

**Town of West Boylston  
Finance Committee and CIB  
Meeting of October 16, 2017**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 6:40 pm in the cafeteria at the Middle/High school, before the town meeting. Attending were Chris Berglund, Paul Bohannon, Ray Bricault, Jaime Desanti, Bill Fay, James Marinelli, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Pat Bryant and Pavel Loven.

The minutes of meeting from September 20, 2017 were voted and approved by Fincom 5-0 and by CIB 4-0.

In prior discussions between Butch Jackson, the DPW Director, and Fincom and CIB members, a new capital plan for the DPW and information on the current capital requests were provided. Fincom and CIB reviewed this information:

- 2006 Pickup Truck F350 – This truck is an article on the October town meeting warrant. Bill Fay inspected this truck and reported that the rust progression requires replacement. The truck has exceeded the expected 10 year life and the annual cost of maintenance is increasing. The 4 year maintenance cost has been \$11,000.
- The capital plan provided is preliminary and the DPW Director will be asked to provide more detail and justification for these future capital expenses. In addition to the expected equipment replacements, it includes a salt shed expansion and parking lot repaving.

The remaining articles 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 in the draft warrant for the October 16 town meeting were reviewed based on information received from the Town Administrator:

- **Article 3** is to approve needed budget transfers of \$66,400, funded through raise and appropriate funding:
  - The WPBA budget needs to be increased by \$5,000 to match expected receipts. The two amounts must be equal.
  - The Cemetery part time employee must be reclassified due to the amount of working hours 32.5 hours per week. This means the cost of new benefits, \$9,400, must be included.
  - The revolving fund fee revenue to fund the Conservation Commission clerk is inadequate by \$2000. Fees need to be adjusted to avoid the problem in the future.
  - Snow and Ice budget line item will be increased by \$50,000 funded from a revised new growth forecast of \$185,000. This will not change the annual Snow and Ice baseline. It will raise property taxes for residents by accelerating by one year this amount of the expected new growth tax impact. This was discussed and concern was raised that voters may not understand that this is a change in past practice and the impact this will have on the property tax rate. Even so, the Fincom

agreed that increasing the Snow and Ice budget line is a good decision, since it always overruns, even if it means accelerating an increase in the property tax rate. The Fincom agreed to provide an extended explanation of our endorsement. Ray Bricault drafted a statement.

A motion to endorse the article was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 6-1. A motion to endorse the draft statement was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 7-0.

- **Article 4 – Bond Premium.** This article will allow any premium benefits from bonding to be used immediately to support the bonded projects. Currently these funds end up in the general fund on project completion. A motion to endorse the article was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 7-0.
- **Article 7 – Pickup Truck replacement for the DPW.** In discussion, concern was raised about the problem of corrosion on DPW vehicles. The CIB agreed to discuss the problem with the DPW Director to look for a process to clean the vehicles to reduce the problem. A motion to endorse the article was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 7-0 and by CIB 6-0.

**Article 8 – Court Maintenance at Goodale Park.** \$35,000 from free cash to repair and seal the tennis and basketball courts at Goodale Park. This maintenance is required roughly every 5 years. It has now been 7 years. A 5 year building and park maintenance plan will be prepared once work on the Senior Center has been completed. Court maintenance will be included. A motion to endorse the article was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 7-0.
- **Article 10 – WBPA Equipment Purchases.** \$30,000 for needed equipment to allow live simultaneous broadcast from the main meeting rooms at town hall. A motion to endorse the article was made by Bill Fay, seconded by Paul Bohannon, and approved by Fincom 7-0 and by the CIB 6-0.

**Article 11 – Sewer System I&I Inspection.** DEP mandates that all sewer systems must have a multi-year plan to inspect and repair infiltration and inflow. A 20 year plan has been prepared for our sewer system. This plan is to map the system in year 1 for \$31,000, with a repair contingency of \$50,000. This \$81,000 cost will be paid from Sewer retained earnings. Future inspection and repair costs will be paid for by an 8% increase in sewer rates. A motion to endorse the article was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 7-0.
- **Article 17 – Stretch Energy Code.** The Fincom agreed to have no opinion. A motion to take no opinion on the article was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 6-0.
- **Article 18 – Marijuana.** The Fincom agreed the article needs to be further researched for the revenue impact. A motion to recommend a pass over of the article at town meeting was made by Chris Berglund, seconded by Bill Fay, and approved by Fincom 6-0.

The Capital Fund balance is in excess of \$400,000. The certified free cash is \$700,660. At Town Meeting \$100,000 from free cash will be proposed for the Stabilization fund and \$100,000 from free cash for the Capital Fund. Fincom and CIB have supported any additions to these funds in past meeting actions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm for the opening of the Town Meeting at 7 pm.

Pete Murphy  
Secretary  
Fincom & CIB