

**TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting held April 9, 2007

Upon notice duly given and quorum present, the Finance Committee convened at 7:00 p.m. on April 9, 2007.

Members in attendance: Ray Bricault, Mychelle Phillips, Chris Berglund, Paul Bohanson, Ellen Dunlap, Pat Crowley and Patricia Altomare. Guest: Leon Gaummond.

Mr. Gaummond reviewed the budget shortfall with the Committee. He indicated that the proposed budget is off-balance by at least approximately \$434,000. That sum does not include Warrant Articles. At least one Warrant Article, the landfill monitoring cost of \$17,000, needs to be funded. Additionally, the Board of Health and Planning Board are looking for a sum total of \$50,000. If we add in the School Department's budget request and other Warrant Articles, we are looking at a shortfall of approximately \$745,000. It is hoped we will be getting an additional \$80,000 from the State which will decrease our shortfall to approximately \$635,000. Cutting costs at this juncture in order to balance the budget will call for the elimination of entire departments.

The discussion then turned to the issue of our school choice numbers. We still have a net gain but the margin is reduced due to our increased tuition costs. Last year we paid \$74,000 to send our students to charter schools; this year that sum is \$141,000. Likewise, last year we paid \$28,000 for school choice costs; this year that sum is \$53,000.

Mr. Gaummond believed that the School Committee was going to request that a 2.5 override. If presenting an override, Mr. Gaummond indicated that he would prepare two budgets – one including override sums and the other without. It was discussed that we would need an override sum to sustain us for 3 to 4 years. Thus, the Board of Selectmen needs to decide whether to present an override to the Town and if that is to happen, what would the override sum requested be and how would we divide that sum among the departments.

Mr. Bricault then presented a graph he drafted to forecast future shortfalls. The graph predicted a shortfall of \$500,000 more each year i.e. 2007's shortfall is \$500,000; 2008's shortfall is \$1,000,000; 2009's shortfall is 1.5 million etc.

Possible future revenue sources, although not certainties, are the installation of a waste transfer station and jail mitigation money.

The next order of business was the review of transfer requests. The first request was to transfer the sum of \$3,906 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to the Town Counsel Account to pay for February's legal bill. It was noted that we approved a similar transfer at our last meeting. Mr. Gaummond indicated that there is no money left in the Town Counsel budget and that he will have forthcoming bills for the rest of this fiscal year. Mr. Gaummond advised that Committee that last year the Town decreased the Town Counsel budget in anticipation of a decreased need for legal advise however, several unseen, new issues arose this year which required the use of town counsel. Upon

motion duly made by Ellen Dunlap and seconded by Chris Berglund, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve said transfer.

The second transfer request was an intradepartmental request from the Fire Department seeking authority to transfer the sum of \$5,000 from their “salaries” account to their “other” account to cover the cost of 4 new computers and the associated software. Upon motion duly made by Ellen Dunlap and seconded by Chris Berglund, with the abstention of Mychelle Phillips, it was unanimously **VOTED** to approve said transfer.

There being no further business to discuss, and upon motion duly made by Ray Bricault and seconded by Mychelle Phillips, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Altomare, Clerk  
Finance Committee