

Town of West Boylston

Finance Committee and Capital Investment Board Joint Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2011

Upon duly posted notice, the Finance Committee and the Capital Investment Board conducted a joint meeting on May 11, 2011. Finance committee members present were Chris Berglund, Ray Bricault, Mychelle Phillips and Patrick Crowley. Capital Investment Board members present were Ray Bricault, Aaron Goodale and Patrick Crowley. Guests present at the meeting were Fire Chief Richard Pauley, Police Chief Dennis Minnich and Selectboard member Kevin McCormick. The joint meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

The first order of business was to revisit Article 31-E pertaining to the purchase of Communications Equipment for the Police, Fire and Emergency Communications Departments. Both Chief Minnich and Chief Pauley were adamant about the need to obtain the funding for these radios and the communications server. Both the FinCom and the CIB preferred not to venture down this road at this time since Regionalization funding Grants for these purposes are immediately available should the Town commit to a Regionalization strategy. Both Chief Pauley and Chief Minnich indicated that they would “hold off” spending these funds as long as regionalization discussions are continuing in a productive manner. They did want the funds available for the beginning of FY 2012. After much discussion, it was provided that once the Town expends these funds for this investment, it will not be able to be recouped from a Regionalization Grant. Kevin McCormick spoke in support of funding this Article.

Ray Bricault questioned whether any specific Regionalization initiative required Town Meeting approval, both Chiefs agreed that although Town Meeting approval is not required, it would be the correct political decision to bring such a request to Town Meeting.

The next matter for discussion pertained to the reclassification of the Police Cruiser Lease from Capital Expenditure to Operating Budget. Chief Minnich did not seem to be concerned with the specific source of the funding mechanism for the Cruiser, citing that during his tenure, sources for funding this vehicle have been both operating and capital funds at various times.

Upon motion from Aaron Goodale seconded by Pat Crowley, it was unanimously voted by the Capital Investment Board to **endorse** Article 31-C.

Upon motion from Pat Crowley seconded by Mychelle Phillips, it was unanimously voted by the Finance Committee to **endorse** Article 31-C.

Discussion of Article 31-A resulted in a motion from Pat Crowley (seconded by Ray Bricault) for both the Capital Investment Board and Finance Committee to re-engineer the Cruiser request into a 3 year lease and remove the Capital Investment Fund as the Funding Source and have the Funds for this vehicle originate in the Operating Budget. If outright purchase was preferred, that too could be engineered through the operating budget. As amended by Mr. Crowley's motion, it was unanimously voted to **endorse the revised** Article 31-A by both the Capital Investment Board and the Finance Committee.

Discussion of Article 31-E resulted in a motion from Pat Crowley (seconded by Ray Bricault) for both the Capital Investment Board and Finance Committee, it was unanimously voted to **endorse** Article 31-E by both the Capital Investment Board and the Finance Committee.

Discussion of Article 31-F resulted in a request to revisit this Article after further discussion with the Town Administrator.

It was voted to pass over Article 22 until receipt of the School Feasibility response.

Upon motion from Ray Bricault seconded by Pat Crowley, it was unanimously voted by the Finance Committee to **endorse** Article 23.

Upon motion from Pat Crowley seconded by Greg Zakarian, it was unanimously voted by the Finance Committee to **endorse** Article 24.

Upon motion from Pat Crowley seconded by Ray Bricault, it was unanimously voted by the Finance Committee to **endorse** Article 25.

It was voted to pass over Articles 26 and 27 pending further information from the Town Administrator and the School Committee.

The Finance Committee had an impromptu discussion and reaffirmed that Stabilization Fund should only be used for "emergency" and "unforeseen" expenditures. After some further discussion to frame "emergency" and "unforeseen" expenditures, the committee moved on.

Mr. Bricault indicated that he would follow-up with the Town Administrator for additional information on Article 32 and the identity of the funding source for Article 27. He will also try to get some baseline projections for "free cash".

The Finance Committee addressed a request to transfer funds from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund in the amount of \$13,793.89 and upon motion made by Pat

Crowley and seconded by Ray Bricault, it was unanimously **Approved:** to transfer \$13,793.89 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to Streets and Parks Purchased Services (\$9,000) and Streets and Parks Supplies Account (\$4,793.89).

There being no further business, the Committees voted to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Berglund for the Finance Committee