

**Town of West Boylston
Finance/CIB Committee
Meeting of September 26, 2022**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 6 pm by Zoom. Attending Fincom and CIB members were Chris Berglund, Paul Bohnson, Ray Bricault, Mary Foley, and Pete Murphy. Bill Fay, Jim Marinelli, and Paul Redmond were absent. Chris Berglund read the State enabling statement for a municipal Zoom meeting. The Town Administrator, Jennifer Warren-Dyment, also was in attendance.

Paul Bohnson moved, seconded my Mary Foley, to approve the minutes of September 12 for Fincom and CIB. All voted in favor 5-0 in a roll call vote.

Capital requests for the October town meeting were discussed. Requests have been made by the DPW and Fire departments. The Schools have made no requests, but they are preparing requests for the May town meeting. The Library has made no requests, but the HVAC system replacement financing is still required. Eversource, who was expected to provide a heat pump subsidy, is reportedly unable to subsidize the project. The Town Administrator will attend a meeting this Thursday to update the status of the project.

Free cash for the October town meeting has not been certified and no capital funds can be estimated or allocated until certification.

The DPW capital requests:

1) Replace Truck #2 - Cost estimate is \$250,000. This truck replacement now has an extended lead-time of 18 to 24 months. The truck it will replace has already been refurbished and is not expected to be reliable. After discussion, more information, including a better cost estimate and delivery, and the current truck maintenance expenses, will be requested from the DPW Director. Ray Bricault moved and Pete Murphy seconded a motion to table this request pending more information. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

2). Replace the bridge over Waushacum Brook on Prescott Street for \$137,715 - This request is for engineering of the replacement bridge so that the project can be financed through a State small bridge grant as "shovel ready". The most recent bridge inspection found it deficient and there is a possibility it might be closed in a subsequent inspection. The discussion focused on the unusual nature of the request. Bridge and road work are not normally town capital fund expenses. The bridge could be closed, making Prescott a dead end street at the Sterling town line. It would be inconvenient, but not a major problem. The Town Administrator recommends against using ARPA funding for this project. Ray Bricault moved and Paul Bohnson seconded a motion to add this request to the Warrant with no endorsement from Fincom or CIB, and with an explanation to the town meeting that closure is an alternative. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

3). Flail Mower attachment for Trackless \$34,500 - DPW has an existing Flail attachment, but it does not fit the mower correctly and causes problems. This is an upgrade request to avoid breakdowns. It is repaired in house. The discussion focused on the fact that this is a new item and should be delayed until May town meeting, after discussions with the DPW Director. Paul Bohannon moved and Mary Foley seconded a motion to defer this request until May Town meeting. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

4). DPW Parking Lot \$300,000 - All agreed that this parking lot is in poor condition and requires continuous repair. This has also been known for some time, with different recommendations being made from different Directors. Also, a DPW facility plan has not been prepared. Ray Bricault moved and Paul Bohannon seconded a motion to defer this request until May Town meeting. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

5). DPW Director vehicle \$42,000 - The Town Administrator and the DPW Director favor an SUV over a pickup. The current pickup will be retained as a backup. Leadtime is also a problem, so an order is required now. Ray Bricault moved and Pete Murphy seconded a motion to endorse this request using funds from the Capital account. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

6). Cemetery Paving \$36,000 - A section of cemetery road, near the Chapel is deteriorating. No one believes that this work is urgent and there is no plan for cemetery paving. This needs more information and discussion. Ray Bricault moved and Mary Foley seconded a motion to not endorse this request. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

The need to wash DPW vehicles to reduce salt corrosion was discussed. Both the DPW Director and the Town Administrator are aware of the problem and will seek solutions.

The Fire Department Capital requests:

1). Chief Car #1 \$67,500 (\$15,000 for outfitting) - The old Tahoe can no longer be repaired. The new Chief favors buying a red Tahoe that is immediately available. The car is required as a command and safety center at a Fire, and as an alternative vehicle in a first aid call. Ray Bricault moved and Mary Foley seconded a motion to endorse this request. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

2) Car #2 \$74,586 - This request replaces the pickup truck that was used for forestry calls and hauls hoses back for fire calls. It can also make emergency calls. The discussion focused on the addition of the new forestry truck and more information on the need to keep this car/truck in service. Pete Murphy moved and Paul Johnson seconded a motion to table this request until more information is available. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

3) Ambulance \$395,000 - The ambulance to be replaced has had \$20,000 in recent repairs and is again out of service. There are too many mechanical problems and replacement is required. There are adequate accruals in the ambulance fund to cover this purchase. Leadtime is also an issue, requiring action at this town meeting. Ray Bricault moved and Mary Foley seconded a motion to endorse this request, funding through ambulance receipts. The motion was approved by Fincom and CIB in a roll call vote, 5-0.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 3, at 6 pm by Zoom. The DPW Director and the Fire Chief will be asked to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm as moved by Ray Bricault and seconded by Mary Foley.

Pete Murphy
Secretary, Fincom and CIB