

**RTM Meeting
September 14, 2021**

The Call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Finance Director, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$42,000.00 into Hurricane Isaias Accounts, to cover additional storm expenses incurred.

2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Parks and Recreation, to approve an appropriation of \$436,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for Improvements to Riverside Park.

3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Parks and Recreation, to approve an appropriation of \$95,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for Professional Services related to the Longshore Capital Improvement Plan.

4. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$1,492,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the reconstruction of the Baldwin Lot (accessed from Elm Street).

5. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$290,600.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for funding Westport's share of the Construction and Engineering expenses to replace the Cavalry Road Bridge over the West Branch of the Aspetuck River.

6. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$220,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the purchase of one Four Wheel Drive Front End Loader.

7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$154,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the purchase and installation of standard street furniture in the Downtown Area.

8. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the request of at least 20 electors, to adopt an ordinance to create a Civilian Police Review Board. (First reading. Full text available in the Town Clerk's Office).

New Agenda Item, subject to approval by RTM to add to agenda.

9. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$320,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer

Reserve Fund Account for the replacement and upgrade of the existing Gravity Main Sewer Line on Riverside Avenue into Pump Station #3.

The Meeting

Moderator Velma Heller:

Good evening. This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order and we welcome those who are joining us the evening. My name is Velma Heller and I'm the RTM Moderator. Pursuant to Sections 163-167 of Senate Bill 1202, there will not be a physical location for this meeting. This meeting is held electronically and live streamed on westportct.gov and shown on Optimum Government Access Channel 79 and Frontier Channel 6020. Meeting materials will be available at westportct.gov along with the meeting notice posted on the Meeting List & Calendar page. As you know, instructions to attend the zoom meeting were on the agenda. Members of the electorate attending the meeting by phone or video, may comment on any item by raising your hand and you will be recognized. Comments are limited to three minutes. Emails may be sent to RTMmailinglist@westportct.gov, which goes to all RTM members. These emails that are received before the meeting will not be read aloud during the meeting.

Tonight's invocation will be delivered by Elaine Daignault. Elaine Daignault, Westport's Director of the Human Services Department and a Westport resident, has been a member of Westport's Human Services staff since 1999. She attended Westport Schools, graduated from Staples High School and received her B.S. at Colorado State University, and a Master's of Arts degree in Mental Health Counseling at Fairfield University. Additionally, Daignault has a certification in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of Wisconsin and several certifications in evidence-based prevention programs. So, this is one of our own home-grown people. Hooray for Elaine. During her tenure working for the Department of Human Services, Daignault has served in many capacities. Over the past 18 years, she has served as the Director of Toquet Hall, the Coordinator of Youth Services and the Westport Mentor Program. She was the Community Outreach Counselor for the Human Services Department, served as interim Student Outreach Counselor at Staples High School and, served as the Assistant Director to the department before being appointed Director of Human Services in 2017. Welcome, Elaine.

Invocation, Elaine Daignault, Director, Human Services:

Wow, that was some introduction. I don't even feel like I have to say anything now. Good Evening. It's a pleasure to be with you tonight. As you've heard, I'm a long-time Westport resident and a 20-plus year town employee. I didn't want anyone to do the math so I tried to keep it vague. My family moved to Westport from the Midwest in the 1980s, and after a brief stint at Assumption School, I attended Long Lots Jr High and Staples High School so I definitely know what it's like to grow up Westport. It is a unique experience. Back then, I had little appreciation for all that this Town had to offer and even less of an understanding of the intricacies that make a town like Westport a true community. So, I feel very blessed to be here with you today. I stand before you with gratitude and wonder for the large and small gifts of opportunity and camaraderie

Westport has provided my family and me over the years. I could go on and on about my family's experiences in the "old" Westport compared to today's fast-paced environment, but tonight I'd like to focus on the dedication and resiliency of our little Town from the lens of Human Services. There's lots of things I wanted to encompass but I will try and keep it short. I cannot think of a more challenging or rewarding time to work in Social Services. The national and local landscape has been fraught with challenges and triumphs. I read somewhere that many of us have been operating at "surge capacity," having been stretched and stressed by the pandemic, political unrest, and the fear of the unknown. These challenges have translated to a global mental health crisis which requires that we all come together to support and encourage one another toward a more whole and resilient community. When Jeff asked me to offer the invocation for tonight, I found myself struggling with all of the things that I wanted to share with the group, so if you'll indulge me, I'd like to offer a list of observations, accolades, and ideas gathered from my colleagues in Westport Human Services. You'll notice a theme of countless people stepping up to help a friend or an isolated neighbor in need; Community organizations that have gone above and beyond to help wherever help is needed; And Town employees that work around the clock to protect, engage, and support residents throughout Town. Ours is a community that has learned new ways to adapt. We've gained patience, honed new skills, and rediscovered the power of compassion, gratitude, and strength within our families, friends, and neighbors. It has been a resilience marathon and the ultimate test in community cohesion. These last 19 months or so have been really tough. Really, it has been the ultimate test for me as an individual and for the community as a whole to come together. The Department of Human Services is so grateful for, and amazed by, Westporters' ability to love and support one another through tough times and in good times.

Here are some thoughts from my team of hardworking and dedicated staff members who have gone above and beyond in service to others (in no particular order and I've tried to keep it to the top ten.):

1. You never know the true character of a person or a community until one is challenged to face a new reality. Westport always rises to these challenges and goes above and beyond in helping one another.
2. Human Services has benefited from countless acts of kindness and generosity, allowing us to step up during unimaginable circumstances.
3. Generosity comes in many forms: some share their time, others share their expertise, many share a dollar or a meal, most share their humanity through simple acts of kindness and connection with others.
4. A little goes a long way. I'm probably talking about some of you in the proverbial room so I'll try to keep it general –
 - a mentor connects with a student and becomes their life-long confidante and friend;
 - a donor offers to help start a food fund, and Westporters quickly pitch in to surpass the goal;
 - a family volunteers to help pack drive-thru meals at the peak of the pandemic, and 19 months later, they continue to show up each week to pack and deliver to homebound seniors;

- a group of seamstresses joins together to make free face masks for vulnerable residents, helping Human Services to provide precious PPE to Westport households;
 - a local camp offers a scholarship, and the beneficiary eventually becomes an employee;
 - a company asks to sponsor a child for the holidays, which turns into an annual holiday celebration for low-income families;
 - a fireman responds to a lift-assist call and connects with the family with a social worker who helped them to get the in-home health care that they needed;
 - a police officer encounters an individual living in their car and connects them to resources and shelter;
 - and the list goes on and on.
5. Human Services has been so fortunate to have the support of our administration, you, our elected town officials, and volunteer boards and commissions to offer programs, services, and resources for residents of all ages and stages. Thanks to you and our dedicated staff of professionals...
- a. Westport's Center for Senior Activities has continued to offer services to seniors both remotely and in-person; Many of our seniors have gone from Boomers to Zoomers (I know it's getting old but I still love it) and we are thrilled to be returning to the center in-person;
 - b. Our Youth Services department has continued to serve as a resource to the schools through our Truancy and Juvenile Review Boards and the Student Outreach Program which we helped to fund. We have stayed connected to our students and parents through virtual and in-person programming while also coordinating the Westport Together Alliance and working with Positive Directions to organize Westport's Prevention Coalition to address substance abuse and mental health concerns across the age span.
 - c. Human Services staff has effectively responded to the pandemic offering countless food resources, re-assurance, and mental health supports, while also taking care of business as usual, including assisting residents to access state and federal assistance programs like Energy Assistance, SNAP, and other assistance including resources for housing and food insecurity.
6. Our volunteer boards and commissions have worked tirelessly to ensure that we are advocating for everyone and responding to the community's needs.
7. I'm really proud to be a part of the Town's Emergency Management Team which has been sharply focused on the health and safety of residents, offering assistance to our most vulnerable populations by coordinating outreach and empathetically offering help when needed.
- a. DPW, Police, EMS, Fire, the Health Department, and our schools have shown up each and every day to serve. It's amazing to be part of it,
8. I'll wrap up by saying in all, It's a true honor to work for the Town of Westport and a more extraordinary gift to work with my colleagues in Human Services.

9. If you haven't already surmised, Human Services offers a plethora of services and resources to support Westport residents of all ages. We offer the counsel, care, and resources, whatever you might need. Our clinical staff can be found at Town Hall and our programming teams at Toquet Hall and Westport's Center for Senior Services in Imperial Avenue which is a rocking place to be. I call it the private club open to the public.

I think I'd like to leave you with the idea that our services are available to all residents. We are only a phone call away whether you simply need a referral for counseling or you are experiencing a shift in life that is unexpected... illness, move, divorce, or child issue, we are just a phone call away. The next time you see any of my colleagues, please say thank you because they are really working tirelessly to serve. So, thank you very much.

Dr. Heller:

Thank you, Elaine. I would like to say thank you from all of us. It's very clear that there are wonderful gifts going on all the time that we're not always aware of.

The Pledge of Allegiance which follows presents a montage of RTM members. Thank you, Mike. Everything came together this time. It was really great.

There were 35 members present. Ms. Rea notified the Moderator she would be absent. Ms. Briggs notified the Moderator she would be late. Ms. Talmadge, Mr. Friedman and Ms. Klein left before completion of the meeting.

The minutes of the July Meeting has been posted on the Town website. Are there any corrections to minutes at this time? Seeing none, the minutes are accepted as submitted. If you later find any corrections, please inform Jackie, Jeff Dunkerton or Dr. Heller.

Announcements

Birthdays Greetings to: Ellen Lautenberg, Jessica Bram and yours truly, Velma Heller; Congratulations to all including myself. Happy birthday to us, September babies.

RTM Announcements

Jimmy Izzo, district 5:

It's not an announcement. I'd just like to make an apology to my esteemed colleague on Public Protection for spelling his name wrong. I added an e. It's Rick Jaffe with one e.

Rick Jaffe, district 1: I feel like I got promoted to two e's.

Jessica Bram, district 6:

As long as we're talking about attendance, I did attend the Public Protection meeting.

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

Jackie asked us to announce who we are and what district so, Jackie, here you go.

[Thank you.] I was listening to what Elaine said about surge capacity. The Chamber of Commerce, we are on surge capacity here. We are going to be running almost back-to-

back large events for the town of Westport. Slice of Saugatuck is coming up Sept. 25 and two weeks later, we are running the Dog Festival on Oct. 10. I sent all of you a video for you to see the rest of what we're doing which includes Restaurant Week, the Halloween Window Painting Contest and the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the First Selectman's Debate on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at noon. Why am I telling you about this? I want you to all come out and enjoy any of these events that you want to but I want you to also tell people, "Westport is back". We can go out and we can be socially distant. We can be safe. We can wear masks where we have to, not wear masks where we don't. We can go out and enjoy the Slice of Saugatuck, the Dog Festival, Lobster Fest; whatever else is out there, we can do it. Just be smart about it. Just take care of ourselves and we can have a wonderful time moving through this fall.

Louis Mall, district 2:

My Employee Compensation and Finance Committees will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the First Selectman's salary for the coming term.

Jeff Wieser, district 4:

The same meeting that Mr. Mall just announced will include Health and Human Services for the other item on the agenda. My apologies to the Finance Committee for going back and forth on the date. It's Sept. 28 at 7:30.

Mr. Mandell: Jackie, that was Jeff Wieser from district 4 speaking.

Mr. Wieser: You got me!

Mr. Mandell:

The RTM P&Z Committee will meet some time in the next two weeks discussing P&Z procedure and noticing, etc.

Stephen Shackelford, district 8:

I did want to announce that we're having the final Special Committee on the Code of Conduct meeting on Monday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 by zoom. I circulated that. Some folks have sent us some additional comments and suggestions. We will discuss those at the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will provide a final version of the Guidelines, as they are now called, at the October meeting.

Dr. Heller:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTM will be on Oct. 5th, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Again, zoom. We're on zoom.

As we get to the business of the agenda, I want you to know that We have been requested by the administration to add a new agenda item tonight to approve an appropriation of \$320,000 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the replacement and upgrade of the existing Gravity Main Sewer Line on Riverside Avenue into Pump Station #3. This was on the revised agenda with an explanation that we would have to vote on it. The language of the proposed agenda

item and resolution are in your packets. Because this request came to us after our agenda deadline, in order to add it to our agenda tonight, under Section A162-13 of our Rules of Procedure, we need a vote of 2/3 of the total RTM members, not just those who are here, which is 24 votes. If we add this item, it will become the 9th item. Since they hope to build this fall and early winter, they need to move to project construction as quickly as possible given the potential complications of delays due to weather, etc. Can we have a motion to add this item as proposed on the revised agenda? The motion was made by Ross Burkhardt and seconded by Sal Liccione. There were no comments from the RTM. **The motion to add #9 to the agenda passed unanimously.**

#9. To take such action as the meeting may determine upon the request of the Director of Public Works, to approve an appropriation of \$320,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the replacement and upgrade of the existing Gravity Main Sewer Line on Riverside Avenue into Pump Station #3.

Since there were no opposed and no abstentions, a roll call vote was unnecessary. Item #9 will be added to the agenda.

The secretary read item #1 of the call - To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$42,000.00 into Hurricane Isaias Accounts, to cover additional storm expenses incurred.

Presentation

Mr. Conrad was not present so Mr. Ratkiewich was recruited to present.

Pete Ratkiewich, Director, Public Works Department:

If I remember correctly from the discussion, these were just some of the remaining expenses that had been accumulating from Tropical Storm Isaias last year. You may get some better detail out of the report because I wasn't at that meeting; although, I was at the Board of Finance meeting on it.

Dr. Heller: That was the gist of it.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

There were a lot of expenses that came in and were realized long after the storm. We still have one or two that may come in. They don't all come in on time, if you will. That is the nature of the \$42,000.

Dr. Heller: We thank you.

Members of the electorate – no comments

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Finance Director, the sum of \$42,000.00 into Hurricane Isaias Accounts, to cover additional storm expenses incurred is hereby appropriated.

Dr. Heller:

It has been moved and seconded to approve the resolution just read.

Committee report

Finance Committee, Mr. Wieser:

The Finance Committee met with Gary Conrad on August 24. We had previously appropriated funds totaling \$780,000 for expenses associated with Hurricane Isaias, confident that they will be reimbursed by FEMA. While we continue to be assured of the reimbursement, the funds have been delayed as that Agency struggles to catch up with the number of recent disasters, as well as the effects of COVID on the Federal bureaucracy. Since that initial appropriation, the Town has identified an additional set of expenses totaling this \$42,000 which brings the total to \$822,000. Our request has been submitted to FEMA, for this \$822,000 as well as an additional amount of “soft dollars” that will bring our total expected reimbursement from FEMA well over \$822,000 almost to \$1.2 million. Gary explained that despite the delays mentioned, our request for reimbursement was put to the government well ahead of many other towns, so that we expect our reimbursement to be returned as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, by the time of this late hour vote, the Finance Committee had lost its quorum for the meeting, but the remaining four member, Jeff Wieser, Christine Meiers Schatz, Jessica Bram and Rick Jaffe, provided a unanimous sense of the committee in favor of this request. It’s money that has already been spent and is going to be reimbursed so it is really a very straightforward appropriation.

Members of the RTM

Peter Gold, district 5:

You mentioned that these charges are trickling in. Is there any statute of limitations of when you have to have them into FEMA?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

No. They haven’t given us an actual deadline but they are urging us to be complete with our submission mainly for the reason that Jeff mentioned that we are actually ahead with submitting our reports which are long and voluminous. We had a template set up before the storm to get at the front of the line, if you will, but the problem is if contractors fail to send in their invoices or procurement invoices. It’s maybe a little too fast but the good news is we were pretty much first and 95 percent of our paperwork was submitted.

Mr. Gold:

Do you expect there to be many more of these things or does this pretty much cover it?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

DPW, which was the grand majority of the submission, we’re pretty much done. There were submissions from DPW, from Parks and Rec. and a few, I believe from Emergency Services.

Mr. Gold: You’re not aware of any major things that are outstanding, so that’s good.

Sal Liccione, district 9:

Peter, not only Tropical Storm Isaias but the last few storms, thank you for distributing sand bags. Part of the last couple of storms, will that be the General Fund or will it be submitted to FEMA?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

The last two storms, Tropical Storm Elsa and Tropical Storm Ida that came through in July and a couple of weeks ago, respectively, we're going to handle those through our normal storm account. We didn't file those with FEMA, mainly because we didn't really have a great deal of expenses such as we did with Isaias a year ago. Mostly, what we had with Ida and with Elsa was flooding. We were able to absorb that without having to apply to FEMA.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously, 35-0. (Ms. Briggs arrived.)

The secretary read item #2 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$436,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for Improvements to Riverside Park.

Presentation

Jennifer Fava, Director, Parks and Recreation Department:

I do also have Steve Edwards with us on the meeting who has been working with us on this project. He'll be chiming in as well. As you know, Riverside Park is located on Riverside Avenue. This plan has been approved by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Finance. It also received approval from the committee meetings but you'll hear about that in the report. The goals of this project are to maintain natural environment, improve accessibility, create vistas, and also ecological Improvements such as removing invasives and creating habitats such as pollinator gardens and the like. I will share the screen. This was in your packet but this may be a little bit easier. For ease of discussion, the park has been cut into three distinct areas. We'll talk about each section briefly and then we'll move on. Section one is the upper area with the parking lot. It is being reconfigured, not really expanding much. There will be 10 parking spaces including a handicap accessible space. It will also extend the sidewalk and complete the sidewalk connection. It is mostly open lawn area with some seating, benches picnic tables. In the 1B area are some pollinator areas with some native plantings. Some are for screening and also to enhance the environment with creation of a vista point. This is one of three really distinct environments in the park. Part of what we would do is to include some interpretive signage that may talk about flora and fauna and maybe some historical pieces of the park or just interesting facts. Also, in 1A is a rain garden that will be put in for infiltrations. That's a general overview of section 1 and I'll ask Steve if he has anything to add to that.

Steve Edwards:

This project here, about a year ago, section 1B was just an area with a couple of large stumps, rocks, wood chips, etc. In house, we were able to go in and with a few days of work, were able to open it up to the meadow you see now. That's the good news. The bad news is that stone is buried underneath there so any project there is going to require some additional top soil to mend that soil. What you seen now is a nice green meadow but it's loaded with bones so anything we do will be on top of that material. You just have to keep that in mind. The parking lot area up on top will require State approval. We have a State Highway there so the sidewalk and the parking lot up there will have to go through some, hopefully minimal, DOT State review. Most of the runoff that we had, we were able to capture and keep on the road by putting in existing curbing. But we had wash out in previous years. Now that wash out is going down into the catch basin at the southern end and that does drain down into the wetland on the property line. The only water that we anticipate will be the runoff we anticipate draining down into the rain garden.

Ms. Fava:

Thanks Steve. For section two, we come down to the northern peninsula. One of the key aspects of this is to try to bring people down to the water. One of the important parts of this is to get people to have river access so it will create some additional vistas as well as some additional walkways. The beige area will be done with a stabilized surface to make it ADA accessible. The other areas will remain grass and will be mowed lawn pathways that will go through the various areas around. One thing I do want to mention here is this area within the pink dots is something that is future improvements. It is not part of this appropriation request. This is something that will create a boardwalk that goes through the little wetland area there that would connect to the existing walkway that goes behind the buildings along Riverside and will help create that loop to expand our pedestrian access. So, this is something that will require State approvals and more design details. It is something that will take time. It could be a couple of years so we don't want to hold up this project. We'll be moving forward with that separately. So that is not part of the request but is the future of what we'd like to do.

Mr. Edwards:

The area, 2A, a lot of that area was filled over the years with wood chips and softer materials so some of that area will have to be excavated out to put down a foundation so the pathway will be a grass pathway coming directly down to the point on that inside, the southern side. That again will have to be stabilized. It will be a firm Pathway. The major project on 2B/2C is going to be removal of the invasives. We've got Phragmites; we've got wild rose; we've got Japanese Nile weed. We are removing the invasives in that area to open up the site line. We won't be going down further that the point there right now because of the Coastal Jurisdiction Line. That area, to go beyond that would require State permits and we don't want to get involved in that process right now. We certainly are looking for it on the walkway area but the point area right now is stable. It is easy to walk out on. People can access it and everything else. There will be picnic tables inboard of the Coastal Jurisdiction Line but nothing on the point per se.

Ms. Fava:

If you go out the promontory, it's 3A and 3B. This is really a completely different feel than the rest of the park. It is a little bit difficult to get out to the view shed. We want to make that accessible so basically it will be a lighter pathway, a stabilized surface to get people of all abilities out. We have a few visas off the side as well as getting you out to this main area. Part of the process is trying to use as many resources as are currently onsite. There is a lot of rock that is in there that we are trying to repurpose. When I was talking about little bits of history, that rock is, I believe, from the ramp of I-95. Nobody would realize that that is where all this came from. We are really looking to get access out to the water with a little walking area and then have a path that can connect back. Steve, do you have anything on that?

Mr. Edwards:

No, other than the fact that it is probably the most interesting part of the park. Now, it is the most limited for access. That area is elevated a little higher so you have a real nice view south. You have a beautiful little meadow in that cove area that is a beautiful area for birding. That area will take some creativity to make the paths out of that native stone. It should come out as a really enjoyable space.

Ms. Fava:

The cost of the improvements in sections 1, 2 and 3 is actually \$510,000; however, a portion related to the parking lot and sidewalks, \$73,350, will be funded out of the DPW operating budget and sidewalk capital appropriation that is already in place. So, we are requesting \$436,000. A couple of things that have come up along the way: What is the additional maintenance? As we plan this out, we want it to require as little additional maintenance as possible. Over the first three to five years, we anticipate an additional \$5,000 per year for remediation of invasives until new growth is established. That would just be something in our operating budget. Another thing that has come up is the possible installation of a code blue station that would also include a camera for security. That would be up by the parking area. That is something we'll take through Public Safety and have a look at. So, we'll move forward with that. With that, we'll be happy to take any questions.

Dr. Heller: We'll call on you for questions when it is time for RTM comments

Members of the Westport electorate

Jay Walshon, 67 Roseville Road:

I followed this along with the Parks and Rec. Commission at the meeting and then did some research at the Parks Advisory Committee and, obviously, this could be a very lovely project once it gets completed. That was not the issue. The issue that several people have talked about, Kate Kerby for one and Jim Foster on the Board of Finance, was whether this was an appropriate project for this expense at this point in time. My issue is the process on how this occurred. It looks like this emanated from the Parks Advisory Committee way back in March and the public really had no knowledge about this project until maybe at the Parks and Rec. Commission on the 21st of July. In fact, Charlie had asked when this was voted on and approved by the Parks Advisory Committee, David Floyd actually said that they didn't because they didn't have a quorum and their August meeting was cancelled. So, it didn't even go through the

normal process where the Parks Advisory Committee needed, at least to approve this to go forward and it hasn't been done. Even, putting that aside, there is no outcry by the public, as far as I'm aware, for spending \$500,000 of their taxpayer money on this project. In fact, if you go out and ask the residents in town about Riverside Park, they say, 'What are you talking about?' They didn't even know about the park and exceedingly few people even utilize that park. Kate made the point that it's a very small piece of property for \$500,000; yet, Baron's South has been sitting there for six years with only \$15,000 or so being spent on it. We have many other projects in town that need to be taken care of. We've got the skate park that is going to cost \$400,000; Baron's South now is about \$2 million; the Longshore project is pending. That could be multi-multi millions of dollars and so she said, basically, and she's a member of the Board of Finance, to the subcommittee of the RTM recently, she said, in all good conscience, she cannot support this at this time. It's not that it is going to be a lovely project, it is not a priority for the residents in town to spend their hard-earned taxpayer money, \$500,000 on a project. Oh, and by the way, it's a DOSRD3 piece of property, which means you can't even put a porta-potty there. People aren't going to use this park very much because they can't even use a toilet there. They'll spend maybe five minutes if they even want to. Then there was a discussion about putting a kayak launch there. We'll it's a DOSRD3 project. You can't put a kayak launch there. So, the traffic, the limited parking, the very few people that are going to use it, the issue wasn't whether this would be beautiful, the issue is whether the town would want to spend the money on this. My final word is if you look at 06880, there is zero desire for this project.

Seth Braunstein, district 6:

Velma, I do not want to be the heavy here. I just want any speaker to know that I'll do my best to give a 30 second warning, just so they understand where they are within their time constraints and please do not take it personally. We're just trying to abide by our procedures. I went the full three minutes for you Dr. Jay. I did not want to interrupt you midstream.

Dr. Walshon: I appreciate it. Thank you Seth.

Dr. Heller:

We're doing our best here. I appreciate the difficult position I put you in, Mr. Braunstein. I will take the blame.

David Floyd, 5 Concord Lane, Chair, Parks Advisory Committee:

Thank you for your time. Thank you for all your consideration. A couple of things I wanted to address: All our Parks Advisory Committee meetings are publically noticed so we can't control if or when the public shows up or wants to come to our meetings. We also are in an advisory capacity so in my view when we do approve or recommend things to the Parks and Rec. Commission, it's somewhat irrelevant that we actually have a quorum in the meeting but at the meeting, several meetings, when we had gone through the plan with SOR Consulting, all the committee members were in favor of this plan. My last point would be that this isn't an insignificant amount of money. I agree with that but if you look at it in the context of this is a park that has been neglected for

somewhere between 15 to 20 years, the improvements that we are suggesting are very minimal. They are to improve accessibility and, yes, to make a few improvements to vistas and sites, but much of the money is going to making the park better as well as getting rid of invasives and making it just a nicer park.

Committees report

Parks and Rec. and Finance Committees, Chris Tait, district 1:

We did meet as a committee to discuss this agenda item and, in the report, a couple of things we wanted to bring out to the RTM: One of the issues, as we talked about the park, itself, the park is part of our capital plan of ‘taking the river back.’ Part of this ‘taking the river back’ is access to the river which has been neglected for 30 or 40 years. This is a park that is on the river and to have access for residents to access the river so, hopefully, down the road you have possible kayaks but Jen spoke to the walkway. It’s part of an overall plan to take the river back to Westport to enjoy the river that runs right through Westport which is an amazing thing. Some of the things we talked about, as Jen said, getting rid of the invasive plants; also, dogs will be allowed to use this park which is a great add on. There will be extra dog-waste bags available and so on. Jen talked about creating vistas with access to the river and keeping the natural look. Some of the discussion we had was related to security cameras, which I think Jen spoke to, being close to the highway, so some security there. We had discussion about the 10 parking spaces that there might be some extra parking. The committee looked at the recommendations, take the river back and the overall capital plan and approved this unanimously to go forward to the RTM.

Mr. Wieser:

Before I read the resolution, I would like to point out that the committee report was a joint committee report with the Finance Committee. I’m sorry I didn’t catch that earlier. Unless the committee corrects me, we voted 6-0 in favor of the expenditure, as well.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Parks and Recreation, the sum of \$436,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for Improvements to Riverside Park is hereby appropriated’

Dr. Heller: It has been moved and seconded.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Jaffe:

Jen, on one hand, we have our parks in Westport; on the other hand, we have our features that our community wants for those parks. We have fitness and sports; we have dogs; we have relaxation and fitness, playgrounds, fields, open area. I would think we would have a professional study done that laid out the park resources and figured out what our town needs from those parks and then produced a prioritized list, prioritized in order of goodness for dollars spent to get those parks to provide the features that we need. I looked in the 2017 Town Plan for Westport and I did not see

that level of detail. So, my question is how did we decide to fix up this park as opposed to all other parks?

Ms. Fava:

We've been hearing from a number of people that they did want this park as a focus and that's where we have put attention. It's been a long-standing park, as Steve said, and it was very overgrown. We did talk about it a little bit in the committee meeting about an overall parks master plan. It's in our five-year capital plan and I think that, based on comments we're hearing and things we're going through now, that, based on the comments that we're hearing, it is important that we move that up on the timeframe to give us guidance on which parks to do when.

Mr. Jaffe:

I'm in favor of opening up water access to our residents as Mr. Tait said; however, I'm not absolutely convinced that our dollars spent on this particular park is better than on all the other parks. So, sure, go ahead, but I wouldn't make a habit of spending \$500,000 on a park without a master plan.

Mr. Mall:

First of all, I would like to say that I used to live down on Riverside Avenue and about 30 years ago, there was a house on the property that was 1B. The Fire Department used it as a training opportunity and burned the house down and trained the fire fighters on how to put a fire out. From that point on, really nothing was done with Riverside Avenue. So, it has been neglected for close to 30 years that I can recall. So, Brian Stern and I teamed together talking about wouldn't it be nice to clean up Riverside Park. So, for the last four years, Brian and I have been hounding. I apologize if we became a pest or a nuisance but we felt very strongly that this is riverfront property, a valuable asset to the town, that was being neglected to the point of being abused. Four years ago, Bruce Lindsey, the Tree Warden, came in with a mulcher that chewed up a lot of the vines just so it would be safe to walk to the water. You didn't want to go around the corner because you didn't know what was there. So, the invasives were gutted out of there but still nothing was getting done. About a month before COVID hit, Jay Keenan, Christ Tait and I went down and met with Jen at the Parks offices and I begged Jen to get something done to show that we were making some sort of progress. Hire Steve Edwards. Get Steve in there to crack the whip and get something done. So, Steve comes in and makes the meadow and all of a sudden, I'm getting emails saying 'what a great improvement on Riverside Avenue.' 'Oh my goodness, what a great little park.' Now, we are finally coming up with a plan that will enhance this park. One of the points that Steve made to me was that he didn't realize how much this park was being used. So, people may not realize how utilized that park is. People walk their dog. Some come and park their car and read the newspaper. Others come and have lunch. If we end up polishing up this park, it is going to be utilized. One thing we have to remember is we have like a necklace around the river. There is Pasacreta Park, Eloise Park, Riverside Park on the west side of the Saugatuck. Then you get on the other side and you have Salmon Park and Canal Park up above and so on and so forth. These are like little gemstones around the river. We aren't growing more river property. There's a parcel

right next to the Eloise Ray Park that was bought up by a private person. It makes me sick that the town didn't buy it to expand Eloise Ray Park. I'm very upset about letting that slip through our hands. I wanted to make a point to thank Brian Stern because there has never been an issue about money here. It's about getting the work done. What I'm hoping to do is, if we approve this and get the work done on a property of five to seven acres that had just laid to waste, overgrown and so forth, in section three, if you manage to stumble forward and get out to the point, once you're out there, it's magnificent. I will say that I'm a little annoyed that the RTM was not included in the site visit because, if we had been included in the site visit with the Board of Finance, the 36 members would see what a neglected piece of property it was, what its potential could be and, when it's done, realize how well our money was spent to bring people to a viable park. I don't think we need a kayak dock. You can just walk down there and walk into the water and launch your kayak. A wooden walkway, I'm not so sure about that. Who is going to maintain it when it becomes old and dilapidated and people fall through the planks and so forth. That's getting way in front of us. Fix this park up. Get it to be a destination where you would walk along the river. Enjoy the river from both sides. I want to call out Brian especially. It hasn't been a case about money. It's about getting the work done. I'm all in favor of this. I want to see more tables in there. I want to see more benches. There will be people. Build it and they will come. I guarantee you. I also want to say that my neighbors in district 2 use this park on a daily basis. If anyone wants to know who wants this, check with the neighbors and with my constituents in district 2. And it's for everybody. I encourage everyone to vote yes for this. We don't have to worry about boardwalks and kayak ramps and boating launches. Just make it a nice park to visit.

Ms. Fava: Just for everybody's knowledge, it's 6.5 acres.

Candace Banks, district 6:

Mr. Mall and Ms. Fava just answered my first question, 6.5 acres. I thought Mr. Mall's enthusiasm for this project is pretty contagious. It's a huge boon for those in district 2 but for those of us, I actually drove by there for the first time today to evaluate the situation. So, my question for Jen is about net gain of parking spots for those of us who would need to drive there. You have 10. Is that a gain from what you have there now?

Ms. Fava:

We believe that it would be a gain. Part of the issue now is that there is no delineated parking. People park haphazardly and if you get a few cars in, it turns to chaos. We will have designated parking spaces. People don't come there for the whole day. They come for a couple of hours and then move on so the parking spaces turn over. We think that's sufficient parking.

Ms. Banks:

In terms of the increase in "vistas", it seems like, it's hard to tell what was regarded as a vista. When you say vista and water access, it's just people going to look at the water, right? It's not recreation necessarily. It's just going to enjoy the view.

Ms. Fava:

There will be ways that you can identify a spot that you might want to go to. It's opening up some of the overgrown vegetation and invasives so that we can create spots. We want people to be able to enjoy it but also feel that they have a little bit of privacy. So, there will be benches at different spots so that people can enjoy those views. Some of it may be picnic tables. It's creating avenues so that people can get clear viewpoints. When we talk about vistas, that's what we're getting at.

Jessica Bram, district 6, also on the Parks and Rec. Committee:

First of all, I would like to commend you, Ms. Fava and Steve Edwards and the Parks and Rec. Commission. I think you have done a beautiful job on this. What I really like is how much variety there is in a really small area. I disagree that it is not known about. I have frequently met friends for a walk along the river there or met them for lunch and there are scarce places to sit for lunch. What I love about this is it takes the highest, best use for Westport. What is it that distinguishes us as a town from other towns? It's our waterfront and our riverfront. If we are to spend money on enhancing parks, I think that is an absolute priority. Also, that has become a very commercial area and it is a way of infiltrating open space into a commercial area so that our town doesn't become bifurcated, part of it commercial and business and part of it is streets and parks. So, I like that and all of those people who work there, although some of them are not Westport residents, some of them are, will use it and don't need parking, by the way and have an advantage of having some open space there. I do use whenever my husband takes me to the dentist there and takes the dog for a walk. It's also really gorgeous. So, I am very in favor of this, very in favor of spending Parks and Rec. money, town money, for anything that has to do with our riverfront and our waterfront.

Mr. Braunstein:

I want to start by saying I think this is an excellent plan that Jen and Steve have put together. My misgivings are related to what Rick Jaffe brought up initially and how we ultimately prioritize the projects because I think Dr. Walshon has a very valid point. We've had a number of years since the Baron's South development project was not approved and that is 20 acres, I think, sitting smack dab right in the middle of Westport that has, despite a lot of conversation, a lot of focus a number of years ago, that has basically sat fallow without any real maintenance, investment or development. I shouldn't say development, better to say plan to make that asset more accessible, more appealing to the people of Westport. When I think about the expenditure here, getting done what's planned is going to require funds. I would feel more comfortable here once we have a plan prioritizing all the different competing interests. I'd like to see the town continue what they've been doing. Jen used the word "enhancement". That's a nice word but the fact is the underlying maintenance that could be done here by the town's DPW at the direction of Steve's informal ideas, I'd like to see some more of that occur and I'd like to see some of the more immediate elements like making handicap accessible parking, improving the sidewalk, doing something to make more of the park ADA accessible. I'd like to see if there is a way to do that on an incremental basis. So, if we break this great plan down into pieces, we might spend some money now but sort of allocate a focus towards understanding how it fits in the broader context before we

commit to the full half-million dollars. In no way, do I want this to be construed as a criticism. This is a wonderful plan for what is arguably a first rate town asset. I like Lou's analogy. There is like an emerald necklace around the waterfront. We absolutely need to make sure that emerald necklace is polished but that's not the only asset we need to be paying attention to. I almost feel like I should vote no to this today to try and make sure we understand that a more comprehensive analysis and prioritization, as per what Rick said earlier, is an immediate consideration for the people who are ultimately determining which direction we should be turning in. Jen, Steve, great plan. Thank you.

Andrew Colabella, district 4:

I would definitely have to agree with Mr. Braunstein in everything he has said including what Lou Mall has also said considering calling this riverfront park one of the emeralds of this town. You could also refer to Grace Salmon Park and you could look at the property that Lou brought up that could have been a park property as well. What I am looking to see and what I have seen is since Jen came on and there was a change in management, if you've noticed, a lot of our parks have become more inclusive. For example, you look at Compo Beach. The sidewalk going around the beach has finally been completed. You have accessible handicap bathrooms; you have accessible handicap ramps on the beach, as well. Seeing the accessibility in our parks, I think that is something to think about. There are not just parks to think about. You have athletic fields, recreational fields, sanctuaries. This high price, if you think about it, in the last year or two, the price of everything has severely gone up. One of the things on the map was a wildflower garden. Wildflower seeds, at less than a pound, used to be \$8-\$12/pound. It is now almost \$30/pound. Most wildflower bag seeds have anywhere from an assortment of 12 seeds to 46 seeds. There are partial sun, full sun, partial cloud. This project is a massive improvement considering the overgrowth and overwhelming manpower needed to make it more water accessible but also accessible, period, considering you are talking about 6.5 acres. Most of that park wasn't even accessible for the longest time. I used to maintain that park from 2008 to 2013 with me and one other person, trying to cut the grass, where most of the grass was completely uprooted, all the roots were exposed, a lot of tripping hazards, a lot of overgrowth. If you think about the maintenance, the Parks and Rec. did the most that they could do with their small staff. Imagine you had taken this \$500,000 expanded over the last 30 years. Is that what it would have cost to upkeep that park appropriately for 30 years? It's a close number. That's something I would love to see. I would have loved to have been included in the site visit. I think that's very important because I look at the RTM a little bit like a Jesuit body. You have to know a little bit about everything. You have to know a lot about everything. It's a well-rounded body non-partisan. It's something I want to be involved in. I want to be involved in every little aspect. But I love what I see. I think it's a great improvement. This is something I have been asking for for a very long time and I've got to applaud the Parks and Recreation Commission, Jen Fava, and everyone who has been involved because I think that this is a very valuable investment considering this is going to be off the beaten path connecting Saugatuck to downtown. I think it's a great investment and I am in favor of it.

Wendy Batteau, district 8:

I have a couple of different kind of things to say. One of them is that I kind of want to do this [smacking her head]. We have been talking about making an emerald necklace of green spaces around town for a very long time. It has appeared in at least two POCD's; although, it hasn't specified because that isn't the point of the POCD. It hasn't specified which park will be done when. But, there is something to planning. I agree with Seth and I agree with Rick and anybody else who says we need to plan this deliberately and figure out where we want to spend our money to best effect at any given time. I happen to like this particular plan for this particular park very much. I think it's a lovely use. I'm not very happy when I hear talk about kayak launches and stuff like that. We seem to be very willing to walk down a slippery slope simply ignoring the fact that the highest best use of open space is open space, not as a recreational facility for sports and that kind of thing and, if we do go down the route that people are talking about now with Baron's South, you do get pollution of the river and all that. But that does not occur in this plan. I just wish we could be more deliberate about what we're doing. As Jen said, there is a capital item to come up with a coherent plan and I'd rather see that happen. I have a little ditzy detail. In two different items today, we're talking about bike racks. The bike racks here are \$1,800 per bike rack and the bike racks downtown are \$575 per bike rack. Are these some extra special super-duper bike racks?

Ms. Fava:

That is just a cost estimate that was put in with the consultant. It will be fine-tuned and, also, everything will have to go out to bid. That's what is in there as kind of a placeholder at this point in time. I would anticipate that the cost would come in less than that.

Ms. Batteau:

If it could come in at \$575 for downtown, it probably could. Anyway, my opinion is this is a nice plan but I think it's probably a little premature to enact it right now. I'd rather see a more coherent plan for town going back to the idea of the emerald necklace that we have been working on for so long and get to this one in due time. The other thing I would say is, given its location, I'm glad you thought about security. That might be something we would want to take into even stronger account given its closeness to schools and things like that. But, thanks for the good work.

Harris Falk, district 2:

I agree with pretty much what everyone has said before. There seems to be a lack of cohesive plan or communication, even. As Wendy just brought up, we seem to be giving money before a bidding process, for one. So it's just here's the money. Do something with it. Now, I love this park. I actually use this park. Some of the paths that are in there you can use right now; however, some of that talk had been cleaning up the Phragmites and the river. Our river is going to get dredged sometime in the near future and there's already a plan being proposed by Public Works to get rid of the Phragmites throughout the entire river. That's yet another thing: bike racks pricing and another town department doing the very same project. For riverfront, it makes a lot more sense to clean the river first. The river, then clean up the park. I also liked Seth's idea of doing it incrementally. It would be nice to fix the parking lot creating spaces so people don't park vertically or horizontally or on the grass. That's somewhat easy to do. It's just a lack of

plan, a lack of communication and I want this park even if it isn't in district 2 but rather in district 9, but that's another thing entirely. I love these parks. We need a coherent plan for them. Thank you.

Karen Kramer, district 5:

I think the park looks wonderful. I do think I would like to see something done with Baron's South. I do think that we need a more cohesive plan but anything we can do to utilize waterfront is always a plus. But I would like to know if we do this, how does that affect Baron's South which just lies there?

Ms. Fava:

In terms of Baron's South, that is something we are working on now. If you are not aware, there is some discussion with Planning and Zoning. So, we're waiting to hear what happens with that and then we'll be able to start moving forward with a plan for Baron's South, as well.

Ms. Kramer:

I'm aware but if we do this, how will it affect getting financing for Baron's South?

Ms. Fava:

Obviously, we would have to come back to the funding bodies for funds for whatever plan we end up going with. That's not something I can answer for you.

Ms. Kramer:

I didn't expect you to have an answer. I just wanted to throw it out there. I want everything done.

Mr. Gold:

Like everyone else, I think this is an excellent plan for the parcel. The park should be improved. The question is how and when? For example, you are using the Public Works budget to improve the sidewalks. Can you use part of your maintenance budget to remove the Phragmites and invasives as part of your regular maintenance? You don't have to do it all at one time. As you maintain the park, you can remove more of the invasives each time. I'm also concerned about the process of how this was being done. It sounds like a deal where the squeaky wheel gets the grease. A number of people approached you over time and pushed for it. A number of other people were pushing for Baron's South or some other park. It seems to be the case of people pushing for their park as opposed to other people not making as good a case for their park, like Baron's South, which is equally neglected. I would think the best way to do this would be to say, 'We know that people want this. We know that people want that. Let's sit down and have a plan. Once we have a plan, when this park's time comes within that plan to do it, here's what we're going to do. We don't have to do it today. We can take this lovely plan and do it at the appropriate time as part of an overall plan. To Karen's point, if you were faced with a choice of spending half-million dollars on this today or \$2 million on Baron's South and you couldn't do both, which would you choose? Personally, I would rather do Baron's South. There is only a limited amount of money that you are going to get for

park improvements. Are you going to take half-million dollars and do it here and not have it available for something more important later on? Again, I think this is an excellent plan for this parcel. I'm just not sure it's the right time to do it. I would think you would want a plan of overall prioritization first and then when it time, pull this off the shelf to do it.

Arline Gertzoff, district 3:

As a very, very long-term resident of Westport, yes I've used this park. In general, I am for the idea but as has been said by Seth and Peter, I would like, perhaps, phases be worked out. Sorry, but I find parking a nightmare. The last time I was there, I got extremely close to getting slashed across my car. I had to get out of my car and ask someone to move because they parked any old way. I know that's a Westport habit. I am also concerned that we didn't get any sort of a site visit. I've been on a couple of site visits and I found them extremely useful. I am also concerned with no sort of WC. I know porta-potties aren't the nicest thing but no WC nearby, that also concerns me. I have also noticed people kind of, I don't want to be rude, I know some people don't have places to go but I've seen people sort of hanging out there, smoking cigarettes, etc. and that wasn't very conducive. It does need some improvement and I hope we can have a better plan, somehow, in phases. I am concerned about maintenance. I use Grace Salmon a lot because my mother's memorial bench is there. They mow the grass and then they leave big tall grasses near the benches and, guess what, I brought my big, tall clippers and did it myself so I have some concerns about maintenance. So, I'm not against it but I would rather see some better phases.

Mr. Mandell:

I was about to unmute but my box moved and I couldn't find myself. (If you can't find yourself, you're in big trouble!) To say that I was skeptical about this project to begin with would be an understatement. We're going to spend a half million dollars on what? That is basically open space that is enjoyable and useable. But, I listened to the report and listened to the hearing for the subcommittee and I find that this is a good plan for this piece of property and that we should be looking to do this. But then we look at the global view of all the parks and I think it's phenomenal that this town is finally embracing the idea that we have parks; we have open space and we should be working with these things and making them useable for our community and sometimes leaving pieces of property unused because open space is good for animals; it's good for the air; it's good for our psyche, a piece of land that's there rather than being used. So, let's look at Baron's South. We've talked about it a lot. This body, the RTM, for good or worse, sustained the P&Z's at that time I thought absurd concept to open space because we were looking at a different project. We were looking at putting senior housing on that land. I said at the time, if we don't vote to make senior housing now, it will be open space and I and other members of this committee, this body, agreed with that idea of we will do this now and, if not, it will become open space. So, here we are taking about a half million dollars for this and Baron's South has been sitting there, a beautiful piece of land that we are supposed to be embracing as "open space". This body confirmed that it is to be open space. So, two weeks ago, on a Wednesday night with the rain falling, on a zoom, we have a Parks and Rec. Committee meeting that says 'What are

we doing with open space here? We're going to put Pickle ball on it? But we're also going to make pollinator pathways. We're going to make other things with it. Are we looking that we're going to trade six Pickle ball courts for open space in perpetuity and lock it down and be done with it?' All of this comes to what a lot of people have been saying here. What is the plan for all of our parks? What is the plan for our open space? What is the plan moving forward? Tonight, I'm going to be voting for this because I think this is a good plan for what we have here but I think we need to step back and say 'Wait a second here.' Are we just going to hand this decision to the Planning and Zoning Commission as to what we're going to do with open space? It's not their decision to deal with open space. It's the town's and the people's decision what to do with open space. That meeting was clear as a bell. What are we going to do with it? Should there be a Pickle ball here or not? Should we have pollinator pathways or not? I, for one, have always said there should be a bocce ball court next to the Senior Center. They should have built it when they expanded it. We should have built the senior housing there and they would have paid for the expansion of the Senior Center. They were going to include a pool and a bocce ball court. So, let's vote for this tonight. As far as I'm concerned, this is a no-brainer. It's good money spent. We are going to make a beautiful park. But what about the rest? How are we going to deal with this? Are we just going to send this off to P&Z? We're going to send this off to the Board of Finance? Let's sit down and talk about it. We have a lot of parks in town. We have a lot of open space in town. We are under tremendous pressure to develop. If we want the land that we have to keep it for the future, it could be gone. Open space is important. Open space can be used just to be there for trees, for animals, for your psyche, to breathe. I'm voting for this tonight but I really want us to work hard on how we're going to move forward in the future and how we deal with our land.

Mr. Liccione:

Hi Jen. This is a question for you. We talked about this before. How much do we spend on maintenance of all our parks, Baron's South, Riverside Park, yearly?

Ms. Fava:

I can't give you that number now off the top of my head. It's a very large amount with a lot of different budget lines.

Mr. Liccione: Just Baron's South and Riverside Park.

Ms. Fava:

Baron's South, we have a budget line that's around \$15,000/year that we spend on maintaining that. Riverside, we don't have a break out of that.

Mr. Liccione:

My request to you is since we are redoing all this stuff in all these parks, with the plan, I think we need increased maintenance in all the parks. I think there is not enough maintenance in any park in town. I applaud our Parks and Rec. Maintenance Department but we need to hire more people in the Maintenance Department to take care of these parks.

Christine Meiers Schatz, district 2:

I don't understand some of the critiques that have come up regarding this plan tonight. Number one, it's really a small thing but if you look at the bike racks in the downtown street furniture, it's not really an apples to apples comparison because they are putting four bike racks together at any given location at \$575 each and we're not really sure of what the bike racks would be. So, that's one small thing. Two, I don't understand why we need a field trip to assess whether this is a good idea. It's a park. I drove my car and I went and I looked at the space on my own which all of us can do. I looked at the plan. I think this is a good value proposition for what we're getting. I'm going to vote for it. And I'm all in favor of having cohesive plans and I've said that over and over again, beating a dead horse, with respect to other subjects. But, also, realistically, from being on this body, I know that if we vote no, it isn't going to get done for quite a while and this space needs the help. It is not in good shape. It's right at a spot where people come into our town off exit 17. I think this work needs to get done. I think it's a good plan. Jen, my question for you is: this long-term holistic plan for all the parks, when is that coming?

Ms. Fava:

I don't know off the top of my head. It is in the capital forecast but it's a few years out. My comments now are that we should be moving that up and it should be made more of a priority so that we can deal with this, as we say, going forward with different projects. So, I'm going to make the effort to get that moved up in the timeline.

Ms. Meiers Schatz:

I agree with you completely and I think a lot of people agree that we want to get that done. I think we should also get this park done. I think it's a good use of our funds. I will be voting for it.

Mr. Tait:

As I listen to everybody and as someone who has been involved in Parks and Rec., what the priority is here and I agree with Seth and Rick of having an overall plan of priorities, but we did have before us, four or five years ago, a priority on Baron's South and that was next. As Matt mentioned and the RTM doesn't know, a plan was approved for Baron's South about two weeks ago to move forward and this will be coming before us. So, money will be being spent on Baron's South. Whether we approve it or not will be another issue. I look at these investments as an overall town body. This is about our capital plan. If you look at our capital plan, it is about take the river back. A lot of plans coming down the road are about taking the river back to make it more accessible. By doing that, it makes the town more desirable. We have this river that runs through our town that other towns would die for and we've neglected it for years. We have 6.5 acres sitting on the riverfront that could be utilized for the town residents, also as a town asset going forward, another amenity that we provide. So, what are we investing in? Are we investing in something that, in the long term, could add value to the town? So, that's another way to look at this. Looking at priorities, Baron's South to this, this has been on the shelf for three or four years, it has been talked about. I know if nothing is done, we'll still be talking about it for another three or four years. If it is put into a priority plan, we'll

discuss it and the funding and kick this can way down the road. That's where it will be. Baron's South, the plan has been approved by the Parks and Rec. Commission about two weeks ago for the P&Z. That will be another separate issue that we'll have to deal with. This project, am I thrilled with the number? But then, I look at the return on investment. We are looking at something that has been neglected for years, talked about for years and we're adding this as an asset for the town. If you look long-term at our capital plan, it does fit in our capital plan for the long-term growth of the town. If we don't do it now, it's not going to get done.

Ms. Fava:

Velma, can I clarify just a couple of things? I want to make it clear, there was no plan that was actually approved about Baron's South. What they were discussing was a potential vision and things they might like to see so that P&Z can have an idea of whether or not they want to look at some changes to zoning. The plan was just a concept so it was really just for a vision. It's not something coming off the table to you guys right away.

Mr. Tait:

Thank you Jen. Jen is correct. It was my misinterpretation. Parks and Rec. presented a vision to P&Z so Baron's South is in motion of what possible things could happen to it.

Ms. Fava:

The one other thing is, I know there's been talk about breaking things up and phasing pieces of this. That has come up at Parks and Rec. Commission as well as Board of Finance. That idea was thrown out with the idea that it should move forward and be done and get through it; otherwise, things will just get pushed down the road and not come to fruition. So, I just wanted to make those two clarifications.

Mr. Izzo:

Most of this stuff was said in committee. Those of you who didn't attend committee should attend committee meetings. We've repeated ourselves. Many of you repeated things, about 45 minutes worth. I'm voting for it. It's a great plan. Take advantage of the committee meetings in the future.

Ms. Batteau:

Just a couple of comments about the comments... This conversation about Baron's South is really kind of irrelevant. We've got a proposal for this at Riverside Park. We've also got a lot of other proposals to spend a lot of other money. We're doing a lot of bonding. We're doing a lot of expenditures out of the General Fund. This is an entity on its own. The meeting that some people have been talking about regarding Baron's South was rather a travesty, in my opinion and a lot of other people's. I don't know what's going to come of that. When Baron's South was first made open space and I'm pretty sure Jen was not there, it was decided that Parks and Rec. was going to clear walking paths and maintain it and were going to come up with budgets that would include its maintenance. Why that didn't happen, I don't know. But, again, that's irrelevant to this particular conversation. It's not like we're going to do this or we're going

to do Baron's South. What's being asked for at Baron's South is, in my opinion, not worth talking about right now. We talked a little bit about clearing out Phragmites and just to let you know, the process that the town has been using for years and years and years and years to clear out the Phragmites, despite notification by some people that it was poisoning our water, our aquifers, our people and so on, has recently, finally, been condemned by the EPA and prohibited by the EPA because it is lethal so I don't know exactly what they are going to do as they clean up the Phragmites here and in other places. But, in any case, if, what we're going to do is consider this as a project, that's what we should do and not say we can either do this or do something with Baron's South. The more I think about it, the better I think it is that we continue on with this proposal making some adjustments to not do things that are going to poison people or any other living creatures. That's a little bit glib, sorry. I think I'm going to support this.

Dr. Heller:

I'm going to ask that if you have nothing that has not been discussed already, that we let the conversation wind down. If this is a new point that you're bringing up, keep your hand raised; otherwise, let's move on.

Ms. Bram:

First of all, I do not understand why there is so much talk about Baron's South which is not an agenda item here.

Dr. Heller: We've said that though. Let's just keep going.

Ms. Bram:

When you get off on exit 17, our entranceway to the town, the first thing you are going to see is Riverside Ave. and all the office space on it. Finally, one thing I am very concerned about is I don't think six parking spaces is enough, especially if there is going to be usage here so I would really encourage Parks and Rec. to see what additions can be made to increase parking.

Mr. Mall:

I want to echo what Harris Falk said. This is not actually in district 2. We have to cross a busy highway to get to the park. Riverside is a busy street and neighbors make a big effort to get there but it is in district 9. The other thing I wanted to say is the dredging won't have any impact on this park. They will be able to dredge the river without impacting the park. They can do their work in the river and you can do your work in the park. One of the things I would like to point out, I don't know if any of you go to the little park at the marina down at Longshore. It's just a lovely place to go have lunch. That's what Riverside Park is too. A lot of workers go and have their lunch there. That's really what this is. This is not a high end, go to Longshore or got to Compo Beach; some people don't like that. They just like their peace and quiet in their neighborhood park. What I'm afraid of, when we start to talk about studying it some more, how many studies have been done in Westport that have gathered in Westport and nothing's been done? We need to study it more. Well, we've studied it to death and we could have spent the money on the park and been done with it and then moved onto the next park and got it

fixed up. If you have a park in your district, I recommend to each and every one of you, I recommend, get with it. Go do something about it. Push for it getting cleaned up. My neighbors and I go down to Eloise Park every spring and go and cross the street and clean it up. That's what it takes. It takes neighborhood involvement as well. If you have a park in your district that is not getting attention, have at it folks. I strongly recommend that you roll up your sleeves and do something about it. Nike has a saying that says "Just Do It." But, there's a better saying, "Just did it." When it's done, sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor. That's what I'm asking you to do here. I would like to call on Steve Edwards to talk about two things. Steve, can you address what you've witnessed in this park by the public and number two, with 10 parking spaces marked, more people will have access to the park than right now.

Steve Edwards:

The amazing thing I've seen over the last year working on the park was the amount of foot traffic. It is definitely a neighborhood park. The litany of regulars that come in there almost every day that I've been there, they walk their dog, there's one lady next door that has a baby stroller that comes down to sit down at the table to read a book. It's a very well behaved baby. For the most part, it's neighborhood. Lunch time, you'll see the cars come in. They come in for 10 or 15 minutes. Sometimes, they'll get out and take a walk and they leave. But it's not a park where people come and stay for long periods of time. The only time I've seen that is several fishermen have come down and spent several hours fishing. For the most part, it's a neighborhood park, a luncheon park, in and out, but, again, I've worked Baron's for the past year and this park and the traffic is much higher here than in Baron's. That being said, if we put this amount of work up at Baron's, I think we can turn that into something spectacular. This is on the table. Unfortunately, in my years in Westport, a lot of things were put on the table and then taken off and put on hold to come back to later. And you know something, a lot of them are still on the table. So, you can take this and run with it. It's not going to affect the other projects. The funds are there. It's available and it is ready to go. My recommendation is to go ahead and do it.

Mr. Gold:

Just a minor point, the first thing you see when you get off at exit 17 is not Riverside Park, it is Stroffolino Park which is right across from Mystic Market and the exit. Depending on what direction you go, if you go up Riverside, you will get to Riverside Park. If you go down Charles Street to Bridge Street, there's a plan in the TOD plan to put a park right next to Parker House Restaurant. So, if you are going to create entryways to Westport on the river, that's another place you might want to consider spending your money.

Dr. Heller: But the agenda this evening is..

Mr. Gold:

I understand that Velma but, again, the question is where do you spend the dollars? If you are saying spend it for emerald necklaces, here's someplace else on the river that you might want to spend the money. Which comes first? I don't know because nobody

has given me the pros and cons of this site versus some other site. It's not about Baron's South. It's about where to allocate the funds for the best use. I have no idea where that is because nobody has given me the pros and cons of this site versus another site, spending half million dollars here versus \$2 million elsewhere. Resources aren't finite despite what the Board of Finance says. The money is available. There are other projects coming into town which will demand significant funds.

By roll call vote, the motion passed 32-2-0. Mr. Gold and Mr. Braunstein opposed. (Ms. Talmadge left the meeting before the vote.)

The secretary read item #3 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$95,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for Professional Services related to the Longshore Capital Improvement Plan.

Presentation

Ms. Fava:

This is a project that is on the five-year capital plan. It has been listed on there as a site plan but we think it makes more sense to consider it a capital improvement plan. To give you a little bit about the process, it was bid out prior to COVID and then obviously was delayed. We received eight proposals ranging \$69,500 to \$122,000. They were all reviewed by myself, John Broadbin representing DPW and Charlie Haberstroh representing the Parks and Rec. Commission. We brought in three for interviews which we narrowed down to two and we ended up choosing Stantec as we are putting forth to hire for this project. Stantec Consulting Services are based in New Haven. They are an interdisciplinary landscape architecture, engineering and architecture design and environmental services firm. One of the things that we really liked about them is that basically all the expertise that they need is onsite, already part of their firm. They have expertise in assessment, engagement and design, civil engineering, traffic planning, building/architecture, code analysis and dock/marine/coastal engineering. All of these things are in house which is great. They also have significant coastal project experience and part of the packet was some pages from their proposal. They have done Greenwich Point Park Capital Improvement Plan as well as Silver Sands State Park in Milford and several different master plans in Stamford, Bridgeport and Milford. In checking their references, they were all extremely strong. Everyone spoke extremely highly of them and their expertise. So, what we're looking at once we can get them hired and contracted, they're estimating this process would take about six months, maybe a bit longer with a price not to exceed \$95,000. The scope of this is strictly looking at Longshore Club Park, evaluation of existing conditions, gathering public input through variety of methods, development of concepts, preliminary cost estimates for each improvement as well as phasing of those improvements. Some initial items to be considered, which many of you have experienced at Longshore: the need to look at our parking, the vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow, moving our Parks maintenance facility to a different location; right now, the location is taking up some prime, really important real estate, capturing water views, a new pro shop, enclosed cart storage, club house, improved golf practice/teaching area, two additional platform courts and warming hut, pool improvements, feasibility of additional dock space, as well as looking at infrastructure and the utilities that are there. These are all things that have been coming to the Department and the parks and Rec. Commission as to what things are driving the need there. As we go through the public input process, I'm sure we will garner additional ideas for things to be done at Longshore Park. Our stakeholder input is something we really stress. It is very important. We stressed that with

Stantec. Once we have them onboard, we will determine a variety of methods that we think would best suit this project. We would have people from our Golf Advisory Committee, our Racquet Advisory Committee, the Parks Advisory committee, our boaters and, certainly, the community at large with different public meetings as well as possibly surveys and things like that. Certainly, we want to work closely with the Longshore Inn. We now have new management at the Inn so it is important to have some synergy with their plans, as well. We will receive a number of deliverables from this project including a Public Involvement Report, existing conditions assessment, conceptual annotated plans with improvement recommendations, as well as anticipated regulatory schedules so we'll be able to figure out how long certain improvements will take depending on approvals, whether they are local or State or even possibly Federal if it has to deal with the water access, probable construction costs, a final preferred plan and also a capital plan for phased improvements along with probable costs. At this time, there are four items that are on the current five-year Capital Plan that all relate back to Longshore and will be part of this process. So, what this would do is give us a plan, like we've been talking about, actually. This would be for Longshore Club park alone and we'll move forward with the master plan and maybe be able to synergize these to some extent. This will provide us with not just the vision but also the execution plan for the improvements being looked at for Longshore. With that, we are asking for the \$95,000 to move forward with the Capital Improvement Plan for Longshore and I just want to say it was unanimously approved at all steps along the way.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Committee Reports

Parks and Rec. Committee, Mr. Tait:

This was straightforward, as Jen said for the professional service. It was really to make sure the process was followed. As Jen stated, three firms were picked, three firms were interviewed and Stantec was picked. Once this is completed, it will not be a plan. It will be an overall vision for Longshore and then this will go before the public or public input, to all the committees, to the RTM and to a final approval so this really is just for somebody to come up with an overall concept, not a plan. It was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee, Mr. Wieser:

Again, there is some confusion. It was a joint committee meeting. I thought it was going to be a joint committee report. There were six Finance Committee members at that meeting. We also all voted unanimously. It was Wieser, Jaffe, Jessica Bram, Christine Meiers Schatz, Cathy Talmadge and Seth Braunstein who also was on the Parks and Rec. Committee, as well.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Parks and Recreation, the sum of \$95,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for Professional Services related to the Longshore Capital Improvement Plan is hereby appropriated.

Dr. Heller: The motion has been made and seconded.

Members of the RTM

Jack Klinge, district 7:

I didn't speak to the last motion because I was totally in favor of it and liked the way the conversation was proceeding. This is another one of those ideas that makes infinitely good

sense for the town of Westport. Crown jewel, Longshore Club Park, let's get the plan put together to discuss and execute it as soon as possible. There are lots and lots of things to look at and I look forward to seeing the results of the findings from our consultant. So, I am all in favor of this.

Mr. Mandell:

In the early 1960's, there was this piece of land that was up for sale. The question was will it become housing or will it become a piece of land that the town can use? There was great debate in this body, the RTM, 60 years ago on whether or not they should buy a piece of land which we now call Longshore. It's important for us to take care of the land that we buy. It's important for us to find land that we can buy and preserve it because look at what it can be in the future. Look what we have: a golf course, tennis courts, a swimming pool. We need to fix that. We have paddle ball or deck tennis. Maybe there could be more Pickle ball. I think we should spend \$95,000 to find out that maybe Pickle ball should be there instead of Baron's South and maybe do something with that. What's most important here is that we're taking care of and preserving something we bought 60 years ago and that's marvelous and makes our town special.

Ms. Batteau:

A few years ago, the RTM and the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance and other town groups committed to, when thinking about spending money, equally with finance, social responsibility and environmental green considerations in spending money. I'm just wondering if this is a group that is used to working with green methods and, second of all, if it could look at the way Longshore is maintained and could recommend ways that it could be maintained in environmentally responsible ways, no pesticides being spilled into the Sound and so on and so forth.

Ms. Fava:

That was not part of the scope of this. That doesn't mean that it is not something we can ask them about or get more input on that. What this is trying to do is what people were talking about on the last item, to kind of prioritize and the various improvements there would become separate projects that are prioritized with cost figures. Each project would go separately through the bodies when it is determined it should go through. This is giving us the overall roadmap. We can talk to them about practices and things like that but that was not part of the initial scope of it. This would be that plan that we can then tick off individual projects going forward.

Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

Ms. Fava took the words right out of my mouth, really because the previous discussions for 90 minutes were more on what was going to happen at Baron's South than what was going to happen on the Riverside property. I wonder, to what extent this consultant could be used also to make some determinations and suggestions or concepts for the Baron's South?

Ms. Fava:

That is something that would have to be bid out separately. It's not part of the scope of this RFP that was put out. As I said, as part of the master plan, if we start moving forward on that, that would be done and, in the longer run, they would be able to converge. Again, this will give a roadmap of the different improvements at Longshore which can be combined with any other plans that we have moving forward for other improvements.

Mr. Mall:

First of all, I'd like to thank my colleagues on the previous vote. I really appreciate it and you're going to enjoy the park when it's done. Number two, for \$95,000, we now see what a plan costs us. That's what it's going to take and if we need more planning, so be it. The third thing is I want to tell Ms. Fava that Brian Stern and I reserve the right to be a pest for the next four years until it's done.

Ms. Schneeman:

I am very much in favor of planning so I certainly don't want to complain about spending the money for planning at Longshore and I advocate for a broader plan for all the parks. Because Wendy called it out and it has been on my mind, I did want to advocate for the scope of this as maybe being slightly broader and not just come up with a list of individual projects that we might pick but making it, if we're trying to make it a world class public club, there are probably other aspects that we should be thinking about as well. I think greener maintenance practices, I would definitely put on that list as well and I'm waiting for Jeff Wieser to pipe up about more solar something. If it doesn't impact the price, I would ask them to think in a slightly broader scope.

By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 33-0-0. (Mr. Friedman had left the meeting before the vote.)

The secretary read item #4 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$1,492,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the reconstruction of the Baldwin Lot (accessed from Elm Street).

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This project is a long time coming. This board approved funding for the design almost two years ago before COVID hit. We have done quite a bit of work on this. I am going to share my screen. The new design of the Baldwin lot will replace the drainage system, provide water quality management of the new drainage, elevate the lot to get most of the parking out of the flood zone, install new lighting, new landscaping, public safety measures and electric vehicle chargers. The geometry of the lot will be designed with current P&Z parking standards. By way of showing you that, I'm just going to switch over. This is the existing layout of the Baldwin lot. Many of the spaces are substandard in size. The circulation is not in accordance with P&Z regulations. My cursor is showing the flood zone so a lot of the spaces down here during a flood are unusable. I'll show you a picture of that which was in your packet. This is the back line of the parking spaces so we have a lot of unusable spaces when it rains hard. I'm sure it probably looked like this in the last two flash floods, as well. If I go over to the proposed plan, the geometry of the lot can't be changed but the parking spaces can be through some structural measures. What we would propose is to build a retaining wall along this western border, move the parking spaces towards that border. You can see that the gray lines are the old spaces and the darker lines are the new spaces. Along this line, we would move the spaces to the west and the reason for that is we'd like to be able to drain off into a bio-swale at the back of those parking spaces and down into a rain garden here that would then discharge into the drainage system. We will be making

some improvements to the drainage system to make it drain better than it does today. In the existing conditions plan, you can see there is a drainage system that exits the property through this area and then goes through the church property. There is a catch basin approximately where we were looking at the flooded cars. This drainage system actually flows backwards now so the parking lot has to fill high enough to push the water uphill into the drainage system and down to Church Lane. That will be remedied in the new plan by raising this part of the parking lot by about 1½ feet and the new flooded area will be no more than six inches deep in a 25-year storm. Most of the time, it will be bone dry. But in a real extreme situation, we will have a small flooded area here but you will still be able to get your car out without being flooded out. All of the aisles and access paths will be conformant with Planning and Zoning regulations. We will be installing electric chargers along the border with what we call the Avery lot. We will also have electric vehicle chargers here and in response to the recommendation of some Board of Finance and RTM members, we will also put a spare conduit at this end of this lot just in case we have need in the future for additional chargers. We don't want to dig up the lot if we don't have to. We will have a true handicap path out of the lot which will come outside the new building that David Waldman put together at 33 Elm Street. This path is already here. We're just going to continue it out and create four new handicap spaces here with a bona fide path to get out to Elm Street on a handicap accessible path. Any areas that we have that we can landscape, we will. Then we will put another drainage swale here, a bio-swale to clean water as it comes off of the lot and before it gets into the drainage system. This, here, will also be a landscaped area. I want to point out, these two lines here and these three parking spaces, if we get cooperation from the Avery lot, in this plan, that would be the sole crossover between the Baldwin lot and the Avery lot. To date, we have been attempting to negotiate with them a crossing into that lot and we have been unsuccessful. Finally, I want to point out that we will be taking the dumpsters that are peppered around this area and putting them into compactors, very similar to what we have on Parker Harding and across the street on the Sigrid Schultz lot. We have this depicted as crossing the line into the Avery lot. That is a condition of this crossing. If this crossing doesn't happen, this compactor will slide into the Baldwin lot and we'll go our separate ways at that point but nothing is irreversible. We feel that this is the best we can do with the geometry here. We have some discussions still with the Church to maybe make a crossing for employees and to block this section off for a play area for the kids during summer camp but it is something that is dynamic. We can close it off. We can open it up. We will have blue lights here like we have down in lot 1 down in Saugatuck, security stations and we will have cameras in the lot, none of which we have today. We will be doing all new lighting. All of the existing lighting will be coming out and will be replaced with LED's. I think that's about it. I'll take any questions.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Committees report

Public Works and Finance Committees, Mr. Wieser:

On August 24, the Public Works and Finance Committees met. Pete Ratkiewich gave a very similar, very comprehensive presentation to us. We were reminded that we had previously appropriated funds for the design of this odd-shaped area. The lot currently does not conform to a number of P&Z regs, so in upgrading the lot we will need to

satisfy a lot of those deficiencies. Pete just pointed out the irregularity and size of the lot and what a problem that is in coming up with a perfect solution but they have done a good job in getting there. Pete referred to the conduits and biofiltration water treatment into the design of the area to allow for better drainage, and a blue light facility to provide security. We spent a lot of time talking about parking spots and Pete pointed out that we will get 20 additional spots in the area that can withstand 25 year floods but we are losing 50 spots in the flood zone. So, net/net, we are losing 30 spots in the space which was a concern to everybody but it is the price of getting an upgraded facility. We talked a lot about the coordination of the Baldwin and Avery lots. There continue to be discussions with the Avery Trust holders and there remains a possibility that there can be a cut through between the two lots. This is built into the design that we are contemplating, but there are contingencies for the decision to go either way. It is anticipated that with this approval, the RFP for this work will go out by the end of October with an award by December. The plan is for the lot to be closed soon after the New Year with demolition beginning in February and probably opened by the summer season. In the meantime, Randy Herbertson of the Downtown Merchants Association reminded the committees that the Imperial lot will be available. It is underutilized right now so there will be plenty of parking throughout this work. While a longer walk to the downtown stores, that lot has been available and its use encouraged for the all-day employees downtown during this and going forward which could mean, from a behavioral point of view, something positive will come out of this. On another question that is controversial, Pete confirmed that nothing that is currently being done would preclude a second deck from being added to the lot, but that there is nothing in the design that anticipates, or encourages, that eventuality. The Finance Committee voted unanimously and the Public Works Committee voted 8-0-1 with Dick Lowenstein abstaining.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$1,492,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the reconstruction of the Baldwin Lot (accessed from Elm Street) is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Tait:

I have a question, Pete. So, the drainage is going to go under the Church there, headed in that direction. Myrtle Avenue with Dead Man Brook, when that fills up and overflows, does that go into the drainage there which will help back up through under the Church?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

No. The drainage path for this which has been existing for a long, long time comes out of our lot, goes through the Church lot, hangs a right on Church Lane and heads out to the Post Road then heads down to Saugatuck River; however, the cause of the flooding is when the river gets high, it closes the tide gate and that system backs up. You need pressure to open the tide gate to drain that lot.

Mr. Tait: It makes total sense. Thank you.

Ms. Schneeman:

Thanks Pete. I'm very excited to see this project get to the head of the line. Just a couple of questions: I know you have been very thoughtful about the impact on the Church and the Church property and I know there was some earlier discussion about the potential impact on the property owners who back up onto the parking lot on the Myrtle side. I just didn't know if there was any further consideration or concerns about those properties.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Frankly, I'd like to be able to raise the lot about 2 ½ feet but that would have an impact so we have raised it as high as we can without having an impact on those properties. Other than that, they should not be effected. They all drain to the Baldwin lot.

Ms. Schneeman:

My other question was how long you anticipate the construction might be once it begins in February? That downtown area is tight on Elm Street and it sounds like it might have to deal not only with the parking spots but also the actual construction.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This does speak to the whole plan of parking lots in the downtown area. This is the first one to go off and there is going to be an impact on parking but we will try to time it so that the impact is during low use periods. We'll try to go to bid as close to construction as possible because right now contractors are bidding and they have a time limit on their material costs and everything they are doing. Things are crazy these days as far as costs go. So, we would try to bid this out in October, bring the bids in in early November. We have to go through the award process; bring it before the Board of Selectmen and we think we'd be ready to roll right as the holiday season ends. The last thing I want to do is take this parking lot out in the beginning of November as holiday season starts to ramp up. As soon as Thanksgiving hits, the downtown area is pretty packed. But Jan. 2, we can start thinking about when we get started. If it's got 18 inches of snow on it on Jan. 2, I'm not going to try to do anything. The past couple of years, we've had some pretty warm winters so if we can get started in February or even March, I would anticipate that this would take March, April, May and our goal would be to finish this up before the festival season starts which would be, Randy, help me out here, I think June is the Fine Arts Festival. That's the process that we're aiming for. Timing is everything. We will try to have the least impact on the downtown festival season as possible by getting started early. We can do demolition in freezing temperatures. We can't lay asphalt in freezing temperatures. We can't pour concrete but we can get everything ready. As soon as warmer weather hits, we can hit the ground running.

Randy Herbertson, Chair, Downtown Planning Committee:

A couple of things to call out: This is the first of many exciting things we're going to bring to you for downtown improvements. If you look at the new Westport Downtown website, you will see a lot of the plans that we are working on right now. The Baldwin lot is probably, logistically, the simplest of the plans but this does hit a couple of key colors within our plan which grows out of the 2014 plan that was done. Not only does this improve parking reinvention, not only improving everything in the grade, etc., but another color which is improving our sustainability with the electric parking and also pedestrian access. It's a critical first start for this plan. I do want to call on Pete that I did sit separately on the property committee for Christ and Holy Trinity. They are very open to the access to that lot. An additional access helps them in other ways. They will be a trash customer for the new combined trash areas as well. One last thing. We have had a number of discussions with the Avery Trust. They are a difficult and not terribly communicative group. We do not have an agreement with them and they will not be participating in the trash relationship. But it is very important to them so we do anticipate that they may consider it in the future. As Pete has laid out very smartly in his plan, if they decide, after we have done this lot plan, to participate, we can add the access way without impacting the rest of the project. Correct Pete?

Mr. Ratkiewich: That is correct.

Mr. Liccione:

First of all, Pete, thanks for doing all of this work right next to my house. Make sure when you start doing demolition people are informed and you put notes in people's houses ahead of time because we get complaints.

Mr. Ratkiewich: Yes. That is an easy fix.

Mr. Mandell:

I sit on the Downtown Implementation Committee as the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. It is chaired deftly by Randy Herbertson. He's doing a great job bringing forward a lot of things that are going to be great for our downtown. I abstained on that vote because I knew I would probably be voting on the money here. I wanted to say straight out both as the Chamber of Commerce for what it will do for our downtown and as an RTM member thinking it will be great for our town, as well.

Mr. Lowenstein:

Pete, in your presentation you referred to something called the Sigrid Schultz lot. This subject came up in our committee meeting and that is the reason why I abstained because I felt with \$1.5 million being spent, something could be spent implementing the RTM resolution of two years ago naming the lot the Sigrid Schultz Plaza. I'd like to know what is happening on that.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Upon your inquiry on that, I went into the wayfinding plans for the signage that is being planned for all the downtown parking lots and verified that there is a sign for Sigrid Schultz but it doesn't say Sigrid Schultz Plaza. It says Sigrid Schultz lot. That work has

not been implemented yet so that's just a printing problem. We can change that name very easily and it will certainly fit on the placard and it could be very soon but the idea is when we implement that we would like to do that consistently across all of the lots. I could go in there tomorrow and put up a sign that says Sigrid Schultz Plaza but it's not going to look very good. So, right now, we've opted not to put any sign up until we have a uniform wayfinding system across all of the lots. That may be the only thing that we do is identify the lot and what the restrictions on the lot are with the wayfinding in its first phase. That plan is in place. It's pretty far along. It's just a matter of how many projects we can get moving at once and having the lots configured the right way to put that signage up. When this lot is done and Sigrid Schultz is already done, we can consider putting those two signs up to finish those lots off.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I only asked because you said way-finder that means you can find something that exists. That means you have exist in order to find it. That's why I think the plaza should be named prior to any wayfinding implemented.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

The wayfinding program is a much larger program that involves wayfinding but also pointing people to the parking lots, making it easier for people to find parking in the downtown area. It's part and parcel of a larger project. What I'm saying is we can implement it piece by piece if need be.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I only ask because it has been two years and I would like to see it done soon.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously 33-0-0.

The secretary read item #5 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$290,600.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for funding Westport's share of the Construction and Engineering expenses to replace the Cavalry Road Bridge over the West Branch of the Aspetuck River.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This project, if you recall, is what we call a border bridge because it is on the border of Weston and Westport. It is a federally funded project and the funds are administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation. It is that DOT that chooses which town gets to administer the project. In this case, Cavalry Road Bridge was assigned to the town of Weston for implementation of the project. The project was designed and funding for it was approved, if you recall, after much controversy about the split between the two towns. Westport bears the brunt of the funding because our Grand List is much larger than Weston's. There is a State Statute that dictates that is how it is determined how the funds will be split between the towns, CGS-13a-238. We actually had two choices. We could either exercise an inter-local agreement between

the two towns. We assumed that the inter-local agreement would have been a split of 50/50. The town of Weston, a long, long time ago, this has been going on for about eight or 10 years, had suggested that we just split it 50/50 and call it a day but that was when it was a much smaller project. When it came down to the decision, Weston decided that they would choose option B which was to go by the State Statute and use the default formula. That formula results in the town of Westport paying about 73 percent and Weston about 27 percent but that figure is subject to change every year because the Grand List changes and we base it on the average over three years. To be conservative, I have estimated Westport's share at 75 percent rather than the 73 percent we used for the design. In your packet, there is backup on how we arrived at the \$290,600 based on the bids that were sent to Weston and accepted. A low bid for bridge reconstruction was \$1,475,105. There is also a Construction Engineering fee that was approved by Connecticut DOT of \$286,400. Therefore, total construction cost is \$1.76 million. Federal share of that is \$1.4 million. The town's share of 20 percent is \$352,000. Seventy-five percent of that is \$264,225. We added a 10 percent contingency on that of \$26,000 and came up with a total of \$290,648 and rounded it down to \$290,600.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Committee report

Finance and Public Works Committees, Mr. Jaffe:

Pete's presentation was very complete. He indicated that historically the cost of repairing the bridge was shared equally between the two towns. The bridge is situated on the Westport/Weston town line. Now that we are faced with the significantly higher cost to replace the bridge, Weston had the opportunity to sign an agreement which could have been 50/50 split but chose to take advantage of the law's other option which is to allocate the cost to the towns by the share of the town's revenues. Westport's share of the design phase was 73 percent of the cost. With this project to replace the bridge, we don't know the exact apportionment between the two towns so our Department of Public Works is planning conservatively by requesting funding for Westport's share at 75 percent of the contracted cost to be borne by the two towns. Weston is the Project Manager for the project so they front the money and we reimburse them. So, the reconstruction is being paid 80 percent by the Federal Government and 20 percent by the two towns. So, Westport's share of the total cost will be 75 percent of 20 percent, 15 percent of the cost of the new bridge. Finally, under Weston's construction management, bridge construction is already underway with expected completion this year. The funding request is, therefore, for a project to which Westport is already committed. It wasn't discussed in committee but an interesting question is what would happen if the RTM turned down this funding request. By the time of this presentation, some Finance Committee members had left and there was no longer a quorum. A sense of the Finance Committee, the members polled approved 4-0. The Public Works Committee voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of supporting the requested funding.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$290,600.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for funding Westport's share of the Construction and Engineering expenses to replace the Cavalry Road Bridge over the West Branch of the Aspetuck River is hereby appropriated.

Dr. Heller: The motion has been made and seconded.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Gold:

A weird thought I had while we were doing this... You know Weston changed from going 50/50 to 75/25 or whatever it happens to be, do you think part of their reasoning might be that we raised the cost of beach permits for Weston residents significantly?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

No. I don't think it had anything to do with it. This was a business decision. Do you want to pay 25 percent or 50 percent?

Mr. Gold:

I'm sure that was it but I had this weird thought in the back of my head so I thought that I would ask.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

I think if we were afforded the same opportunity with a border town, we probably would go the same way. That's what happens with Weston and Easton. Easton has a much lower grand list than Weston so Easton chooses go with the statute and Weston pays a lot more.

Mr. Gold: Has anybody ever decided to do it 50/50 and not go with the statute?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

There's a lot of paperwork involved in doing that. The only other border town we have a bridge with is Fairfield and the two Grand Lists come out about 50/50 so we go with the statute because it's a lot easier than having to do an inter-local agreement which requires both RTMs in both towns to debate and agree on it but, in the case of Fairfield, it's 50/50 anyway so why bother?

Mr. Gold: Okay. Thank you.

Jack Klinge, district 7:

Just an FYI, we pay 70 percent of the Westport Weston Health District as well and this has been for 20 years so that's always been the norm not the exception.

Mr. Liccione:

Are there any delays on this bridge? I know there have been many delays on the Kings Highway Bridge. It was supposed to have been done four months ago or two months ago. Can we get an update?

Dr. Heller: Let's just speak to this one right now.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

If this one also has a delay, like many bridge projects, something never goes wrong. In fact, on Cavalry Road, something did go wrong. The pilings that were installed for the bridge abutments did not come up to the proper strength. That caused an almost six week delay through the bureaucracy of DOT. We just had a job meeting out there last week and the contractor made it very clear to point out that DOT delayed him as well as some of the utility companies delayed him so he is going to try his best to get the project done this year but, in a worst case scenario, he is going to try to make sure that the bridge gets open even if there are temporary measures to make sure that it's safe before he does that and take advantage of any weather that we have and try to continue and get that job done before the end of the year.

By a roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously, 33-0-0.

The secretary read item #6 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$220,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the purchase of one Four Wheel Drive Front End Loader.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This is a request for replacement of our 2006 Front End Loader #57. This is a front line piece of equipment and it's assigned to the Solid Waste Division. It's used for loading brush, yard waste at our Bayberry facility, maintaining the demo and fill yard at Maple Lane and all around maintenance of town yards but, more importantly, the machine is also a backup to the Highway Department loader and it's used during storm events for loading salt during snowstorms, clearing roads during windstorm events like nor'easters or hurricanes so it's basically a critical piece of equipment. Currently #57 is showing lots of signs of fatigue and wear, primarily the rollover protection system or ROPS. That system is integrated with the cab and has severe rusting both inside and out. We had a welder come in to make temporary repairs to that safety system but it's a temporary fix. Even if we could find a cab, replacing it with a replacement cab off of another loader, it involves removing the wiring, the hydraulics and basically that would cost upwards of \$50,000 if we could find a new or used cab. The hydraulic system and the electric system are just as old as the rest of the machine and we'd still end up with a 15 or 16 year old machine. This is at the point where we should really just be surplusing it out and putting another machine in its place. We have the loader scheduled for replacement on our five-year capital forecast at \$280,000 but we are able to get this off of State bid. The price for a replacement loader is \$207,000 but we're going to fit it out with

additional accessories. Outfitting it will cost another \$13,000 so we have rounded it up to \$220,000.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committees, Ms. Meiers Schatz:

At this point in the meeting, there were not enough Finance Committee members for a quorum but there was a quorum for Public Works. Members of the Public Works Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending this appropriation to the RTM. The consensus was that the Finance Committee members would recommend the appropriation as well. Pete covered the salient points here except for one that should be added that the town should be able to recoup \$20,000 to \$40,000 for the front end loader at auction.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$220,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the purchase of one Four Wheel Drive Front End Loader is hereby appropriated.

Dr. Heller: We have a motion made and seconded.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Falk:

If Pete is going to be recommending to get the truck, I'm probably going to be saying, 'Is there an electric one?' and he's going to say, 'No. They don't make one that size yet.' And I'm going to say, 'But they do make a hybrid which is actually a slightly larger one.' I was just wondering if you knew what the difference in price is because you'd get a better truck. If you get a hybrid, it's about 25 percent less fuel. Yay. So, instead of the 544, the 644X which is a hybrid, you could get more use out of it, get some fuel savings and, again, 2050 Net Zero.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

I was not aware that they make a hybrid electric loader. I can tell you that if they do make an electric loader, it will not serve my needs at this point because it just doesn't have the power and we're really not there yet.

Mr. Falk:

No disagreement about that. The electric is junk but this is a hybrid so it does both.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

The next go 'round, we're going to have a better shot at that. Right now, if I were buying a pickup truck, I can actually order an electric pickup truck. I just can't tell you when I'm going to get it because of the chip shortage. Even if I were to order a conventional pickup truck, that's the equipment that is not available. Heavy equipment has not

developed fully electric vehicles as much as I would like to. I haven't looked into the hybrids because, quite frankly, I'd much rather just go straight to electric once it's available. I think when you look at the industry as a whole, there are a number of manufacturers out there right now that are developing heavy over-the-road vehicles, 18 wheel trucks that are going to be running on electric. I think that's going to be a watershed once those get developed because that's the technology that we need. If you can take an over-the-road truck, long haul, across the country and you have the charging system there and you have the power and the batteries to make it last, that's going to be the technology that will lead to equipment like this. Having said that, there is some smaller equipment out there right now that is all electric. It just doesn't have the timeframe on it. It's not able to work eight hours without getting a charge. In five years, you're going to see a whole different ballgame here. At that point, we will be close to cycling out our freight liners. I know for a fact that freight liner has an electric version of that vehicle that they are working on. This year, I don't think we're there yet.

Mr. Falk:

That's right. This was not the electric. This was the hybrid which I believe has been around for a decade. I think it was 2013 when Deere came out with it so it's just the X Model. Last year, it was the hybrid model since they changed their naming system.

Mr. Ratkiewich: I did not look into that. That's not part of this request.

Dr. Heller: Are you finished Mr. Falk?

Mr. Falk: I believe I am. I would like the town to start looking into it.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously, 33-0-0.

The secretary read item # 7 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$154,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the purchase and installation of standard street furniture in the Downtown Area.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

This is a project that is part of the downtown master plan. One of the things when Randy Herbertson came on as the new Director of that is we're trying to get some things done rapidly. So we looked through the Capital Improvement Plan and tried to pick off things that were easy sort of no-brainers and this one appears to be that. The street furniture that we have right now is a 30 year old hand me down. It's been there for 15 years and when we got it, it was 15 years old. My understanding is that it came from a strip mall that the Waldman Group had and he donated it to the town. So, you may see on the existing benches, there is a little plaque that says "donated by the Waldman family." Basically, it's in need of upgrade and not only that, right now, it consists of benches and trash cans. So, we need to upgrade our thinking, as well, so the Downtown Implementation Committee selected the group of furniture that was in your

package to install within public spaces downtown. I'm going to share my screen because I think a visual is very valuable on this. This is a map of the downtown area where we propose to install the street furniture. You see it's not the entire downtown. Since this area has been modified, we did create a space for a bench over here. You see the key: receptacles, benches, bike racks and you'll see the café tables and chairs are not included at this time. Mainly because we haven't redeveloped Parker Harding just yet. As soon as that is completed, we will be able to define that area and this area over here and another area in Bedford Square so, those are all pending. We are not just talking about benches and receptacles. We are talking about new benches, receptacles that have space for trash and recycling, some bike racks and we'll show you what the fixed tables will look like. So, here's a map of where the benches will go. This is what they look like in form, not necessarily in color. We did take this through the Village District Commission. This whole area is the Village District. The Village District Commission is a joint committee of the ARB and the Historic District Commission. They liked what we showed them on all of the furniture but they didn't like the color. These are the benches in form and their locations. These are the two part receptacles. When you take the top off, you pull out one section for recycling and one section for trash. The recycling is restricted so you try to limit the contaminants that go in there. We try to educate people. This is for an empty water bottle or an empty can. There are a few more receptacles here than there are right now. It was brought up to us that this would take Parks and Rec. more time to clean up these things. We inquired if it would take more time and they said it would probably take about 15 minutes more to make the run. So, we have interfaced with them on this subject. These are the bike racks which can be ganged together. We are only proposing four locations but that is three locations more than we have right now. We're trying to encourage bicycling to the downtown. We're going to introduce these here but in future, we want to put them elsewhere, at the library or the Senior Center, we are trying to standardize the form of these. We plan on ganging four of these in four locations so there will be 16 opportunities for bicyclists. In this location, where Freshii and Starbucks are, the committee looked at having some movable tables there, café tables in that corner. In the fixed table without movable chairs, when Parker Harding gets developed, which is our next project, that will be the location for those here within the Sigrid Schultz Plaza. These are the color options. The Village District liked the black or dark gray metallic. That's the proposal. The quotation is in your packet. We did add a contingency to come up with the \$154,000. This is a small amount of money compared to what we're spending on the Baldwin lot but it will have a big impact on visuals on the downtown. From there, I'm going to turn it over to Randy to see if he has anything to add.

Mr. Herbertson:

The only thing I would add is that we are setting a standard here. We are dealing with a lot of hand me down, worn out furniture downtown. More importantly, none of our trash receptacles offer recycling options. That's another key pillar for our downtown plan to add recycling. Parks and Rec. has indicated that they can help with the trash removal on this as well. It is a standard that will be expanded in the future.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Committees report

Finance and Public Works Committees, Ms. Meiers Schatz:

In the same joint committee meeting, again, there was not a quorum for the Finance Committee. There was a quorum for Public Works and all present for Public Works voted unanimously to recommend that we approve this appropriation request. There were a few things I want to add to the report. There were questions about the furniture on the southern part of downtown and Mr. Ratkiewich explained that that could be done at a future date. He also said that he was open to the idea of adding bike repair stations as well as those are not very expensive. What is expensive is the furniture. If you take a look at the benches, one bench is \$2,510. When we asked Mr. Herbertson about this, he explained that his committee looked at other options and options from other vendors had the same pricing and warranty but was not as aesthetically pleasing. He also mentioned that New Haven and Norwalk recently purchased similar furniture from the same vendor and they were both very pleased with both the quality and the aesthetics of the furniture. As mentioned, Public Works would maintain the furniture and Parks and Rec. would clear the trash and recycling. The \$154,000 includes the furniture and the installation of the furniture.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$154,000.00 to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account for the purchase and installation of standard street furniture in the Downtown Area is hereby appropriated.

Dr. Heller: We have a motion made and seconded.

Members of the RTM

Ms. Batteau:

The furniture looks appropriate and good but I'm pretty sure you said, Pete, that you wanted to start implementing the downtown plan really fast and so you looked at the low hanging fruit and this was it. It just doesn't seem to me to be a good enough reason to spend \$150,000. Is there a particular reason we want this furniture right now? I think the recycling baskets are a really good idea.

Mr. Ratkiewich:

There's a great reason to spend this right now. Main Street isn't paved yet. I still have one or two minor things I have to do before I can pave it. For the most part, the streetscape is done. We're finishing up with the retail locations that are getting redone. The old Banana Republic store is coming around very quickly. If you look at the streetscape right now, you've got the brick sidewalks in there, you've got the granite curbs in there. Once we pave the road and make it nice and smooth, you've got Main Street, Elm Street, Church Street and, if you look at this plan, that is really where all of these are going. We've got 30 year old pieces of furniture on them that are really getting to be at the end of their useful life. They are not up-to-date to include recycling. We have one bike rack at Starbucks and I believe it's owned by Starbucks. I think that's

reason enough to try to enhance our downtown area as much as we can now before we have all the rest of the plans implemented. Like you said, this is the low hanging fruit. We're not putting this in an area which is not finished yet but we have a lot of new businesses that have come into that area, a couple of restaurants and a lot of businesses that are coming in so it's time to upgrade. We have a lot of events downtown. All of that points to making it look nice.

Ms. Batteau: Were there other ways you considered spending the money?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

No. This is a project that is on our capital plan for the downtown area. We have a lot of projects that we are going to be bringing before you. This is one we can get going and implement part of our plan. That's what the capital plan is for.

Mr. Herbertson:

Importantly, as I think Pete pointed out, this is setting a standard for other improvements we'll do downtown. As he also noted, we have areas that are pretty close to completion and we have a very strong improvement to traffic downtown so we want to provide amenities in the areas that are already completed.

Mr. Falk:

I agree that this is nice low hanging fruit and I agree because it will be used. My only question is how are we going to prevent this stuff from going walking because we have had a couple of benches at Compo that have gone missing. They've come back, eventually, but is there any way... that's the question. Is there any way we can keep it from going on a stroll?

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Yes. We can bolt them down, if necessary. I'm not aware that we've had that problem with any of the downtown furniture. Some of it has moved from business to business because the business has changed but, for the most part, I don't think we've lost any of it. If it becomes necessary, I'm sure we can figure a way to bolt these down to the sidewalk.

Mr. Falk: It's not something I would want either but, unfortunately, these things happen.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously 33-0-0.

The secretary read item #8 of the call - Upon the request of at least 20 electors, to adopt an ordinance to create a Civilian Police Review Board. (First reading. Full text available, Appendix IV).

Dr. Heller:

I wanted to explain to you that the petitioner could not be with us this evening. There are some health problems in the family. Steven Shackelford has agreed to act as proxy and present this first reading.

Presentation

Stephen Shackelford, district 8:

Mr. Shackelford:

Our prayers go out to the petitioner and his family at a very difficult time. I'm going to read a statement that the petitioner has asked me to read on his behalf and, as Velma said, I am acting as his proxy in this process of trying to get some form of this ordinance passed. As many of you know, from many prior committee meetings, I do believe, very much in passing some form of this ordinance.

Since the more than one hundred petitioners brought this petition to the RTM more than two years ago, there have been a total of nine public meetings-- five Ordinance Committee meetings on this proposed ordinance, and four Public Protection Committee meetings -- plus another dozen meetings between representatives of the Petitioners and members of the committees and other RTM members. At each meeting, the Chief of police and other police department members, as well as the Assistant Town Attorney, Eileen Flug, police union counsel, and numerous others, have attended and joined dozens of others to work on the best ordinance for a Civilian Review Board. With all these members of the community working together, we believe that the result is far superior to the 'panel' proposed, after the fact, by the First Selectman. The First Selectman's proposed panel, in contrast, is devoid of any input from the town legislature (which is the RTM), and is devoid of any input from any of the 100 petitioners. The revisions over the course of two years involve a very collaborative process. This collaborative process has resulted in substantial revisions, but it remains consistent with best practices suggested by the DOJ, the CT Bar Association, the ACLU, and the CT AG and State legislature. 1. Now, after this lengthy and collaborative process involving input from dozens of people, the determination of best practices was that the RTM should appoint and vote on five members of the CRB instead of the First Selectman. The selectman promised to increase the panel to five, but has not done so. He promised to allow at least two of the members to be appointed by the RTM, but failed to fulfill that process. Studies from multiple organizations advise against having the first Selectman make the appointments, so there appears to be broad support that this proposed ordinance provision is far superior to the Marpe panel approach.

By the way, I am now going through several changes to the ordinance since the last couple of first readings that we've had, changing it to where all five positions are appointed by the RTM.

Secondly, now, TEAM Westport gets to appoint one CRB member. That's a change from how the ordinance was originally presented.

Third, originally, the petitioners proposed that the CRB do the entire investigation, from start to finish. Now, the process works exactly as it does with respect to criminal investigations and prosecutions – which is a tried and true process, tested for hundreds of years throughout the US and in all communities.

Specifically, the police will handle the investigations, promptly take statements, promptly do interviews, and secure evidence as they deem required. Thus, there will be absolutely no delay in the police taking and securing evidence or statements. However, at the time the Board meets in response to a civilian complaint, the Board will review the evidence compiled by the police, and hear the evidence, take sworn statements from the witnesses, as needed, and determine whether more evidence is needed. The Board will interview the witnesses as well, make credibility assessments and then will assess the evidence and make a recommendation to the Chief of Police, who will determine whether to accept or reject the Board's recommendation.

This is an important point. If the ordinance, as drafted, is unclear, we can make it clearer, but the intent is to have the police go out and do the investigation including being able to go out and get statements, to not have to wait on the Board to meet in order to get evidence, take statements and so forth. The intent of the ordinance is to give the Board the ability to conduct interviews with witnesses on its own but that can be after the police have taken their statements.

This proposed oversight is the minimal level of oversight recommended by the CT Bar Association. We are the only town in Fairfield County without either a Police Commission or Civilian Review Board, other than Greenwich. But even Greenwich has more accountability and oversight, because in Greenwich, it is entirely the civilian gov't-- the Board of Selectman-- that determines police procedures and determines discipline. Here in Westport, in contrast, the Chief of Police determines the discipline and procedures—which is an exception to standard practice in Fairfield County. Under the proposed ordinance, the investigative stage would be collaborative between the Board and the police investigators and credibility findings would be more objective, because they would be determined by the Board. There is no measure presently in place in Westport that addresses these same issues in the same way that the proposed ordinance addresses them.

There are a number of other points that I'm not going to go through that I believe the petitioner was able to circulate to the RTM. In general, (I'm getting close to the end, Velma) the proposed board is very different from the panel format that First Selectman Marpe has temporarily instituted. A panel and procedures could disappear entirely in November with the election of a new First Selectman.

There are eleven significant differences between the ineffective present Panel approach, and the Petitioners' CRB approach:

1. Transparency of complaints;
2. Transparency of investigations that are unbiased;
3. Subpoena power;
4. Predictability, consistency and permanence;
5. Staggered terms for continuity of experience;
6. Independence of members;
7. Delay (or lack of delay);
8. Duplication of effort and waste;
9. Potential legal problems;
10. Disparate contradictory findings;

11. The ineffectiveness of the appellate cure.

Given the limits of time permitted for First Readings, this statement is being sent to the entire RTM to be made part of the record.

I'm not going to read the comments.

In closing, the petitioners urge the RTM to follow the Connecticut Bar Association recommendation that every town have either a Police Commission or a CRB. Westport is lagging behind all of Fairfield County on police accountability and oversight. This proposal is a thoughtful, thorough collaborative procedure to implement the necessary oversight and accountability. We look forward to discussing this issue further at the final vote, the Oct. 4 RTM meeting. Thank you.

Thank you for listening to this statement by the lead petitioner. Again, all our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this difficult time.

Dr. Heller:

Thank you Mr. Shackelford. I think we all recognize that the family is having a difficult time and we all want to be as helpful as possible. So, it's fine that you were able to be a proxy this evening. To make it very clear, there is no debate this evening. The debate is at the second reading which will be on Oct. 5. I am encouraging that any public comment be held until that time. But, I will ask, is there anybody from the electorate who would like to speak? Seeing none, there will be no committee report as of yet. That will be held for the second reading when there will be debate. The RTM debate will be held after the committee reports have been presented at the Oct. 5 meeting.

The secretary read item #9 of the call - To approve an appropriation of \$320,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the replacement and upgrade of the existing Gravity Main Sewer Line on Riverside Avenue into Pump Station #3.

Presentation

Mr. Ratkiewich:

Thank you for putting this on the agenda this evening. It's one last thing we'll have to do in October. More importantly, this section of sewer is pretty important to Public Works to replace now. We had a committee meeting just before the RTM meeting and there was a little confusion as to where this was happening so I just want to show you a view of what we're talking about. This is Sylvan Road South, Sylvan Lane, the Sunoco station, the pump station #3 is right here in Pasacreta Park. The existing gravity sewer that we're talking about replacing between the two manholes goes into the pump station. Part of it is Riverside Avenue, the rest of it is under the sidewalk. What we intend to do is come through the park a little further so that we don't have to be on Riverside Avenue, a total distance of about 310 feet. This is part of a larger project. If you recall, about a year ago, this month, you approved redesign of pump station #3 as well as its force main that leads down to pump station #2 and other purposes of which this is a part. As a result of a study of pump station #3, we discovered that this line is undersized, and surcharges, the force main itself is undersized and the pumps in the pump station are undersized. During periods of high flow, this line surcharged. To add

insult to injury, a couple of years ago, they milled and paved Riverside Avenue in this section. We think that the miller didn't tell us that they went through one of our manholes and a lot of material went down into this manhole and went into this line. This line is about 13' deep. We cleaned out most of the material that's in the line but there is one piece of material that is stuck in there. As a result, between that and the surcharging that is happening on this line, we get a lot of clogs in this area. If you recall, back in 2019, after we had the big incident in pump station #2, we had a smaller incident where this manhole backed up with material flowing down into the river again. Ever since that happened, we have been cleaning this line out on a very regular basis, more regularly than we clean out anything else. This is the next phase. The second phase of this project is to get this line up to speed. Right now it is a 10" diameter asbestos concrete pipe. We are going to bring it up to 15" in diameter. As I said, we are going to divert over to the park so when we do do maintenance on it, we're not disturbing traffic on Riverside Avenue. If we had to dig this out right now, we would be half way out to this lane and about 15' deep. Basically, if we get this funding now, we can go out to bid immediately and get started on this project. We'll be ready to put together the rest of the pump station and the force main in the spring. We'll be back to you for funding for that very shortly. We want to get started on this right away so we can stop the maintenance. We will probably abandon this line in place and then just bypass it for the new line.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Committees report

Public Works and Finance Committees, Mr. Keenan:

As Pete mentioned, Public Works and Finance met prior to this meeting to discuss the requested appropriation of \$320,000 for the upgrade and replacement of approximately 310 linear feet of gravity sewer line. Pete covered most of it. The line runs from the Sunoco station in line with the southern part of the Saugatuck Elementary School. It will replace a 10" pipe with a 15" pipe which will take into account future upstream capacity. It's part of the overall pump station #3 upgrade which we funded about a year ago for the design. The funding will come from the sewer reserve fund. Public works voted 6-0 and Finance voted 5-0 to support and recommend to the full RTM.

Mr. Wieser read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$320,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the replacement and upgrade of the existing Gravity Main Sewer Line on Riverside Avenue into Pump Station #3 is hereby appropriated.

Dr. Heller: The motion has been moved and seconded.

By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously 32-0-0. (Nicole Klein left the meeting before the vote.)

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey M. Dunkerton
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn Fuchs".

by Jacquelyn Fuchs

ATTENDANCE: September 14, 2021

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Richard Jaffe	X			
	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Kristin M. Purcell	X			
	Chris Tait	X			
2	Harris Falk	X			
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Louis M. Mall	X			
	Christine Meiers Schatz	X			
3	Mark Friedman	X			Left 10:15 pm
	Arline Gertzoff	X			
	Jimmy Izzo	X			
	Amy Kaplan	X			
4	Andrew J. Colabella	X			
	Kristan Hamlin	X			
	Noah Hammond	X			
	Jeff Wieser	X			
5	Peter Gold	X			
	Dick Lowenstein	X			
	Nicole Klein	X			Left 11:00 pm
	Karen Kramer	X			
6	Candace Banks	X			
	Jessica Bram	X			
	Seth Braunstein	X			
	Cathy Talmadge	X			Left 9:45 pm
7	Brandi Briggs	X		X	Arr. 9:15 pm
	Lauren Karpf	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Ellen Lautenberg	X			
8	Wendy Batteau	X			
	Lisa Newman	X			
	Carla Rea		X	X	
	Stephen Shackelford	X			
9	Velma Heller	X			
	Sal Liccione	X			
	Kristin Schneeman	X			
	Lauren Soloff	X			
Total		35	1		

Appendix I – Item #4

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$1,492,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the reconstruction of the Baldwin Lot (accessed from Elm Street) is hereby appropriated.

TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,492,000 FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BALDWIN PARKING LOT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Westport, Connecticut (the “Town”) hereby appropriates the sum of One Million Four Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,492,000) for costs associated with the reconstruction of the Baldwin parking lot including, but not limited to, site preparation and demolition, soil erosion and sediment control, earthwork, storm drainage, utilities, site improvements, and related engineering, administrative, financing, legal and other soft costs (the “Project”).

Section 1. As recommended by the Board of Finance and for the purpose of financing One Million Four Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,492,000) of the foregoing appropriation, the Town shall borrow a sum not to exceed One Million Four Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,492,000) and issue general obligation bonds for such indebtedness under its corporate name and seal and upon the full faith and credit of the Town in an amount not to exceed said sum for the purpose of financing the appropriation for the Project.

Section 2. The First Selectman, Selectmen and Finance Director are hereby appointed a committee (the “Committee”) with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Obligations Act) to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the state of Connecticut, to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form, including the execution of tax compliance and other agreements for the benefit of bondholders, and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds in order that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield of bond proceeds, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required and to execute Continuing Disclosure Agreements for the benefit of holders of bonds and notes.

Section 3. The Bonds may be designated “Public Improvement Bonds,” series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, and may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than three (3) years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not later than twenty (20) years therefrom, or as otherwise provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest true interest cost to the

Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by statute. The Finance Director shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds after they have been paid and cancelled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 4. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowings as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town bond anticipation notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder in order to obtain and maintain issuance of the notes in tax exempt form.

Section 5. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provision of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation enacted herein.

Section 6. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitations of expenditures or taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 7. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 (as amended) of the federal income tax regulations the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, or any capital fund for the Project with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions hereof. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall be made in accordance with the time limitations and other requirements of such regulations. The Finance Director is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 8. The Town of Westport, or other proper authority of the Town, is authorized to take all necessary action to apply to the State of Connecticut, and accept from the State or other parties, grants, gifts and contributions in aid of further financing the Project. Once the appropriation becomes effective, the First Selectman, or other appropriate official of the town, is hereby authorized to spend a sum not to exceed the aforesaid appropriation for the

Project and is specifically authorized to make, execute and deliver any contracts or other documents necessary or convenient to complete the Project and the financing thereof.
Section 9. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds (and notes) in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, the Connecticut General Statutes, and the laws of the United States.

Appendix II – Item #5

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$290,600.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for funding Westport’s share of the Construction and Engineering expenses to replace the Cavalry Road Bridge over the West Branch of the Aspetuck River is hereby appropriated.

TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$290,600 FOR THE TOWN’S SHARE OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAVALRY ROAD BRIDGE DECK AND ABUTMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Westport, Connecticut (the “Town”) hereby appropriates the sum of Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$290,600) for the Town’s share of costs associated with the replacement of the Cavalry Road bridge deck and abutments over the West Branch of the Saugatuck River, including, but not limited to, construction costs, as well as, related engineering, inspection, administrative, financing, legal and other soft costs (the “Project”).

Section 1. As recommended by the Board of Finance and for the purpose of financing Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$290,600) of the foregoing appropriation, the Town shall borrow a sum not to exceed Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Six Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$290,600) and issue general obligation bonds for such indebtedness under its corporate name and seal and upon the full faith and credit of the Town in an amount not to exceed said sum for the purpose of financing the appropriation for the Project.

Section 2. The First Selectman, Selectmen and Finance Director are hereby appointed a committee (the “Committee”) with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Obligations Act) to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the state of Connecticut, to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form, including the execution of tax compliance and other agreements for the benefit of bondholders, and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds in order that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield of bond proceeds, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required and to execute Continuing Disclosure Agreements for the benefit of holders of bonds and notes.

Section 3. The Bonds may be designated “Public Improvement Bonds,” series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, and may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than three (3) years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not

later than twenty (20) years therefrom, or as otherwise provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest true interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by statute. The Finance Director shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds after they have been paid and cancelled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 4. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowings as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town bond anticipation notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder in order to obtain and maintain issuance of the notes in tax exempt form.

Section 5. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provision of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation enacted herein.

Section 6. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitations of expenditures or taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 7. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 (as amended) of the federal income tax regulations the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, or any capital fund for the Project with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions hereof. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall be made in accordance with the time limitations and other requirements of such regulations. The Finance Director is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 8. The Town of Westport, or other proper authority of the Town, is authorized to take all necessary action to apply to the State of Connecticut, and accept from the State

or other parties, grants, gifts and contributions in aid of further financing the Project. Once the appropriation becomes effective, the First Selectman, or other appropriate official of the town, is hereby authorized to spend a sum not to exceed the aforesaid appropriation for the Project and is specifically authorized to make, execute and deliver any contracts or other documents necessary or convenient to complete the Project and the financing thereof.

Section 9. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds (and notes) in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, the Connecticut General Statutes, and the laws of the United States.

Appendix III – Item #6

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$220,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Municipal Improvement Fund Account for the purchase of one Four Wheel Drive Front End Loader is hereby appropriated.

TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT
A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$220,000 FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF A FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE FRONT END LOADER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Westport, Connecticut (the “Town”) hereby appropriates the sum of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$220,000) for the costs associated with the purchase of one four-wheel drive front end loader, and related administrative, financing and other soft costs (the “Project”).

Section 1. As recommended by the Board of Finance and for the purpose of financing Two Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$220,000) of the foregoing appropriation, the Town shall borrow a sum not to exceed Two Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$220,000) and issue general obligation bonds for such indebtedness under its corporate name and seal and upon the full faith and credit of the Town in an amount not to exceed said sum for the purpose of financing the appropriation for the Project.

Section 2. The First Selectman, Selectmen and Finance Director are hereby appointed a committee (the “Committee”) with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Obligations Act) to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the state of Connecticut, to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form, including the execution of tax compliance and other agreements for the benefit of bondholders, and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds in order that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield of bond proceeds, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required and to execute Continuing Disclosure Agreements for the benefit of holders of bonds and notes.

Section 3. The Bonds may be designated “Public Improvement Bonds,” series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, and may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than three (3) years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not later than twenty (20) years therefrom, or as otherwise provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest true interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted

in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by statute. The Finance Director shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds after they have been paid and cancelled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 4. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowings as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town bond anticipation notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder in order to obtain and maintain issuance of the notes in tax exempt form.

Section 5. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provision of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation enacted herein.

Section 6. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitations of expenditures or taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 7. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 (as amended) of the federal income tax regulations the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, or any capital fund for the Project with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions hereof. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall be made in accordance with the time limitations and other requirements of such regulations. The Finance Director is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 8. The Town of Westport, or other proper authority of the Town, is authorized to take all necessary action to apply to the State of Connecticut, and accept from the State or other parties, grants, gifts and contributions in aid of further financing the Project. Once the appropriation becomes effective, the First Selectman, or other appropriate official of the town, is hereby authorized to spend a sum not to exceed the aforesaid appropriation for the

Project and is specifically authorized to make, execute and deliver any contracts or other documents necessary or convenient to complete the Project and the financing thereof.
Section 9. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds (and notes) in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, the Connecticut General Statutes, and the laws of the United States.

Appendix IV – Item #8

RESOLVED: That upon the request of at least 20 electors, a Civilian Police Review Board Ordinance is hereby adopted. (First reading. Full text is as follows).

Sec X-XXX. - Civilian Police Review Board.

(a) Establishment.

There is hereby established a civilian police review board (“Review Board”) to investigate complaints concerning members of the Westport Police Department (“WPD”), to participate in hiring decisions for officers of the WPD, and to receive and make recommendations for service awards for officers of the WPD who are nominated by civilians for their outstanding contributions to the community. It is in the interest of Westport residents and the WPD that investigations of complaints concerning police officers and hiring decisions be thorough, transparent and impartial.

(b) Composition.

(1) The Review Board shall be comprised of five voting members appointed by the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) by a majority vote of a quorum of the RTM. The RTM shall also appoint two alternates. Except as provided in subsection (b)(5) below, each member shall serve for a term of four-years or until his successor is appointed and sworn in.

(2) The appropriate RTM committee, as appointed by the Moderator, will interview candidates for the Review Board; the recommended nominees will be considered and voted on by a quorum of the entire RTM. Relevant considerations for Review Board candidates include, amongst other considerations, those with legal and evidentiary skills, investigative skills, and diverse backgrounds. Subject to the approval by vote of a quorum of the entire RTM, TEAM Westport shall either nominate one of its members to be one of the five members of the Review Board, or shall nominate a Westport resident from outside TEAM Westport. If the RTM does not approve TEAM Westport’s nominee, TEAM Westport shall submit subsequent nominees, until one TEAM Westport nominee is approved.

(3) Review Board members shall be electors of the Town who are at least 21 years of age and who have no felony convictions. Review Board members shall not be current employees of the WPD or the Town of Westport, elected officials of the Town of Westport or an immediate family member of a current WPD employee.

(4) Party Affiliation of Members. In accordance with CGS § 9-167a and Chapter 2 of the Town Charter, no more than a bare majority of members of the Review Board shall be members of the same political party.

(5) Staggered Terms. Board members will serve staggered terms. For the term beginning in November 2021, three members shall each be appointed for four-year terms and two members shall be appointed for two-year terms. The RTM will make the initial appointments before March 15, 2022. Beginning in 2023, appointments, except those filling the vacancy in accordance with subsection (c), shall be for four-year terms.

(6) Review Board members shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties and shall serve without compensation and will not be reimbursed for personal expenses such as travel or paper/ink for home printing. Any actual expenses and disbursements such as expenses for stenographer, transcripts and subpoena service costs incurred in the performance of the Review Board’s duties shall be paid from the Westport Town treasury.

(c) Resignation.

Any member of the Review Board who misses three consecutive regularly scheduled Review Board meetings or four regularly scheduled Review Board meetings in a twelve consecutive month period shall be considered to have resigned. Any vacancy on the Review Board occasioned by resignation, death, inability to serve, or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired term in accordance with Section C38-3 of the Town Charter.

(d) Powers, Jurisdiction and Duties Regarding Complaints.

- (1) With the assistance of the WPD as indicated in subsection (e), the Review Board shall review, investigate and have jurisdiction over all citizen complaints against WPD officers. The Review Board, as a Board within the Town government, shall have the authority and responsibility to review and investigate civilian allegations of police misconduct, and to review input from WPD's Professional Standards Division to ensure that reports and conclusions are complete, accurate and factually supported, to hold hearings and make credibility determinations, and to make recommendations to the Chief of Police or Acting Chief of Police ("Chief") in connection therewith.
 - (2) The Review Board and WPD shall inform all complainants that complaints should be filed contemporaneously with both the WPD and the Review Board. Upon receipt of a complaint, the WPD and Review Board shall promptly share such complaints with each other in order to ensure both have been contemporaneously notified of a new complaint. The WPD shall post a sign in the lobby of WPD headquarters and on the WPD website informing complainants of the dual-filing requirement. The WPD and Review Board complaint forms must have the same dual-filing instructions clearly printed at the top of the complaint forms, along with notification that the Review Board will investigate and respond to the complaint. Complaints are to be filed with the WPD in accordance with CT Gen Stat § 7- 294bb.
 - (3) The Review Board shall have the power to issue subpoenas to compel witness attendance before the Review Board and to require the production of records it deems relevant to any matter under investigation or in question.
 - (i) The person to whom such subpoena is issued may, not later than fifteen days after service of such subpoena, or on or before the time specified in the subpoena for compliance if such time is less than fifteen days after service, serve upon the board written objection to the subpoena and file such objection in the Superior Court which shall adjudicate such objection in accordance with the rules of the court.
 - (ii) If the person to whom such subpoena is issued fails to appear or if having appeared refuses to testify or produce the evidence required by such subpoena, the Superior Court, upon application of such board, shall have jurisdiction to order such person to appear or to give testimony or produce such evidence, as the case may be.
 - (4) The Review Board may take measures, as permitted under the law, to promote independent testimony and to deter witness intimidation. Except as provided under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), 18 USC §§ 926B and 926C, and other applicable law, no firearms will be permitted at a Review Board hearing.
 - (5) The Review Board may refer to the Connecticut Rules of Evidence for guidance during all hearings, proceedings, and in determining the scope of subpoenas. The Review Board may refer to the Connecticut Rules of Civil Procedure for guidance in proceedings to the extent the Board members consider it useful or necessary.
- (e) WPD Support for the Review Board
- (1) The WPD shall provide members of the Review Board with copies of the policies, procedures and directives of the WPD relevant to the WPD's duties.
 - (2) The Review Board and WPD's Professional Standards Division shall have access to the same files and reports to the extent legally permissible.
 - (3) When requested by the Review Board, the Chief shall assign the Captain of Professional Standards to advise the Review Board as to police policies and procedures and to attend any meetings at which the Review Board requires his or her presence, and to assist with Board investigations of complaints pursuant to (e)(5), below.
 - (4) All aspects of the investigation of the complaint shall be delegated to the WPD to perform with the following exceptions: as provided in (g)(3) below, the Review Board will conduct the interviews and take the sworn testimony of the complainant and his or her identified and designated witnesses, and the accused police officer and the identified and designated police or respondent witnesses. The oath for such sworn testimony shall be administered by either a Connecticut admitted attorney who is a

member in good standing of the Connecticut Bar, an officer of the Superior Court, a justice of the peace, a notary public, the town clerk, assistant town clerk, or anyone else qualified to administer such oaths under CGS1-24.

(5) If, prior to the Board's determination and final recommendation, the complainant objects to any portion of the investigation that was performed by the police, the Board will review the portion of the police investigation complained of, and determine whether it was done appropriately, and will have the power to conduct that portion of the investigation directly, when the Review Board deems it necessary to do so. As necessary in accordance with this provision, the WPD shall assist the Review Board with the Review Board's investigations when reasonably requested to do so by the Review Board.

(f) Evaluation of Prospective Police Hires.

The Review Board shall be included in the evaluation process for prospective police officer hires and will make recommendations to the First Selectman and Chief in connection therewith. Solely for purposes of hiring decisions, the Chief shall serve as an *ex officio* non-voting member of the Review Board.

(g) Operations.

The Review Board shall elect one (1) of its members to be Chair and one (1) of its members to be Secretary on an annual basis. It shall hold regular monthly meetings whenever there are open complaint investigations or hiring decisions to be made and shall keep written records of all meetings. Such monthly meetings can be cancelled with advance notification if there is no business to be conducted. When sufficient cause exists, the Review Board may convene special meetings, in accordance with its policies and procedures, with advance published notice as required by FOIA. A majority of the members of the Review Board shall constitute a quorum.

(1) The Review Board shall designate a spokesperson for, and as liaison between, the Review Board and the First Selectman with respect to each decision, recommendation and finding, as described further herein.

(2) The meetings of the Review Board shall be open to the public, except that the Review Board may hold executive sessions in accordance with state law. Meetings of the Review Board shall be held at Town Hall or at such other place, or electronically, as determined by the Chair of the Review Board and permitted by state law. The Review Board can adopt rules and regulations for its operation, so long as they are not inconsistent with this legislation.

(3) In the course of its proceedings with respect to citizen complaints, the Review Board may take testimony from witnesses concerning the alleged conduct which is the subject of the complaint. All testimony by witnesses before the Review Board shall be sworn under oath, and recorded or transcribed. The Review Board may require a WPD officer to participate in a meeting where the Review Board is evaluating a complaint against that officer, provided that no such WPD officer shall be compelled to testify in the event his or her Fifth Amendment right is implicated.

(4) Following the review of a citizen complaint, the Review Board will determine whether or not the citizen complaint is upheld and make its recommendation for or against disciplinary action. The Review Board will promptly report its findings and determinations to the Chief. A copy of the complaint and the Review Board's findings and determinations shall be maintained by the Review Board. Final decisions upheld by the Chief shall be maintained in the WPD officer's personnel file.

(5) (i) The Review Board will use its best efforts to complete its review of every civilian complaint within sixty (60) days of receipt thereof. In the event that circumstances prevent the completion of a review of a civilian complaint within sixty (60) days, the Review Board will submit written cause for the delay and reason(s) for the same to the office of the First Selectman.

(ii) The Chief shall consider the findings and recommendations of the Review Board and decide whether to accept or reject the recommendation within two weeks of the Chief's receipt of the Review Board's decision. In the event that the Chief seeks an extension, the Board may grant it if good cause is shown. Within two weeks of receipt of the Review

Board's decision, or upon the end of any extension granted by the Review Board if later, the Chief shall notify the Review Board in writing of his or her decision and the reasons for said decision related to each specific civilian complaint.

(iii) The Chief must impose the discipline, if any, as soon as possible, after notifying the Review Board of his or her decision, unless the Chief determines that public safety requires discipline to be imposed earlier.

(6) Nothing herein shall prevent the Chief from immediately placing an employee on administrative leave, should circumstances so warrant.

- (h) Continuous Improvement of Complaint Process. The Review Board may also make recommendations to the Chief and First Selectman for revision of specific police department policies and procedures related to the civilian complaint process.
- (i) Accountability.
 - (1) The Review Board shall prepare an annual report to the First Selectman indicating: the total number of complaints filed, the number of each type of complaint filed, the names of police officer(s) about whom complaints were filed, the name and number of complaints filed against each police officer against whom multiple complaints were filed, and the disposition of the complaints.
 - (2) The Chief shall prepare an annual report to the Review Board and the First Selectman indicating any disciplinary actions taken and training offered to police officer(s) against whom civilian complaints were received.
- (j) Police and Citizen Awards.

Westport citizens may also submit to the Review Board any recommended commendations of WPD officers whose conduct goes above and beyond the call of duty. Each year, the Review Board shall determine whether to recognize WPD officers for commendable service, to be announced at an annual awards ceremony.
- (k) Effective date.

This ordinance shall be effective November_____, 2021.

Appendix V – Item #9

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Director of Public Works, the sum of \$320,000.00 along with bond and note authorization to the Sewer Reserve Fund Account for the replacement and upgrade of the existing Gravity Main Sewer Line on Riverside Avenue into Pump Station #3 is hereby appropriated.

TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT
**A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$320,000 FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
UPGRADING AND REPLACING SEWER MAIN LINE AND AUTHORIZING THE
ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.**

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Westport, Connecticut (the "Town") hereby appropriates the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$320,000) for costs associated with upgrading and replacing the existing sewer main line that discharges into Pump Station 3 on Riverside Avenue including related site work, administrative, financing and other soft costs (the "Project").

Section 1. As recommended by the Board of Finance and for the purpose of financing Three Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$320,000) of the foregoing appropriation, the Town shall borrow a sum not to exceed Three Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$320,000) and issue general obligation bonds for such indebtedness under its corporate name and seal and upon the full faith and credit of the Town in an amount not to exceed said sum for the purpose of financing the appropriation for the Project. As part of the final sewer construction costs, the Town may levy a benefit assessment for the Project costs upon the properties bounding the Project which are especially benefited thereby.

Section 2. The First Selectman, Selectmen and Finance Director are hereby appointed a committee (the "Committee") with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Obligations Act) to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the state of Connecticut, to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form, including the execution of tax compliance and other agreements for the benefit of bondholders, and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds in order that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield of bond proceeds, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required and to execute Continuing Disclosure Agreements for the benefit of holders of bonds and notes.

Section 3. The Bonds may be designated "Public Improvement Bonds" or "Sewer Bonds" series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, and may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than three (3) years from the date of issue and the last

installment to mature not later than twenty (20) years therefrom, or as otherwise provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest true interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by statute. The Finance Director shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds after they have been paid and cancelled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 4. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowings as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director, have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town bond anticipation notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder in order to obtain and maintain issuance of the notes in tax exempt form.

Section 5. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provision of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation enacted herein.

Section 6. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitations of expenditures or taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 7. Pursuant to Section 1.150-2 (as amended) of the federal income tax regulations the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, or any capital fund for the Project with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions hereof. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall be made in accordance with the time limitations and other requirements of such regulations. The Finance Director is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 8. The Town of Westport, or other proper authority of the Town, is authorized to take all necessary action to apply to the State of Connecticut, and accept from the State

or other parties, grants, gifts and contributions in aid of further financing the Project. Once the appropriation becomes effective, the First Selectman, or other appropriate official of the town, is hereby authorized to spend a sum not to exceed the aforesaid appropriation for the Project and is specifically authorized to make, execute and deliver any contracts or other documents necessary or convenient to complete the Project and the financing thereof.

Section 9. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds (and notes) in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, the Connecticut General Statutes, and the laws of the United States.