



Town Of Webster

Massachusetts

Est. 1832

Finance Committee

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

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

Michael Finamore
Jennifer Findlay
Scott Dziedzic
Joshua Sterczala

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 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 6:01 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call.

Present: Sarah Sansom (via conference call), Laura Backus (via conference call), Michael Finamore (via conference call), Joseph Ralph (via conference call), Jennifer Findley (via conference call), Scott Dziedzic (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 Michael Finamore, seconded by Laura Backus, to approve the meeting minutes of June 10, 2021.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dziedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Matt Fitton – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Nomination of Officers

Sarah Sansom open up the nominations for Chairman. Sarah Sansom nominated Matt Fitton. Sara Sansom asked if there was any other nomination for Chairman, hearing none Sarah Sansom closed the nominations.

Motion by Sarah Sansom, seconded by Michael Finamore, to appoint Matt Fitton as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dzedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes.

Matt Fitton open up the nominations for Vice-Chairman. Sarah Sansom nominated Joshua Sterczala. Matt Fitton asked if there was any other nomination for Vice-Chairman, hearing none Matt Fitton closed the nominations.

Motion by Sarah Sansom, seconded by Michael Finamore, to appoint Joshua Sterczala as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dzedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Matt Fitton open up the nominations for Secretary. Sarah Sansom nominated Laura Backus. Matt Fitton asked if there was any other nomination for Secretary, hearing none Matt Fitton closed the nominations.

Motion by Sarah Sansom, seconded by Michael Finamore, to appoint Laura Backus as Secretary of the Finance Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dzedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Personnel Committee:

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to appoint Sarah Sansom and Laura Backus to the Personnel Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dzedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

School Building Committee:

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to appoint Laura Backus to the School Building Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dzedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Capital Planning Committee:

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to appoint Michael Finamore, Matt Fitton, and Joseph Ralph to the Capital Planning Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dziedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Audit Committee:

Motion by Matt Fitton, seconded by Laura Backus, to appoint Sarah Sansom and Laura Backus to the Audit Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dziedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Economic Development Committee:

Capital Planning Committee:

Motion by Laura Backus, seconded by Matt Fitton, to appoint Sarah Sansom to the Economic Development Committee.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dziedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Town Administrator's Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Town Hall will be closed on June 18th for Juneteenth
- Police Cruise Night June 30th 4:00 to 8:00 PM
- Touch-a-Truck Day Town Hall Parking Lot July 10th 10:00 AM to Noon

1. Public Health and Safety

a. Fire

- i. Fatal fire at 124 High Street. Fire likely started from smoking/cigarette butts on the back porch. The fatality was caused after the man returned into the home to save his cat.
- ii. Two fires this past weekend at 248 Main Street. Original fire was in the kitchen of the Caribbean Grill. While there the Fire Chief noticed damaged wires on the building and order them to be repaired. Coincidentally, the wires created a fire on Monday evening.

b. Police

- i. Officer Trainor made a narcotics arrest on May 24th. See details here: [Webster Police Department Massachusetts - Posts | Facebook](#)
- ii. On May 16th, Officer LaRochelle was sworn in as our newest Sergeant. Congratulations to him on an outstanding career to this point. To the extent possible, please keep this in confidence. Officer LaRochelle was

promoted because we expected Sergeant Trainor to be moving to another position with the State Police. At the last minute, we found out that this was not going to happen, but Officer LaRoche had already been promoted. There are savings within the Police budget and the costs are somewhat minimal. When the next Sergeant leaves through attrition, that position will not be filled.

- iii. Junior Police Academy is accepting applications for the program to be held Aug 2-6th.
 - iv. Currently recruiting a full-time dispatcher
 - c. Coronavirus
 - i. 9 Cases last week; cases have consistently dropped for the last month.
 - ii. Vaccine site at Southbridge Armory is now available to walk-ins for Webster residents
2. Financially Responsible
- a. 2022 Budget completed and in place.
 - b. Expecting significant funding from recent Federal stimulus; \$5 million latest estimate. Expenditures are somewhat limited, but more guidance is expected. My recommendation is to spend mostly on water/sewer infrastructure and small business development.
 - c. Reallocating our net metering credits from solar power. Our electric usage appears to be dropping.
3. Economic Development
- a. Monte Bianco and Mike's Crunchies and Munchies opened in May.
 - b. Working with Mike's Crunchies and Munchies and the Wine Bar for the State's vacant storefront program. Applications submitted in May.
 - c. Awarding our regional PILOT grant to assist local entrepreneurs/local business owners
 - d. Worcester Chamber of Commerce is holding an even June 8th at the Samuel Slater Museum
 - e. We are planning on fireworks for the 3rd of July
4. Maintain Infrastructure
- a. Lake Parkway/Klebart Ave. Work to continue through June.
 - b. South Main. NGrid to finished gas lines on East Main and South Main; now doing repairs on side streets. Road will be milled in early July.
 - c. Town Hall roof. Project started. More than expected rot. Project will be extended due to the extra scope.
 - d. Water Main Improvements. Mobilized. Working to get all work done on East Main first so the roadway can be repaved.
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, etc. Will be able to use same system for beach/compost stickers, birth/death certificates, dog licenses, marriage licenses, etc. Working on dog licensing transition over the summer.
 - b. Interviewing last Water/Sewer Superintendent candidate this week.

- c. State is funding a study to analyze the possibility of Charlton and/or Sturbridge joining the SWCCC Dispatch Center.
- 6. Transparent, Open and Friendly Government
 - a. Committee vacancies: recruiting for new year effective July 1st

Next Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet on September 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Michael Finamore, seconded by Sarah Sansom to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Vote: Jennifer Findlay – yes, Joshua Sterczala – yes, Joseph Ralph – yes, Scott Dziedzic – yes, Michael Finamore – yes, Laura Backus – yes, and Sarah Sansom – yes

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Friedland