

**RTM Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 1, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m. Westport Town Hall**

**The Call**

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the estimate and recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town of Westport for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
  
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town Railroad Parking Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
  
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town Sewer Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
  
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Wakeman Town Farm Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
  
5. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to require that property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, shall be due and payable in four quarterly installments, and to designate the dates of the first days of July, October, January, and April as the dates upon which such installments shall be due and payable, and that all taxes in an amount of \$100 or less shall be due and payable in a single installment on the first day of July.
  
6. To take such action as the meeting may determine to require that the motor vehicle tax shall be due and payable in a single installment.
  
7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the request of the First Selectwoman, the Fire Chief, and the Fire Marshal, to adopt an amendment to Chapter 34 – Fire Prevention and Protection, of the Town

Code of Ordinances, adding Article III – Fire Marshal Fee Schedule. (First reading. Full text available in the Town Clerk’s office.)

8. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the request of the First Selectwoman, the Fire Chief, and the Fire Marshal, to adopt an amendment to Appendix C of the Town Code of Ordinances, adopting a fee for Fire Marshal review of construction documents in the amount of \$5 per \$1000 of estimated costs, for commercial buildings and residential buildings of three or more dwelling units. (First reading. Full text available in the Town Clerk’s office.)

9. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the request of the First Selectwoman, to adopt a Fair Rent Commission Ordinance. (First reading. Full text available in the Town Clerk’s office.)

10. To take such action as the meeting may determine, In accordance with the Policy for Gifts to the Town, 2. C. - Monetary Donations. More than \$20,000, at the request of the Director of Public Works, and upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectwomen, to recommend approval of a donation in the amount of \$50,000 for construction of a bus shelter at 199 Post Road West.

**The Meeting** called to order 7:33 p.m.

Attendance: There are 35 RTM members present. Absent: Buckman

Moderator Jeff Wieser:

We will vote in two parts on the Town budget. First we will discuss the Operating Departments of the Town and after voting on that portion of the budget, we will turn to the four agencies of the Town: The Health District, The Library, Earthplace and The Westport Transit District. The RTM may approve or decrease a budget line item by a simple majority vote. The RTM may restore an amount requested of, but not recommended by, the Board of Finance by a vote of 70 percent of the RTM members present and voting, but, in any event, not less than a majority of the RTM, which is 19 votes. The RTM may not increase any budget item beyond the request to the Board of Finance.

Voting on the following resolutions:

**1. RESOLVED: That the First Selectwoman's Budget items recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted, and the sum of \$88,076,830 for the First Selectwoman's Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures and such sum shall be added to the amount appropriated for the Other Agencies and Organizations Budget and the Board of Education Budget.**

<b>General Government</b>	<b>\$ 7,340,805</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>\$ 24,762,543</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$ 13,284,383</b>
<b>Human Services</b>	<b>\$ 1,562,981</b>
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	<b>\$ 7,848,321</b>
<b>Pension, OPEB, Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 20,722,822</b>
<b>Debt service</b>	<b>\$ 4,443,648</b>
<b>Other Financing Use</b>	<b>\$ 1,368,165</b>
<b>Special Appropriation</b>	<b>-----</b>

**The motion passes 35-0.**

**RESOLVED: That the Other Agencies and Organizations Budget items recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted, and the sum of \$6,451,931 for the Other Agencies and Organizations Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures and such sum shall be added to the amount appropriated for the First Selectwoman's Budget and the Board of Education Budgets.**

<b>Health District. The amount is</b>	<b>\$ 571,700.</b>
<b>Library. The amount is</b>	<b>\$ 5,661,074</b>
<b>Earthplace. The amount is:</b>	<b>\$ 105,000</b>
<b>Westport Transit District. The amount is:</b>	<b>\$ 114,157</b>

**Motion by Peter Gold to restore \$291,231 to the Westport Transit District budget for a total Transit District budget of \$405,388 The motion passes 33-1-0. Mall opposed. Gold recused.**

**RESOLVED:** That the Other Agencies and Organizations Budget items recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted, and the sum of \$6,743,162 for the Other Agencies and Organizations Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures and such sum shall be added to the amount appropriated for the First Selectwoman's Budget and the Board of Education Budgets.

The motion passes 30-0 with 5 recusals: Mandell – Earthplace, Tait – Earthplace, Gold- Transit, Wieser – Library, Milwe – Wakeman Town Farm.

2. **RESOLVED:** That the Town Railroad Parking Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting, be adopted and the sum of \$1,855,199 is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

The motion passes 35-0.

3. **RESOLVED:** That the Town Sewer Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting, be adopted and the sum of \$5,193,132 is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

The motion passes 34-0. Ms. Bram left the meeting.

4. **RESOLVED:** That the Wakeman Town Farm Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting, be adopted and the sum of \$474,836 is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

The motion passes 33-0. Milwe recused.

5. **RESOLVED:** That property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 shall be due and payable in four quarterly installments and the dates upon which such quarterly installments are to be due and

payable shall be the first days of July, October, January and April, subject to any applicable tax relief deferral programs; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That all taxes in an amount of \$100.00 or less shall be due and payable in a single installment on the first day of July, subject to any applicable tax relief deferral programs.

The motion passes unanimously 34-0.

6. **RESOLVED**: That the motor vehicle tax shall be due and payable in a single installment, subject to any applicable tax relief deferral programs.

The motion passes unanimously 34-0.

7. **Resolved**: That upon the recommendation of the First Selectwoman, the Fire Chief, and the Fire Marshal, an amendment to Chapter 34 – Fire Prevention and Protection, of the Town Code of Ordinances, adding Article III – Fire Marshal Fee Schedule is hereby approved.

First reading. No vote taken.

8. **Resolved**: That upon the recommendation of the First Selectwoman, the Fire Chief and the Fire Marshal, an amendment to Appendix C of the Town Code of Ordinances adopting a fee for Fire Marshal review of construction documents in the amount of \$5 per \$1,000 of estimated costs for commercial buildings and residential buildings of three or more dwelling units is hereby approved.

First reading. No vote taken.

9. **Resolved**: That upon the request of the First Selectwoman, a Fair Rent Commission Ordinance is hereby adopted.

**First reading. No vote taken.**

**10. RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectwomen and a request by the Director of Public Works, in accordance with the Policy for Gifts to the Town, 2. C.- Monetary Donations. More than \$20,000, a donation in the amount of \$50,000 for construction of a bus shelter at 199 Post Road West is hereby approved.**

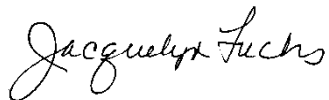
**The motion passes 31-0-1; Mr. Lowenstein abstained. Ms. Kramer and Ms. Milwe left the meeting.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Dunkerton

Town Clerk

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

by Jacquelyn Fuchs