

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

A meeting of Fincom was convened at 7:04 pm at the town hall. Attending were James Bedard, Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Pavel Loven, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Pat Bryant, Bill Fay, and Jim Marinelli. Dave Eckhardt attended late following a meeting with the Selectmen on the ESCO project.

A vote was taken on the meeting minutes for February 16. A motion was made by Chris Berglund to accept the minutes. The motion was approved 5-0.

The snow and ice budget of \$59,000 has been exceeded and currently totals \$160,000. A motion was made by Pete Murphy, seconded by James Bedard, to approve over expenditure of this budget for this fiscal year. The motion was approved 5-0.

A request was received from the Council on Aging to transfer a \$1000 insurance deductible from accident damage to the COA van from the Fincom reserve fund to the self insurance budget line. Since this is an unanticipated expense, a motion to approve was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Ray Bricault, and approval voted 5-0.

Town department capital need Fincom/CIB teams were organized to visit each town department. Assignments are Dave Eckhardt and Bill Fay to DPW, Jim Marelli and Pat Bryant to Public Safety, James Bedard, Ray Bricault, and Pavel Loven to Schools, and Chris Berglund and Pete Murphy to Administration. These meetings need to occur before the planned April 11 and 13 budget meetings.

Anticipated capital needs were received from town departments. The schools primary need is HVAC control and heater replacements. These are potential phase 2 ESCO projects that could not be included in phase 1 due to low potential financial returns. The schools and DPW are also asking for new emergency generators. Chris Berglund suggested looking at the cost of contracting with an emergency services firm that will provide temporary generators during outage periods. Chris will provide more information. DPW is also requesting a dump truck and plow. The Fire Department is scheduling truck replacement. These requests will all be discussed when the Fincom teams visit.

Ambulance receipts have been declining and are well below the budgeted \$400,000. This is creating a budget deficit. Forecasted receipts for the coming fiscal year will remain low and a budget adjustment is required.

The ESCO project savings analysis is indicating that the expected fuel savings (in BTUs adjusted for degree days) may be achieved. However the electrical savings do

not appear to be meeting the guarantee. ABM is testing now to determine the problem. A complete analysis cannot be provided until the heating season ends. Phase 2 upgrade of the school heating controls and heaters cannot proceed as an ESCO project until the phase 1 performance is confirmed. This will not happen until this summer. The phase 2 work is not expected to provide a high enough return for all of the work to be done under ESCO. About half of the needed work will have to be done under the regular capital budgeting.

Maintenance of the energy systems is already falling behind. ABM has sent the town a proposal for providing the maintenance, but no action has been taken. This will likely be reviewed when there is a new Town Administrator.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Pete Murphy
Secretary