

**Town of Weston  
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday January 12, 2017**

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 on January 12, 2017, at the Weston Town Hall. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Present for the meeting were:

Finance Committee: John McDonald – Chair, Keith Johnson, James Philipkosky, Lisa Reitano, Ellen Richstone. Sandy Metraux participated by phone.

Also Present: Donna S. VanderClock, Town Manager; Susan Kelley, Finance Director; Videographer James Tremble, Weston Media Center; Peter Forcellese, Treasurer; Christopher Fitzgerald, Recreation Director; Elly Pendergast, Recreation Commission; Henry Viles

1. Lisa Reitano was appointed to serve as Secretary *pro tempore* and charged with keeping the minutes of the meeting.
2. The minutes of the November 14, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Chris Fitzgerald, Recreation Director, asked for a transfer of \$150K from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, which has a current balance of \$595K, to fund remediation of contaminated soil (coal ash) found at Lamson Park. About half of the money would go towards removing & disposing of contaminated soil and replacing it with clean soil. The other half would go to pay a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) who provides oversight to the process and makes sure we comply with all state filings and regulations.

All work has stopped on installing the Lamson Park playground until this soil is remediated, and it is hoped to have the playground done in the spring of this year. After remediation there will be a fence installed around the playground to avoid any contact with unremediated areas outside the playground.

The Finance Committee Reserve is set at .85% of revenues every fiscal year, and there is no carry forward. So while concern was expressed about perhaps needing the reserve to help fund the schools if we end up with a large influx of school children from large 40(B) projects, that will not happen this year.

The Finance Committee unanimously approved this request.

4. The Committee then discussed the Finance Committee Schedule for departmental budget meetings, and which budgets needed to be discussed by the entire Committee. The schools, fire department, and unclassified were mentioned as being important for all to weigh in on, as well as the capital projects of Proctor Field, Case Campus Master Plan, and Town Center Planning.
5. The Committee then discussed FY 17 topics/projects, including Impact of Housing Production Plan Proposals, and the Communication Plan. Lisa and Sandy had attended the January 9, 2017 School Committee meeting as the Finance Committee liaisons, where some in the audience expressed an interest in hearing from the Finance Committee as to our prior and current recommendations for the schools. Lisa will draft a statement from the Committee to be discussed at our next Finance Committee meeting with the aim of presenting it at School Committee as well as in the Town Crier.

In addition, there was discussion of the Finance Committee role in communicating to the town about the Affordable Housing Projects. John will look into drafting something that would explain the financial implications to the town of a large project like the one proposed by the town at 133 Boston Post Road (the Biogen Idec/Monster site).

6. A motion to adjourn was made, duly seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa V. Reitano