

**Town of West Boylston
Finance/CIB Committee
Meeting of September 22, 2021**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened together with the Select Board at 6:03 pm in the Senior Center conference rooms. The Select Board was in an adjacent conference room and Zoom was used to join the two groups together. Attending Fincom and CIB members were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Paul Bohanson, Bill Fay, Mary Foley, and Pete Murphy. Austin Cyganiewicz, Jim Marinelli, and Paul Redmond were absent.

The draft warrant for the October Town Meeting was reviewed by the Select Board with Fincom and CIB input. Four proposed articles on the warrant for capital purchases, to be funded from free cash, were dropped by the Select Board and moved to the capital expenditure warrant article. Fincom and CIB were instructed by the Select Board to follow the standard process of reviewing the capital items with the departments and providing input to the Town Administrator. The four capital purchases are a DPW mini-excavator \$57,000, a DPW 1-ton dump truck \$45,000, resurfacing of the high school entrance driveway \$35,000, and road paving at the Mount Vernon Cemetery \$55,000.

Following the joint meeting with the Select Board, Fincom and CIB convened separately at 7 pm to discuss the draft warrant.

The minutes of the meeting for August 23 were approved by a vote of 6-0 as moved by Bill Fay.

The CIB was unaware that the four capital items were being requested for the October Town Meeting and that they had been added to the draft warrant as separate articles. These requests were included due to the availability of free cash, but they had not yet been reviewed under the established capital procedures. The Select Board instructed CIB to handle these requests.

The two DPW requests, the mini-excavator and the dump truck, have been mentioned in previous discussions with the DPW director. There was no urgency at that time. The School paving has been an outstanding item, but no specification or detailed cost was available. The cemetery request is new. After discussion, Bill Fay will meet with the DPW to obtain details for the two capital requests, Chris Berglund will meet with the School Board members on the School paving request, and Paul Johnson will meet with the Cemetery Board on the paving request. Two meetings were scheduled for September 27 and October 5 to further discuss these capital requests.

The Library heating and cooling engineering study was discussed. The study was well done, covered all options, and confirmed that a heat pump system is feasible. The new heat pump system can fit in the existing outside well, and the cost of the system would be twice the replacement cost of the boilers alone, about \$250,000. If the cooling compressor replacement is included, the heat pump system would be about a \$70,000 premium over direct replacement of both items. Both the boilers and the cooling compressor are over 20 years old. Heat pump

systems are expected to receive State financial support in the coming year. No action will be taken until these financial incentives are known, and a financing plan can be established.

The next meeting date is September 27. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm as moved by Mary Foley.

Pete Murphy
Secretary, Fincom and CIB