

**Town of West Boylston
Finance/CIB Committee
Meeting of February 29, 2024**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 6:01 pm in the Select Board meeting room at Town Hall. Attending Fincom and CIB members were Chris Berglund, Jason Brockway, Ray Bricault, Mary Foley, and Pete Murphy. Cliona Archambeault was absent. Town Administrator, Jennifer Warren-Dyment, also attended the meeting.

Ray Bricault made a motion to approve the minutes of meeting for February 15. Mary Foley seconded and the vote to approve was 5-0.

A long discussion occurred about methods of educating the public on the financial challenges facing the town, including the increasing likelihood of financial overrides or debt exclusions. Chris Berglund will explore scheduling public presentations by the Finance Committee at the Senior Center. Potential titles like “Where do my taxes go?” Were discussed.

The MMA has financial webinars available for committee members.

The Capital Spreadsheet is being updated by department managers and Fincom members. DPW, Library and Fire have new department heads and more time will be needed to develop the capital list. Committee members were warned to be careful with embedded links when entering data.

Operating budgets are in progress, but will be delayed until labor negotiations are completed and accepted by the union members. Also new department head in DPW and Library need some more time.

CIB members decided to schedule a single meeting with all departments on capital needs, postponing operational budget reviews until after contracts are in place.

The Town Administrator plans to use free cash this year to pay for a DPW and Fire campus study, which will propose building alternatives and recommend operational needs.

A discussion on how to clean salt from town trucks resulted in agreement that the Town Administrator will again explore options.

Fincom agreed with the Town Administrator that a review of the ARPA expenditures will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

The next meetings are scheduled for March 7, 14 and 21, in person at Town Hall.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 pm by Mary Foley and seconded by Ray Bricault. All voted in favor 5-0 for Fincom and 5-0 for CIB.

Pete Murphy
Secretary, Fincom and CIB