

**Town of West Boylston
Finance and CIB Committee
Meeting of April 11, 2018**

A meeting of Fincom and CIB was convened at 7:00 pm in meeting room 203 at town hall. Attending were Chris Berglund, Paul Bohannon, Ray Bricault, Jaime Desanti, Bill Fay, Pavel Loven, and Pete Murphy. Absent was James Marinelli.

The amended minutes of meeting for April 9, 2018 were approved 7-0.

The Police Department is not able to present their budget at the current meeting. They will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

The new fire truck approved for purchase at the October 2017 town meeting has just been ordered and will be delivered in March 2019.

Chief Welsh of the Fire Department presented the FY2019 department budget.

- Salaries increased 9%. This increase includes expected new employment contract costs (the old contract ends in June); the costs for a 7th day of expected overtime due to reduced numbers of fire fighters available on call; and a \$5,000 contingency added by the Town Administrator. The Chief discussed the declining number of “call” fire fighters. Few people are interested in qualifying for these positions due to the cost and time to train and the relatively low pay. Although pay is a part of the problem, there is also a significantly reduced interest in doing this work. The Chief stated that staffing is his biggest problem and will probably eventually require hiring an additional full time employee to cover all shifts and reduce overtime. The committee discussed the possibility of regionalization as a solution and Ray Bricault will approach the Town Administrator about this concern.
- Other Fire budget items are level funded based on last year.
- A capital request was submitted by the Chief for a new emergency generator for the Fire Station. The existing generator is 20 years old but is still in good operating condition with servicing twice a year. The Chief is concerned with the age of the generator and reliability, given there is no building renovation plan or schedule. After discussion, the committee recommended the Chief work with the FISP committee on the plan for building renovation, which should address the generator need. Ray Bricault moved that the Fincom and CIB not endorse the capital request for a new Fire Station emergency generator, Bill Fay seconded, and the motion was approved 7-0.
- The capital plan for the ambulance replacement includes an increase in the replacement cycle from 5 years to 6 years.
- Turnout gear and SCBAs (breathing equipment) must continue to be replaced on a standard schedule of shelf life set by NFPA.

The draft list of warrant items was reviewed, including the list of capital items. Questions were raised about the town hall sprinklers, the sunset clause, and the monitoring of the landfill wells. These questions will be addressed to the Town Administrator.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on April 25, followed by a separate meeting on the town meeting warrant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Pete Murphy
Secretary
Fincom & CIB