

TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON
JOINT MEETING OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
and the
CAPITAL INVESTMENT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting held September 26, 2007

Upon notice duly given and quorum present, a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and the Capital Investment Board was convened at 6:45 p.m. on September 26, 2007. Members in attendance: Ray Bricault, Chris Berglund, Ellen Dunlap, Patrick Crowley, Paul Bohannon, Mychelle Phillips and Patricia Altomare.

The first order of business was a review of the minutes of the previous meeting. Upon discussion and upon motion duly made by Chris Berglund and seconded by Patrick Crowley, with Mychelle Phillips abstaining, it was **VOTED**: To approve the minutes of the Finance Committee's Meeting of September 17, 2007.

The Chair began the meeting by updating the Committees on the status of the Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Mr. Bricault informed the members that the Parks' Department request is pending action by the Board of Selectmen; the School Department is still getting final numbers for their Special Education needs request but that it appears the number will be approximately \$70,000; and that we, as the Capital Investment Board, must decide what amount will be requested via Article 11 of the Warrant.

The Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board then joined the Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Gaumond walked the committees through the draft Warrant. Mr. Gaumond indicated that there are a few minor changes upon the advice of counsel. Relative to Article 8, Mr. Gaumond indicated that the Parks Department will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Article 20 is a citizens' petition relative to studying our school system. The sum of money needed to fund the items per Article 23 (adjustments to the fiscal year 2008 budget) is uncertain but a complete report will be issued when the free cash gets certified which should be on or about October 1st.

Mr. Bricault queried relative to Article 12 (Authorization to Appropriate Funds for the Replacement of Ambulance²) what would be the preferred source of funding for this purchase. Mr. Bricault noted that the Fire Department has \$75,000 in ambulance receipts left out of the budget. Mr. McCormick noted that the Fire Department used to set aside the ambulance receipts just for the purpose of buying/leasing their vehicles and equipment. However, those funds have been used in the recent past in order to balance the Town's budget. It was noted, however, that the original plan for the ambulance receipts was to retain those monies for future capital purchases. Mr. Gaumond commented that there are essentially four funds – the Stabilization, Ambulance receipts, Capital Investment fund and free cash. Mr. Bricault reminded the members that the Capital Investment fund has been under funded and that the use of the ambulance receipts for the purchase of an ambulance seems reasonable.

Mr. Bricault then asked the Board of Selectmen whether they believed they could implement Article 20 (the citizens' petition to review our school system). Mr. McCormick replied that he didn't see the Board having the capacity to perform the duties requested by this article.

Mr. Berglund then asked whether there was any progress towards regionalization of other town departments to which Mr. Phillips replied that they are looking at regionalizing the dispatch services. The regionalization of this service had been looked at in the past but the time was right to review the matter again.

Next, Mr. Bricault inquired as to whether the Municipal Building Committee was planning on submitting an article to the Warrant. He was advised that the MBC is not ready to go to the Town yet but that they should have a better understanding of their anticipated costs by the end of the year.

Ms. Dunlap noted that the last Warrant draft had an article requesting authorization relative to building new playing fields in town but that that article was missing on the Warrant. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen had previously voted not to put that article on the Warrant.

Upon further discussion and review the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the Town Warrant. At this time, the Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board left the Board of Selectmen's conference room to continue their meeting.

Upon reconvening, Pat Crowley advised the members, relative to the request for authorization for playing fields, that the Board of Selectmen had authorized the accepting of grant monies for that purpose but did not approve the authorization to fund the project. Unfortunately, the grant assumes that the project has been approved. In short, the timing of the grant process vs. our Town Meeting was complicating the issues.

Next, Mr. Bricault advised the committees that the Library was "mildly optimistic" that we would receive a waiver and thus, the Library's request did not go on the Warrant.

The next order of business was a joint meeting with the members of the Board of Health relative to their request for \$10,000. The members of the Board of Health advised the committees that, in the past, the Board was self-sufficient with their chief source of income coming from pumping fees. However, with the sewers coming on-line, the number of pumping fees, and hence their revenue, has decreased. At the same time, the Board of Health's responsibilities have increased due to continuously updating State mandates, homeland security requirements, new smoking regulations, new food regulations etc. Thus, the Board of Health is looking for \$10,000 in order to maintain their office through the fiscal year. It was noted that they went off the budget approximately four years ago and thus do not receive town funding; however, they have spoken to Mr. Gaumond about getting on the budget for next year. In response to an inquiry, the committees were advised that if the Board of Health does not receive that money they will not be able to perform their duties and that the State will service us on an emergency basis. It was also noted that this Board has not asked for any town monies for years.

Mr. Bricault then brought up the topic of the request for a new ambulance by the Fire Department. Mr. Crowley indicated that he was going to inspect the ambulance which apparently needs replacing. Mr.

Bricault requested that the Capital Investment Board members think about what source of funding the CIB is going to recommend pay for such a purchase, if at all.

The final, but certainly not least, order of business, was to congratulate Nancy Lucier for receiving the Thomas S. Green award. This is an award given annually to an outstanding municipal employee by the Worcester Regional Research Bureau. The Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board was not able to congratulate her personally this evening, however, we felt strongly that our heartfelt “congratulations and thanks” be added to our minutes. It’s not often we get a chance to recognize someone who performs a job with such grace and skill as does Nancy Lucier. We are happy to be given the opportunity to add our kudos for her hard-work and achievements on behalf of the Town of West Boylston. It was noted that Mr. Gaumond nominated Ms. Lucier for this award and so kudos to Mr. Gaumond, also, for having the insight to make such an appropriate nomination.

There being no further business for the Finance Committee to discuss, and upon motion duly made by Ray Bricault and seconded by Chris Berglund, the joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Altomare, Clerk
Finance Committee
Capital Investment Board