

**Town of West Boylston
Finance/CIB Committee
Meeting of March 16, 2021**

A Zoom meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 6:30 pm online. Chair Ray Bricault read the Emergency Waiver and public access statement. Attending Fincom and CIB members were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Paul Bohannon, Mary Foley, Jim Marinelli, and Pete Murphy. Austin Cyganiewicz and Bill Fay and were absent. A new Fincom member, Paul Redmond, was welcomed by the Chair and the committee members.

The minutes for the October Town Meeting pre-meeting on October 17 were approved 6-0-1 as moved by Chris Berglund and Mary Foley.

The Town Administrator, Nancy Lucier was in attendance.

The Fincom and CIB operating and capital budget review meeting schedule was discussed and set. The capital budget is due to the Select Board by April 21. The joint meeting with the Select Board on the town meeting warrant is April 28. Town meeting is May 17.

- 29 March 2021 at 6:30 pm by Zoom - An organizing meeting for the budget review process.
- 6, 8 and 13 April 2021 at 6:30 pm by Zoom - Operating and capital budget review meetings with the town departments.
- 20 and 26 April 2021 at 7 pm at town hall - Final budget summary, and warrant review and vote.

The department focus teams were assigned:

- DPW - Austin Cyganiewicz Bill Fay, and Paul Redmond.
- Public Safety (Fire) - Mary Foley and Pete Murphy
- Town Hall and Library - Paul Bohannon and Jim Marinelli
- Schools - Chris Berglund and Ray Bricault

The Town Administrator reported the the snow/ice deficit is only \$83,372 and the town expects to receive a matching grant of \$19,000 from the DCR for equipment to reduce salt use. The town will have to match the \$19,000.

The postponement of the Sewer system rate increase of 4% was discussed. The Select Board made the decision based on a consultant recommendation. The retained earnings should be sufficient for the next year and the decline may be less than expected. A new decision will be made on the amount of the rate increase for next year.

The capital requests for 2022 were reviewed:

- Fire is requesting a Forestry Brush Truck, turnout gear, and an emergency generator. Discussion was about the need for a Brush Truck, putting turnout gear in the operating budget, and the expected grant for the generator. A new ladder truck is also still included in the future capital budget. The department team will discuss these items with the Fire Chief.
- DPW is requesting a new heavy duty truck, a Chevy truck, and a mower. The department team will discuss these items with the DPW director.
- The Library is requesting replacement heating boilers. The department team will discuss these items with the Library Director.

Pete Murphy pointed out that the Library request for replacement natural gas fired boilers is counter to the State 2050 Energy Roadmap and 2030 Clean Energy plan which require the replacement of all fossil fuel heating systems with electric heat pumps. The 2030 plan is still a draft, but it should include subsidies for Green Energy communities to move to heat pumps by 2022 .

- The Schools have made no 2022 capital requests. The long term school plan has still not been presented and apparently remains in flux.

Fincom and CIB agreed that a report should be made to town meeting this May, especially given the concern about taxes. Ray Bricault and Pete Murphy will prepare a report format.

The next meeting will be the March 29 organizing meeting.

The Zoom meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Pete Murphy
Secretary, Fincom and CIB