

**Town of West Boylston
Finance/CIB Committee
Meeting of September 29, 2020**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 6:33 pm in the Select Board Room at Town Hall. Attending Fincom and CIB members were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Paul Bohanson, Mary Foley, and Pete Murphy. Bill Fay and Jim Marinelli were absent. A new Fincom member, Austin Cyganiewicz, was welcomed by the Chair and the committee members.

The minutes for the Town Meeting pre-meeting on July 6 were approved 4-0-1 as moved by Chris Berglund and Mary Foley.

Chris Berglund reported on his attendance at the Select Board town meeting Warrant review meeting.

- The warrant article for an addition to the Stabilization Fund was removed because the fund exceeds the 5% operating budget target amount.
- The Fire Department request for capital funding for a bush truck is not included in the warrant because separate funding from grants and the DCR is still being pursued.

A review of the October town meeting draft Warrant began:

- Article 1, Committee Reports - The need and benefit of a report from Fincom or CIB was discussed at length with differing opinions on the benefit of a report at the planned outdoor town meeting. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to defer a report by either committee, seconded by Paul Bohanson, and approved 5-1 for Fincom and 5-0 for CIB.
- Article 2, Bills from previous years - None are known at this time. A motion was made by Ray Bricault to passover this article, seconded by Austin Cyganiewicz, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 3, Adjustments to FY21 budget - None are known at this time. A motion was made by Mary Foley to passover this article, seconded by Paul Bohanson, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 13, Tax Levy Stabilization Fund - Selectman Pat Crowley joined the meeting to discuss the proposed fund. The tax receipts from cannabis sales would go to a new fund that could only be used to provide property tax credits to reduce the tax payments of town property owners. Since cannabis tax collections are highly uncertain and unlikely to be reliable, these revenues would be kept outside the operating budget. The 3% tax is expected to generate around \$500,000. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to endorse this article, seconded by Paul Bohanson, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.

- There was an additional discussion about the cannabis grow facilities. The 5 year host agreements with these 3 facilities will initially provide more than \$500,000 in community impact payments and additional contributions to town charities. These will end in 5 years when a new agreement will be needed based on actual impact experienced. The Select Board is proposing to keep this money as free cash to use for one time town expenses, since the amount is uncertain and the agreement will end.
- Article 5, CPC funding - Selectmen Crowley presented the proposed CPC fund distribution for this article: Open Space - \$25,000 for a balance of \$91,500; Housing - \$25,000 for a balance of \$105,751; Historic - \$25,000 for a balance of \$76,601; Undesignated - \$167,500 for a balance of \$1,435,881. This distribution follows previous precedent. Efforts are being made to use the housing funds to promote more affordable housing in town. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to endorse this article, seconded by Ray Bricault, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 4, Police Laptop Computers - A grant was received for automated ticketing and data access for police cruisers, however 3 cruiser laptops cannot run the software and use unsupported Windows 7 OS. Free cash will be used. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to endorse this article, seconded by Mary Foley, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 7, Infrastructure Funds - Another payment from the state infrastructure of \$1,494 has been received and needs to be approved for use by DPW. A motion was made by Paul Bohanson to endorse this article, seconded by Ray Bricault, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 8, Recreation Director - A trial period for a recreation director is proposed. A motion was made by Paul Bohanson to endorse this article, seconded by Mary Foley, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 9, OPEB Trust Fund - A continuing commitment to fund these benefits with an addition of \$50,000. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to endorse this article, seconded by Paul Bohanson, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 10, 11, and 12, Bylaw Amendments - A motion was made by Pete Murphy to offer no opinion on these articles, seconded by Mary Foley, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 6, Mixter Field - The transfer of the proposed ball field parcel at Mixter to the Parks control to qualify for a PARC grant of \$100,000. The total cost of the ball field \$652,000. A motion was made by Mary Foley to endorse this article, seconded by Ray Bricault, and approved 6-0 for Fincom.
- Article 14, Transfer to Capital Investment - No amount has been presented by the Town Administrator. CIB will support an addition of at least \$50,000. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to endorse this article for any proposed addition, seconded by Paul Bohanson, and approved 6-0 for Fincom and 5-0 for CIB.

The Town Administrator is still seeking a candidate as a part-time Facilities Manager. This position is difficult to fill at reduced hours.

The Capital Asset Spreadsheet has not been accepted as a town document. The objective of Fincom and CIB is to have this data be maintained by the Town Administrator.

Chris Berglund moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

The next meeting will be a pre-meeting at 9:30am before the October 17 town meeting at 10am on the high school ball field.

Pete Murphy
Secretary, Fincom and CIB