

**Town of West Boylston  
Finance and CIB Committee  
Meeting of April 3, 2018**

A meeting of Fincom was convened at 7:00 pm in meeting room 120 at town hall. Attending were Ray Bricault, Jaime Desanti, Pavel Loven, James Marinelli, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Chris Berglund, Paul Bohannon, and Bill Fay.

The minutes of meeting for February 13, 2018 were approved 5-0.

Pat Bryant has elected to resign from her position on Fincom and CIB. Chair Ray Bricault thanked Pat for her years of service and contributions.

The FY2019 town budget is in preparation. Town revenues are forecast at \$24.5 million. This is the basis for the draft budget. Fincom and CIB are scheduling department meetings to review operating and capital budgets and prepare for the May town meeting. The only confirmed additional meeting so far is the Library on Monday, April 9.

School Superintendent Elizabeth Schaper and School Board members Jim Pedone and Rick Shaw were in attendance to review the 2019 operating and capital budgets for the schools.

- The budget calls for total spending of \$13,264,126 (not including grant funded spending of approximately \$300,000), an increase of 2.14% over FY2018, of which \$12,154,345 will be funded from town revenues, an increase of 3.97% over FY2018.
- The primary increase in school spending is Salaries, which increased 4.35%, including 2 new positions in Major Edwards Special Education. School Salaries includes a 2% contract cost of living increase plus expected increases for step and educational promotions for 80 teachers plus all other educational support personnel.
- Special education increased 7.19% to \$1,485,891 due to expected out of district placements. Special education transportation did not increase due to the use of school owned vans.
- Vocational education costs declined by -18.23% to \$860,583 due primarily to the change to the Leominster program. Transportation costs declined by more than 50% due to use of school owned vans.
- School Choice students declined by 40 to 120. This reduction was made to allow space for potential new students from new housing in town. There is still a school choice waiting list if space is available.
- The School Board does not have a forecast for the town student population. This population has declined significantly since 2000. The School Board is expecting to receive a forecast from NESDC (New England School Development Council). This forecast will be provided to the FISP committee when they meet with the Schools to discuss building needs.

- The Schools have no capital requests for the CIB. Capital and major maintenance spending is being funded from free cash generated in the operating budgets. These spending decisions are made at year-end based on funds available. The major outstanding capital spending need remains the replacement of the pneumatic heating control system at the HS/MS budgeted at \$240,000. The school continues to maintain this old system and has no plan to proceed with the replacement.

The Snow and Ice expense over the budget allowance is still being compiled but currently is approximately \$146,000 through March.

The town administrator has requested that Fincom approve a reduction of \$3,000 in the Fincom Expense Reserve to \$35,000. After discussion, there was consensus that this reduction was acceptable.

The Senior Center will be relocated to the basement of the Congregational Church until the new Senior Center is completed. The landlord at the industrial park will cover the costs of relocation and setup since the lease is being terminated early.

ABM Energy Project - Employing an Engineering Consultant to check the ABM report is still being discussed. Ray Bricault will follow-up with the town administrator on this decision.

The next meeting is Monday, April 9 at 7 pm in town hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Pete Murphy  
Secretary  
Fincom & CIB