

Weston Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2021

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 virtually on Thursday, October 14th, 2021 via a Zoom conference. There being a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Present for the meeting were:

Finance Committee: Lisa Reitano – Chair, John McDonald, Jim Philipkosky, James Jarret, Karen Meslin, John Sallay, Bharath Venkataraman, and Jonathan Harris.

Also Present: Leon Gaumont, Town Manager.

John McDonald was appointed to serve as Secretary pro tempore and charged with keeping the minutes. The meeting was recorded by Weston Media and is available online.

- 1) There were no resident comments.
- 2) The minutes of the meeting of September 9th were approved by all members present.
- 3) The Committee discussed the procedure for selecting a new Fincom member to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of one member. Under the Town's by-laws, the Committee plus the Town Clerk rather than the Moderator is charged with selecting a new member to fill the remainder of the term. After some discussion, The Committee decided to interview all interested candidates at the next meeting to be held after the Financial Summit. There will be a subsequent meeting to vote for the final candidate.
- 4) The Committee discussed potential budget guidelines. Two process items were discussed: 1) what data do we need to review the budget and 2) what is the appropriate timeline for this data. Most believe it will be important to get buy-in from the Town & Schools for guidelines to be effective. After much discussion, we concluded that it was too late in the year to finalize budget guidelines for the FY23 budget.
- 5) At the upcoming Financial Summit, the Chair noted that this year the financial indicators will be scaled back. The Select Board, School Committee and Fincom will each be given 5 minutes for brief presentations. In addition, the Select Board will provide an update on a financial model. This model could help assess budget trends, how proposed budgets will impact future ones as well as future tax rates, etc. The summit will conclude with a general discussion by all members. For the

Fincom presentation, we agreed that the Chair should highlight our concerns about upcoming contract renegotiations with 11 of our 12 unions. In addition, we want to be advised in advance of future projects. Finally, the Chair noted that both Town and School should use their remaining Covid grant money as prudently as possible.

6) The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John McDonald