



Town Of Webster

Massachusetts

Est. 1832

Finance Committee

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Sarah Sansom, Chairman
Laura Backus, Vice-Chairman
Matt Fitton, Secretary
Courtney Friedland, Recording Secretary

Michael Finamore
Jennifer Findlay
Joshua Sterczala

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2021

Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA
via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's
emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the
Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20
6:00 p.m.

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Sarah Sansom at 6:19 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call.

Present: Sarah Sansom (via conference call), Laura Backus (via conference call), Joshua Sterczala (via conference call), Matt Fitton (via conference call), Town Administrator Doug Willardson (via conference call), and Finance Committee Secretary Courtney Friedland (via conference call).

Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing. The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Joshua Sterczala, seconded by Laura Backus, to approve the meeting minutes of April 8, 2021.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Town Administrator's Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Patriot's Day April 19th – Town Hall closed
- Earth Cleanup Day April 24th

1. Public Health and Safety
 - a. Three police officers start academy on April 24th
 - b. Coronavirus
 - i. 27 Cases last week; a lot of children
 - ii. Vaccine
 1. Golden Heights Clinic held on 3/24; next dose April 27th
 2. Homebound vaccinations taking place this Wednesday
2. Financially Responsible
 - a. 2022 Budget:
 - i. School department said they can use stimulus funds to close the budget gap on their side of the budget
 - ii. Joint Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee meeting on April 26th at 6:00 pm
 - iii. Expecting significant funding from recent Federal stimulus; \$1.67 million – not much direction on how this can be spent
3. Economic Development
 - a. Tapped Jessica Valby, owner of Stave and Still, to be chair of Economic Development Committee. First time we'll have a local business owner as chair
 - b. The Caribbean Grill opened in March. Two additional restaurants plan on opening before our next meeting.
 - c. Received regional PILOT grant to assist local entrepreneurs/local business owners
 - d. Chris Robert is looking to create a railroad demonstration area/museum downtown at the railroad tracks
 - e. Samuel Slater Museum won the Silver Hammer Award from the Worcester Chamber of Commerce for best reuse of an old building.
 - f. We are planning on fireworks for the 3rd of July if permitted by the State
4. Maintain Infrastructure
 - a. Lake Parkway/Klebart Ave. Paving to start around April 20th
 - b. South Main. NGrid to finished gas lines on East Main and South Main; now doing repairs on side streets. Work will continue in May
 - c. Town Hall roof. Project started. Completed by June 30th
 - d. Water Main Improvements. Preconstruction meeting tomorrow
 - e. Met with MassDOT in regards to a new "French River Connection" trail from Oxford through downtown and into Webster. We applied for a planning grant through the State.
5. Effective Delivery of Services/Operations
 - a. Implementing improved online bill pay. Will be able to look up bill information including prior payments, schedule payments, ect. Will be able to use same system for beach/compost stickers, birth/death certificates, dog licenses, marriage licenses.
 - b. Posting closes for Water and Sewer Superintendents positions on Friday
6. Transparent, Open and Friendly Government
 - a. Committee vacancies:

- i. Finance Committee (2 openings)
- ii. ZBA Associate Member (2 openings)
- iii. Conservation Commission alternate (2 openings)
- iv. Water and Sewer Commission (1 opening)
- v. Historical Commission (1 opening)
- vi. Youth, Parks and Recreation Committee (2 openings)
- vii. Trustees of Soldiers and Monuments (1 opening)
- viii.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT: Mr. Willardson went through the articles:

1. Prior Year Bills
2. Prior Years Bills
3. Prior Year Bills
4. Snow and Ice
5. Capital Project – Paving of the Middle School
6. Cable Access Budget
7. Transfer to OPEB

Motion by Laura Backus, seconded by Matt Fitton, to recommend approval of Articles 1-3 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend approval of Article 4 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend passing over Article 5 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend approval of Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Laura Backus, seconded by Matt Fitton, to recommend approval of Article 7 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT: Mr. Willardson went through the articles:

1. Reports from the Finance Committee
2. FY22 General Fund Annual Budget
3. FY22 Sewer Annual Budget
4. FY22 Water Annual Budget
5. Short-Term Borrowings
6. Revolving Funds
7. Cable Access Budget
8. Appropriation to Economic Development Fund
9. Declare Police Boat Surplus
10. Authorize Funds to be used to Purchase New Police Boat
11. Donation of Property – 0 Oxford Avenue
12. Zoning District Change
13. Amend Zoning Table – Special Permit
14. Pre-existing Non-Conforming Buildings
15. Zoning Amendment
16. Amend Zoning Map
17. Gold Star Tax Exemption
18. Citizen’s petition

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend passing over Article 1 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend approval of Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend approval over Article 3-16 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to recommend passing over Article 17 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Next Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet on May 10, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Second Floor Meeting Room at Bartlett High School.

Adjournment

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Vote Joshua Sterczala – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Friedland