

Town of West Boylston
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2011

Upon duly posted notice, the Finance Committee conducted a meeting on April 11, 2011. Finance committee members present were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Gregory Zakarian and Patrick Crowley. Guests present were Ms. Bohannon, Mr. Paige, Mr. Kane, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Owanisian from the Schools and School Committee. Ms. Howland, Mr. Espy and Ms. Abramson were present on behalf of the Library and Library Trustees. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM.

Ms. Howland distributed materials to the FinCom and presented support for the requested Library budget and detailed the various line item requests. Some highlights included the need for the migration of the Library's database from the current MARS platform to Open Source. This will enable the continued participation in the sharing of volumes with other Libraries. While a two year financial commitment is necessary for this upgrade, the Library anticipates the funds from the reduced Personnel budget will suffice. Personnel budget is down due to the retirement of two long term staff members.

According to Ms. Howland, the minimum Library Budget necessary for 2011 certification with the Commonwealth is \$345,462. The proposed budget of \$289,000 falls well below that level which will require the Town to file for another waiver with the Commonwealth. In spite of the numerous waivers filings in previous subsequent years, Ms. Howland did not feel this would be a problem as long as cuts to other departments in the Town were proportional with the Library's.

Mr. Kane distributed information to the FinCom and presented the present status of the School Budget and highlighted that the ARRA and SFSF cuts contributed to the shortfall. At this point, the estimated GAP for the FY 2012 Budget (if schools are funded at desired level) is approximately \$538K. Mr. Kane indicated that the School Board may request Fin Com support for some Stabilization Fund contribution to balance the 2012 budget. Ray Bricault offered that commitment to working toward a Budget resolution early in the year is critical and questioned whether the School Board had given thought to sponsoring a warrant article committing the Boards to update the process at the October Town Meeting.

The Capital items the Schools would be seeking are comprised of the floor replacement (critical); windows (could be pushed until Fall Town Meeting). Mr. Kane will update before Town Meeting.

The committee addressed a request to transfer funds from the DPW Salaries Account to the DPW Purchased Services and Purchased Supplies Accounts. Upon discussion and motion made by Pat Crowley and seconded by Greg Zakarian, it was unanimously **Approved:** to transfer \$5000 from the DPW Salaries Account with \$3,000 going to DPW Purchased Supplies Account and \$2,000 to DPW Purchased Services to maintenance cost overruns associated with the aging DPW vehicle fleet.

A second transfer for the identical request was presented to cover expenses associated with the upcoming period. Upon discussion and motion made by Pat Crowley and seconded by Greg Zakarian, it was unanimously **Approved:** to transfer \$5000 from the DPW Salaries Account with \$3,000 going to DPW Purchased Supplies Account and \$2,000 to DPW Purchased Services to maintenance cost overruns associated with the aging DPW vehicle fleet.

There being no further business, the Committees voted to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Berglund for the Finance Committee