

**Town of West Boylston
Finance and CIB Committees
Meeting of April 13, 2015**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB (Capital Investment Board) was convened at 7:00 pm at Town Hall by Ray Bricault, Chair of Fincom and CIB. Chris Berglund, Pat Bryant, Pat Crowley, Dave Eckhardt, Bill Fay, Pavel Loven, Jim Marinelli, and Pete Murphy were in attendance. Aaron Goodale was absent.

The Fincom minutes of meetings for April 6 and 7, 2015 were approved 6-0. Three members did not vote due to late arrival.

The Library Director, Louise Howland presented the operating budget and capital issues for the library:

- The operating budget for FY2016 increased slightly due to planned wage increases for staff. The cost of gas and electricity this year exceeded budgeted amounts by more than \$2000. There are no current available funds to cover this overrun.
- Building maintenance and state aid reserves were fully used this year to cover heating system repairs and window sill and gutter repairs. Building maintenance in FY2016 will have to be covered from the municipal building fund. The window sills on the second floor north side still need repair at \$800 per window. The work so far on windows and window sills seems to be successful with no new leakage.
- The carpet capital project, approximately \$80,000, will be postponed to the FY2017 budget because of other capital needs in both the town and the library. The need for the carpet replacement, especially on the second floor, was mentioned this year in the insurance inspector's report. The replacement will be carpet tiles and will be done on all three floors. Proposals will be solicited next year.
- The number 2 boiler requires the same heating element replacement that was made on the number 1 boiler last summer. The heating element replacement is \$21,000. The entire boiler can be replaced for about \$32,000 (no proposals have been solicited), which would also provide new boiler casing, blowers and valves. The library trustees favor complete boiler replacement. This replacement will be a capital expense.

The IT operating and capital budgets were discussed with Karen Pare the IT manager:

- The increase in purchased services of \$29,000 is due to Treasury software costs.
- Autocad at DPW is likely to add \$5,000 in IT costs.
- Capital costs of \$22,000 are forecast for FY2016. These are hardware replacement needs. The replacement town server (\$12,000) can be delayed until October town meeting. \$7,800 of the IT needs have been moved to the

Sewer (\$6,100) and Health budgets, leaving \$3,000 in current capital needs. Continuing capital costs of about \$12,000 per year are expected beyond FY2016.

- The new server room in town hall is too hot. Three solutions have been proposed but no costs have been developed.

The DPW Manager, Anthony Sylvia, presented the DPW operating and capital budgets:

- The operating budget is unchanged, with a small increase in wages.
- The FY2015 snow budget overran by \$225,000 due mostly to increases in salt prices. These prices are negotiated together with other towns to obtain the lowest price. Salt usage has stayed consistent year to year. Contract plowing also added to the overrun. The use of the wing plow did reduce costs by reducing the manhours needed to plow without it. This more than covered the cost of the plow in just one year.
- The \$205,000 capital request for a replacement sander with wing plow can be postponed a year. There is a significant cost to rebuilding the existing sander, but it is possible to do. The new sander will be stainless steel to hopefully extend the life.
- The fuel system is failing and needs replacement. Failure during the winter forced fuel purchases from commercial gas stations. This remains a critical capital item for FY2016 with a total cost of \$72,000.
- The current salt shed building is sound but a larger shed is needed. This will be a concrete pad and wall with a fabric dome. The \$200,000 cost can be spread over two years by purchasing the dome (\$87,000) in FY2016 and completing the civil work in FY2017.
- The committee requested that the DPW director investigate whether the backhoe and loader, requested in FY2017 and 18, can be combined in a single vehicle.

The Fire Chief, Tom Welsh, reported on the Fire Department operating and capital budgets:

- Operating budget fire wages increased 1% per contract. A new contract will be negotiated this year.
- Ambulance supplies in the operating budget have been separated from fire supplies and shown as fire other charges in the budget.
- A new ambulance will be purchased from ambulance receipts in FY2016.
- Engine 3 is 25 years old and the radiator requires replacement due to corrosion. Access makes this an expensive repair. One year is needed to prepare a specification for engine replacement. This will be needed soon. The cost of \$550,000 will likely be a debt override. This is before the Board of Selectmen.
- The Public Safety building needs new windows which can be installed during the asbestos abatement. There is no budget for this replacement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Pete Murphy
Secretary