

**Town of West Boylston  
Finance Committee  
Meeting of December 2, 2019**

A meeting of Fincom was convened at 7 pm at town hall in meeting room 127. Attending were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Jim Marinelli and Pete Murphy. Paul Bohanson, Jaime Desanti, Bill Fay, and Mary Foley were absent.

Action was postponed on approving the distributed minutes for the meeting on October 21 for Fincom and CIB.

John Fitch, Director of the town Municipal Light Enterprise attended and presented information on the status of municipal power in Massachusetts and in the town.

- Generation was discussed. Future power supplies remain uncertain for the New England ISO. The movement to renewables is slow and projects are being challenged. The town power supplies include renewables and are mostly covered by contracts, plus ownership in Seabrook. Legislation is now proposed to classify nuclear as clean energy for environmental purposes. This should benefit the town with their share in Seabrook.
- The new Flywheel peaking units are operating well, after two were replaced. There have been no other issues to date. These are unique devices that are in development nationwide. This project was financed with a combination of state grants, local funds, and supplier discounts.
- New high voltage electrical feeders are being installed down Temple street. These will add redundant capability and improve security of supply. The current feeders run through a wooded area that makes them somewhat vulnerable. The project is financed from the Municipal Light capital cash account.
- A new joint optical fiber system is being installed along Route 140 from Shrewsbury, through Boylston and through to Sterling. This will provide high speed internet connection for the town government. It will enable smart metering for the Municipal Light. The three towns are sharing the cost estimated to be \$300,000 per town.
- The electric rates in town are based on class of service. The last rate increase was 2009. Since then debt has been retired and reduced debt payments have allowed the Municipal Light to absorb cost increases. No immediate rate increase is expected.
- The Municipal Light is preparing a rebate plan for heat pump installation, targeted to those houses that currently use electric resistance heating.
- The OPEB liability for the Municipal Light is 80% funded.

Library capital needs were discussed. There is significant uncertainty about project urgency and need. An analysis and plan are needed very soon. The Town Administrator is negotiating with the town of Berlin to share a Building Superintendent, who will provide this analysis and plan for the Library, and then for other town buildings.

The FISP committee is planning to discuss their charter and whether it includes further planning for all town facilities. Fincom is invited to the public meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting of Fincom and CIB has not yet been scheduled.

Pete Murphy  
Secretary Fincom and CIB