

**TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting held April 30, 2008

Upon notice duly given and quorum present, the Finance Committee convened at 7:15 p.m. on April 30, 2008. Members in attendance: Ray Bricault, Chris Berglund, Ellen Dunlap, Paul Bohannon, Mychelle Phillips, Greg Zakarian 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 Mychelle Phillips and seconded by Chris Berglund, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To approve the minutes of the Finance Committee's Meeting of April 8, 2008.

The Chair then advised the Committee that the primary purpose of tonight's meeting was to review the proposed Warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting.

Articles 1 through 17 – These are the general “housekeeping” articles and requests to establish revolving funds. Ray Bricault indicated he would ask Leon Gaumond whether any of the fund limits have changed.

Article 18 – The Committee discussed the fact that we normally don't express an opinion on the personnel classification and compensation plan simply because such plans are pursuant to contracts already negotiated, however, this particular article addresses pay raises and thus it was questioned as to how the 3% raise requested in this Article was calculated. Mr. Bricault agreed to ask Mr. Gaumond.

Article 19 – no discussion necessary.

Article 20 – This Article is a request for funds to make repairs to the sewer system pumps. The Committee questioned why the pumps needed repair as it seemed that they couldn't be too aged. Mr. Bricault agreed to put the question to Mr. Westerling of the DPW.

Article 21 – Article regarding the use of “free cash” to reduce the tax rate. It is Mr. Bricault's understanding that all of our free cash will be used this year.

Article 22 and 23 – The numbers regarding these articles are not yet finalized, thus any discussion regarding these articles will take place at a later date.

Article 24 – This article addresses a DPW bill that came in too late to pay in last fiscal year. Mr. Bricault will inquire as to the source of the funds with which to pay this bill.

Article 25 – This is the standard article authorizing the appropriation of ambulance receipts.

Article 26 – This is the standard article authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Capital Investment Fund. Mr. Bricault indicated he has two requests – one from the Fire Department for a new “off-road” vehicle and one from the Schools requesting funds to replace windows.

Article 27 and 28 – We do not have information on these two articles yet, thus discussion will be postponed until explanations can be obtained.

Article 29 – This article addresses the appropriation of funds relative to the Community Preservation fund. The Finance Committee questioned the allocation for administrative costs and wondered whether a process for spending the funds was in place.

Article 30 – This article is for the Elderly Community Services Program. Our only question was how the sum requested now compares to last year.

Article 31 – This article addresses the Town's application for a grant to fund the salaries of two firefighters. The Federal grant will off-set the firefighters salaries but such funding will decrease over the next 4 years so that by the 5th year the Town must fund the salary. Mr. Bricault agreed to address the

Finance Committee's concerns with Chief Pauley, specifically, are future revenues going to cover the additional salaries in the future and what associated costs will be incurred if we hire two more employees.

Article 32 through 35 – These articles are requests from the DPW to fund the purchase of equipment, the repair of equipment and the painting of lines on the Town's roads. Mr. Bricault agreed to ask Mr. Westerling to address the Finance Committee to clarify his requests.

Article 36 is a citizen's petition. Mr. Bricault has made inquire of Mr. Kane to obtain his position on this petition.

Article 37 – This is a request for funds from the Bicentennial Committee. The amount of the request is not specified.

Article 38 – This is the standard article to fund the Stabilization Fund. It is not clear what, if any, funds will go into Stabilization.

Article 39 – This is the standard article to fund the Capital Investment Fund. Again, the status of such funding is presently unclear.

Article 40 – This article addresses the need for funds to pay the lease for the Town offices. Mr. Bricault is to get the terms of the lease.

Articles 41 through 51 – These articles are not financial in nature and thus do require a comment from the Finance 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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Altomare, Clerk
Finance Committee