

## **TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting held February 4, 2008

Upon notice duly given and quorum present, the Finance Committee convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 4, 2008. Members in attendance: Ray Bricault, Chris Berglund, Ellen Dunlap, Patrick Crowley and Patricia Altomare.

The first part of our meeting was a joint session with the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Highlights from those discussions are as follows:

- we do not anticipate receiving any income from the Tivnan Drive project
- nor can we expect much from National Grid – they are indicating there are no new taxable assets
- we estimate new growth at \$157,000
- Mr. Gaumond is preparing a level service budget – this uses all our free cash and will still indicate a significant shortfall.
- we anticipate health insurance to increase 9%
- unemployment costs have increased
- Mr. Gaumond is planning several “budget hearings” as a method of increasing the citizen’s awareness of the budget issues this year.
- Mr. Kane noted that the School Committee had prepared their level services budget which resulted in a 6% increase in costs.
- The Municipal Building Committee has finished their plan. It calls for the construction of new municipal buildings and anticipate an overall cost of 26 million. There is going to be a request at Town Meeting for a debt exclusion of 2.36 million to begin the project.
- Mr. Gaumond has created a new Shared Services Committee to try to sort out our options relative to regionalizing departments/costs.

After the joint meeting adjourned, the Finance Committee continued their meeting separately to discuss the following:

The first order of business was a review of the minutes of the previous meeting. It was noted that the minutes incorrectly placed Mychelle Phillips on the Capital Investment Board and incorrectly placed Chris Berglund at the meeting of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Thus, upon discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the Finance Committee’s Meeting of October 10, 2007 with pertinent errors corrected.

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the Capital Investment Board’s Meeting of October 10, 2007 with the pertinent errors corrected.

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the Finance Committee’s Meeting of October 15, 2007 with the pertinent errors corrected.

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of Capital Investment Board’s Meeting of October 15, 2007 with the pertinent errors corrected.

The next order of business was to review the following financial requests:

- The Department of Public Works submitted an interdepartmental request for \$22,000 from their Sewer account to their Purchase Services account to pay for upgrading the alarm system of the pumping station. It was discussed whether this Committee has the authority to vote on a sum larger than \$5,000. Thus, upon further discussion, and upon motion duly made by Ellen Dunlap and seconded by Patrick Crowley, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** To approve the DPW interdepartmental transfer for \$22,000 subject to Mr. Bricault's verifying our authority in this regard.
- Upon discussion and review and upon motion duly made by Patrick Crowley and seconded by Chris Berglund, it was unanimously **VOTED:** to authorize the transfer of \$5,000 from the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund to cover the costs of moving the municipal offices to their Hartwell Street location.
- Upon discussion and review and upon motion duly made by Patrick Crowley and seconded by Chris Berglund, it was unanimously **VOTED:** to authorize the transfer of another \$5,000 from the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund to cover the costs of moving the municipal offices to their Hartwell Street location.
- Upon discussion and review, and upon motion duly made by Ellen Dunlap and seconded by Chris Berglund, it was unanimously **VOTED:** to authorize the transfer of \$13,797 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to the Veteran's Services account to cover the costs of the benefits due an additional veteran.

The next order of business was relative to the new Shared Services Committee. Mr. Gaumond is seeking a member of the Finance Committee to be on the new Shared Services Committee. It was agreed by the members that Patricia Altomare would serve on the new Committee.

There being no further business to discuss, and upon motion duly made by Ray Bricault and seconded by Ellen Dunlap, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Altomare, Clerk  
Finance Committee