

**Town of West Boylston  
Finance/CIB Committee  
Meeting of April 13, 2021**

A Zoom meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 6:30 pm online. Chair Ray Bricault read the Emergency Waiver and public access statement. Attending Fincom and CIB members were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Paul Bohnsen, Mary Foley, Jim Marinelli, Pete Murphy, and Paul Redmond. Austin Cyganiewicz and Bill Fay were absent.

The minutes for the meeting on April 8, 2021 were approved 7-0 as moved by Paul Bohnsen and Paul Redmond.

Gary Kellaher, DPW Director joined the meeting to discuss the operating budget and capital requests.

- The DPW operating budget was reviewed:
  - Salary increases are based on contract requirements.
  - Highway other expenses increased 8.9%, but the detail of that increase was not available.
  - Trash removal increased 4% which is the contract requirement, 3 year contract with 4% increase each year.
- The Capital requests were discussed:
  - The new Freightliner truck SD180 request is for \$111,000 for the truck plus another \$106,000 for accessories, which include a stainless salt spreader and controls, and plows. This truck will replace the 1996 and 1999 International trucks which are beyond rehab and will be scrapped. The 1997 International is a candidate for rehab and will continue to be used for projects.
  - Used truck and contractor options were discussed. Reliability is important for plowing and the new truck will replace two trucks used in the past. Two plowing contractors have to be hired when one truck is down. The cost is high, \$1400/driver/storm. With 20 plus storms, the extra cost can exceed \$45,000 per year.
  - A truck washing system was discussed as a method to reduce damage to plowing equipment. A washing system is too expensive for the town. Using a washing system in another town is a possibility, or rigging up a portable, slide under system of our own is being reviewed.
  - A replacement zero turn mower at \$14,000 is below the capital request minimum and will be funded through free cash.

- The Select Board members have asked the DPW Director to consider purchase of a compact excavator for use in the cemetery to dig graves, work now done by contractors. The cost for a 35G size is \$57,900 and the 50G size is \$71,800. There was no financial information presented about how cemetery contractors are now paid and what savings there will be to the town. This is a new item that has not previously been on the capital plan.
- The Sewer Enterprise budget was discussed. FY21 and FY22 both forecast an operating loss. The loss is due to allowance for \$200,000 in capital expenditures, and processing cost increases from the Blackstone/Worcester waste water system. The DPW Director reported that the budgeted capital funds have not been spent in FY21, eliminating the operating loss. These allocated funds are expected to be spent in FY22, due to the current plan for equipment replacements. The sewer rate increase for FY22 has been delayed, and with no operating loss in FY21, they amount and timing of future rate increases will have to be revisited.

The Police Chief was asked to join the meeting but was unable to access the meeting through Zoom. The police operating budget has no new items and increases are limited to salary contract requirements. No capital items have been requested.

A decision on moving forward with replacement boilers at the Library can not be made without some information on the cost and delivery of a heat pump system. Pete Murphy will contact Rise Engineering to try to get some information on feasibility of the heat pump and cost and delivery times.

The School capital request for driveway repaving needs clarification, specifically why other funding has not been used. Chris Berglund will follow up.

The cost of rehab for the Fire ladder truck was not presented by the Fire Chief. This information will be requested.

The next meeting will be the April 20 in person at the Senior Center.

The Zoom meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm as moved by Chris Berglund and Mary Foley.

Pete Murphy  
Secretary, Fincom and CIB