

**Town of West Boylston
Finance Committee
Meeting of September 28, 2016**

A meeting of Fincom was convened at 7:05 pm in the town hall meeting room. Attending were Chris Berglund, Paul Bohannon, Jaime Desanti, Bill Fay, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Ray Bricault, James Bedard, Pat Bryant, Pavel Loven, and James Marinelli. A meeting of CIB was not convened due to the lack of a quorum.

The minutes of meeting from September 21, 2016 were approved.

The DPW Director Butch Jackson presented the need for a new loader for loading salt and other road materials. The existing loader is 20 years and has suffered extensive corrosion. The cost to get it ready for the winter is \$25,000. The loader is the current capital priority for the DPW. The new loader low bid is a Cat, similar to the old loader, at a cost of \$144,900. There is a trade-in value of \$25,000. The new loader is available immediately.

Outstanding DPW items were discussed. The fuel system and the garage ventilation are installed and working well. The DPW Director was asked about the salt storage and salt mix. He will investigate. He was also asked to review the capital forecast for the department and prepare a modified list for discussion.

The town meeting warrant articles were reviewed:

- Police Communications Training – No grants are available for this program because it is largely overtime pay. The Town Administrator will be asked for a better breakdown of the cost.
- Fire Department Capital Requests – The three spending items will be lumped together as a single approval in the article. This will make them total more than \$20,000. The Town Administrator will be asked about the source of funds for these routine expenses. The committee does not expect these to be funded from the Capital account.
- Cemetery Lawn Mower Request – The cemetery trustees will receive 3 quotes for the replacement lawn mower. Because it is commercial grade, the cost is expected to be close to the \$17,000 estimate. The committee discussed offering no opinion on this article.
- Police Station – The bid details are not yet available.
- Town Clerk Election Request – A detailed breakdown was provided for this expense and the committee was satisfied.
- CPC Requests:
 - Study of affordable senior and veteran housing for \$25,000 – This is a continuation of the study of housing needs.
 - Fencing for the baseball field for \$10,799 – This is a continuation of fencing replacement at the parks.

GWLT Pine Glen Land Purchase – An expenditure of \$172,500 is proposed to keep this land open space. This expenditure made little sense to the committee since the land is already in a land trust and it not suitable for building due drainage. The CPC will be asked for more justification.

- The balance in the Capital Investment Account will be given at town meeting to make everyone aware that this balance has declined significantly in the past two years.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 6, at town hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Pete Murphy
Secretary
Fincom & CIB