amount of \$144,300.00, 4-0-0.

Article #3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$8,000.00 to pay the town's share of tuition expenses to the Essex North Shore Technical High School for FY17. By request of the Finance Director.

During the course of the BOS meeting, the BOS approved a revised dollar amount of \$2,500.00. Due to the change, FinCom reopened the discussion.

FinCom voted to approve the revised dollar amount of \$2,500.00, 4-0-0.

Article #4: To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$11,769.73 from the Septic Loan Revolving Account for repayment of the loan debt service. By request of the Finance Director

There were no changes in the original vote of 5-0-0.

Article #5: To see if the town will vote to transfer \$44,300.00 to hire and pay a midnight Police Officer. By request of the Police Chief.

FinCom discussed the importance of including in the rationale the requested amount of \$44,300.00 reflects an 8-month period.

There were no changes in the original vote of 6-0-0.

Article #6: To see if the town will vote and raise and appropriate or transfer \$39,720.00 to purchase a Police Department utility vehicle. By request of the Police Chief.

FinCom discussed the pros and cons of purchasing a new police vehicle.

There were no changes in the original vote of 3-3-0, DeLena, Ellis, Grammer against.

Article #7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$45,000.00 for purchase of a Fire Department Communications Repeater. By request of the Fire Chief.

There were no changes in the original vote of 6-0-0.

Article #8: To see if the town will vote to transfer the amount of \$1,400.00 to add to the Board of Registrars Expense Line to cover the one-time expense item to provide an up-dated computer program online registration of dogs for the Town. By request of the Town Clerk.

There were no changes in the original vote of 6-0-0.

Article #9: To see if the town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Act funds the sum of \$66,000.00 with \$36,722.00 from CPA Historic Resources Reserve and with \$29,278.00 from CPA Unrestricted Fund Balance, to conduct an Inventory of Historical Properties, or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Community Preservation Committee and the Historical Commission.

There were no changes in the original vote of 6-0-0.

Article #10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$39,000.00 to provide for maintenance, repair, and general upkeep of the Pipestave Apartment Building. By request of the Finance Director.

Mr. Phillips will rewrite the rationale after obtaining information from the Finance Director.

There were no changes in the original vote of 5-0-0.

Article #11 To see if the town will vote to amend Chapter XXXVI of the Town Bylaws to correct references, update provisions, and revise the Bylaw relative to appointment procedures, chairman limitations, and various other requirements, or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Community Preservation Committee.

Both the BOS and the CPC presented variations of the article request.

The Committee will review the revised draft of the CPC article prior to voting.

Article #12: To see if the town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws by adding a new provision to Section XXXVIII Lodging House Licenses: All lodging houses, as defined in Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 140, as amended, located in the Town of West Newbury, shall be licensed by the Board of Selectmen. Any person desiring to conduct, or conducting a lodging house shall be subject to all regulations promulgated by the Board of Selectmen. Said regulations shall not be consistent with MGL Chapter 140, as amended. By request of the Town Counsel.

There were no changes in the original vote of 5-0-1, DeLena, abstaining.

Article #13: To see if the town will vote to amend of the West Newbury Town Bylaws by amending Section XVIII Enforcement of Town Bylaws by adding a new provision to relating to Lodging House Licenses. (If fined, the fee will be \$300.00). By Request of the Town Counsel.

There were no changes in the original vote of 5-0-1, DeLena, abstaining.

Article #14: To see if the town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws by adding a new provision to Section XXXIX Short Term Rentals.

Minor changes in the rationale will be necessary to change from 6 to 14 days.

There were no changes in the original vote of 5-0-1, DeLena, abstaining.

Article #15: To see if the town will vote to amend the omnibus budget by adding a line item for the recreation department—Maintenance of the Fields—Salaries and Expenses” and to transfer from omnibus budget line item “Recreation-Parks and Recreation Expenses” the sum of \$1,500.00 to the Maintenance of The Fields—Salaries and Expenses line item. By request of the Finance Director on Behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

Rewriting the article for the purpose of clarity is in progress.

Fin Com will revote on Monday, October 3, 2016.

Article #16: To see if the town will vote to amend Section IV Boards, Committees, Agencies—Capital Committee Bylaw, Section 2, of the West Newbury Town Bylaws by changing the base amount for consideration of a Capital item from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00.” By request of the Town Counsel.

There were no changes in the original vote of 5-0

Future FinCom Meetings

Monday, October 3, 2016: Review of Articles #11 and #15. Finale review of rationales for the FinCom Booklet in preparation of the Town Meeting.

Monday, October 17, 2016: Possible Meeting with the CIC

Monday, October 24, 2016: FinCom to meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Town meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer
Secretary