

**Town of West Boylston
Finance Committees
Meeting of February 16, 2016**

A meeting of Fincom was convened at 7 pm at the town hall. Attending were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Pat Bryant, Bill Fay, Pavel Loven, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Dave Eckhardt and Jim Marinelli.

A vote was taken on the meeting minutes for three meetings on October 6, 12, and 19. A motion was made by Pat Bryant to accept all three sets of meeting minutes. The motion was approved 6-0 with one abstention on the minutes of October 12.

New Fincom member James Bedard was introduced and welcomed.

Future meeting dates were reviewed. The capital organizational meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 16; the budget review with the acting Town Administrator is Tuesday, April 5, pending confirmation from the acting Town Administrator; the department reviews will be Monday, April 11 and Wednesday, April 13; the budget meeting with the Selectmen will be Wednesday, April 20; three meetings were scheduled for Town Meeting Warrant review on Monday, April 25, Tuesday, May 3, and Wednesday, May 11; and a pre-meeting before town meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 16. All meetings are at 7pm at Town Hall, except the pre-meeting, which is at 6:15 pm at the high school.

Fincom met with Jonathan Fitch, Director of the Municipal Light Company. A proposed solar project for the capped landfill on Temple Street was reviewed. The project will provide up to 2 megawatts of electricity on the 5 acre site. The cost of installation is expected to be \$3 million. Debt and operating costs for the project will be paid from three revenue streams; energy sales, available capacity payments, and environmental renewable energy credits. The town will receive a \$10,000 annual payment for lease of the site and will take over the monitoring expenses/responsibilities. Permitting is underway with Department of Energy and DCR approvals already received. Construction is expected to begin in the late spring.

The Municipal Light Department has an \$8 million operating budget. There are 3000 residential customers and 500 commercial customers with demand, a 14 megawatt peak, evenly divided. Electricity is received from investments in generating assets, the largest, 45%, from nuclear power. Investments are increasing in solar and wind energy. The cost of energy from these sources is among the lowest in New England.

The Light Department's major project for this coming year is the installation of fiber optic cable to service regional dispatch. The cable will be installed along Rt12 from

the police and fire department to a connection with the Holden dispatch center and will include the existing cell tower.

In other agenda items:

- There was no report on the status of the ESCO project.
- Three candidates are being considered for the Town Administrator.
- A town project manager is being selected for managing the new police station project.
- Selectmen are expected to act on the snow and ice budget over expenditure at their next meeting.
- There are no department capital requests to date. The library director has asked for a meeting this week.
- The DPW Director position posting is in process.
- The DPW audit has been completed but no report has been received by Fincom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Pete Murphy
Secretary