

**Town of West Boylston
Finance Committee
Meeting of March 18, 2015**

A meeting of Fincom was convened at 7:05 pm at Town Hall by Ray Bricault, Chair of Fincom. Chris Berglund, Pat Bryant, Pat Crowley, Dave Eckhardt, Bill Fay, Pavel Loven, Jim Marinelli, and Pete Murphy were in attendance.

The minutes of meeting for 29 September 2014 and 13 January 2015 were approved 8-0 and 7-0-1. The meeting minutes from the town meeting pre-meeting on 20 October 2014 have not been distributed. Jim Marinelli will distribute the minutes.

The snow and ice budget has been exceeded by more than \$200,000. Pat Crowley moved to authorize over expenditure of the budget to cover the extra cost, Ray Bricault seconded. The motion was approved 8-0. Jim Marinelli requested that DPW provide the detail cost per application for treating all town roads. The possibility of extending the snow/ice budget to cover two years was discussed. The idea is that a two year budget will provide a better opportunity to deal with overruns. There was no support for this idea at all. Budget overruns should be dealt with in the year they occur, including using stabilization funds, if necessary.

Committee meeting dates for Fincom and CIB leading up to the town meeting were discussed. The following dates were selected: Monday, April 6 – Initial budget review; Tuesday, April 7 – Department meetings; Monday, April 13 – Department meetings; Tuesday, April 14 – Additional date if needed; Wednesday, April 22 – Board of Selectmen meeting to review the warrant; Tuesday, April 28 – Warrant review; Thursday, May 7 – Warrant review; Monday, May 18 – Town meeting.

Department review team assignments were made; Public Safety - Pavel Loven, Jim Marinelli, and Aaron Goodale; Town Hall/Library - Chris Berglund and Pete Murphy; DPW - Pat Bryant, Dave Eckhardt, and Bill Fay; and Schools – Ray Bricault and Pat Crowley. The teams will meet with the departments to prepare for the department review meetings. A list of potential capital projects was provided to committee members to review with the departments. The status of the Library emergency boiler repair will be investigated.

The Schools energy project ESCO is complete except for personnel training and documentation. Concern was expressed about the savings guarantee given the reduced cost of oil. Dave Eckhardt will review the guarantee to determine whether it will be met this fiscal year.

Ray Bricault provided an update on the status of the Senior Center and Police Station. The Senior Center is in negotiation at this time, so no specific costs are available, although site preparation costs may be substantial. Town meeting will

likely be asked to approve the cost of preparing design drawings and a cost estimate for the proposed Police Station.

The Town Administration, Leon Gaumond, has taken the administrator job in Sturbridge and will leave before town meeting. The Finance Director is retiring and a replacement will be required for the end of FY2015.

The last Fincom meeting with the Affordable Housing Trust was discussed. Even though the AHT declared current housing operations to be self-sustaining, this commitment also needs to be obtained from the Housing Authority. Ray Bricault will follow up to determine their position.

The Light Department is investigating the idea of constructing a solar array on the old landfill property. This would be entirely a light department project as currently outlined. More detail is needed on the status of the project.

The Parks Master Plan is being finalized for presentation. It will not be ready with any estimates by May town meeting and will not be a warrant item.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Pete Murphy
Secretary