

MEETING MINUTES-WEST NEWBURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Tuesday January 29, 2019 7pm

Location : 1910 Building 1st Floor Hearing Room

Attendees: Gary Roberts, Forbes Durey, Nathan Kelly, Angus Jennings, Laurie Zywiak,
Brad Beaudoin

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment, Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per resident for items on the agenda. The chair may allow for more time depending on number of residents seeking to participate.

No public comment.

3. Late File Items

None.

4. Approval of minutes

Deferred to next meeting.

5. Report on Bicentennial Article

Kelly reviewed whether the Bicentennial Committee had raised enough money from ticket sales for the Gala to pay for the event. They had originally planned on 250 attendees and it is estimated that the ticket sales are around 230. As of 1/24/19 \$12,780 has been raised with ticket fees and donations for this event.

6. Receive updates from Town Manager

The planning board is having a meeting next Tuesday 2/5 at 7pm regarding zoning articles for this spring. Proposed changes include solar zoning amendments and open space preservation development bilaw changes. These potential changes are the same ones proposed and then rescinded from the Fall 2018 town meeting.

Chairman Roberts asked for a meeting with the selectmen to clarify the roles of FinCom and the Town manager as it pertains to the budget process.

Jennings also noted that many internal memos from the Town Council have language that prevents dissemination of the information without prior approval of the Board of Selectmen. While Town Council has recommended paraphrasing the information if it needs to be disseminated. Jennings notes that this is inefficient and would like to request permission for release of these materials from the Selectmen, or preferably if this language would be removed unless specifically needed.

7. Internal Review of Preliminary Budget

Durey raised concerns about not having a preliminary budget before 2/15/19 which leaves little time to prepare for meetings with department heads. Jennings raised concerns about sharing the preliminary budgets with FinCom before the Town manager budget is ready for review because he has promised the Dept heads that they would be informed if their budgets will be reviewed. Durey asked if FinCom could review the preliminary budgets without town manager comment.

Jennings notes that the Board of Selectmen's meeting to endorse the FY2020 budget is set for 3/18/19 when there are meetings with Parks and Rec, Veteran's Affairs, Open Space, Finance, Town Council and Treasurers offices on 3/19/19.

8. Communications

The community center committee has disbanded as all the members have quit. The town manager as recommended the issue been placed on the the selectmen's agenda to officially close the committee.

Jennings brought up Roberts concern about what a "No" vote for the new school would mean financially, as there will still be costs associated with renovating and maintaining the existing school building.

9. Adjournment