

**Town Of West Boylston  
Finance Committee  
Meeting of March 18, 2013**

The meeting of West Boylston Finance Committee (Fincom) convened at 7:08 pm in meeting room 2 at Town Hall. Those attending were: Ray Bricault, Chris Berlund, Dave Eckhardt, Pat Crowley, Bill Fay, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Jim Marinelli and Eric Reddy. Greg Zakarian has not responded to emails and has been removed from the membership list.

Ray Bricault moved to approve minutes of last meeting on February 19, 2013. The minutes were approved without comment.

A budget transfer request was received from the Fire Department. The need for ambulance repairs was not fully anticipated and is over budget. A motion was made by Ray Bricault to move \$5,000 from fire salaries to fire purchased services. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meetings of the Finance Committee are scheduled for April 3, 8, and 17<sup>th</sup>. The budget presentation by the school committee will be at 7:15 pm on April 8. The public service departments (fire, police, library, and DPW) will present budgets on April 3.

Pat Crowley and Ray Bricault met with the school committee on the budget preparations. The budget will include a 4.5% increase in salaries. There are budget problems with unanticipated increases in vocational and special education expenses. The school committee had hoped to keep these expenses at or below last year.

The capital expense list for the schools is unchanged. However, three items could be added this year. First, the school committee will fund a study (out of current year funds - \$2000) of the water leakage in the high school media center. Roof pitch is the suspected cause and a study is needed to confirm it. A request could be made to change the roof and eliminate the windows to fix the problem. Cost will be unknown until after the study is complete. Second, a \$50,000 request for capital expense is expected to fix the locks on the classroom doors in all buildings. Currently a door can only be locked from the outside. Teachers are requesting a change to these locks for improved security. Also security cameras are not currently installed at Major Edwards or at the high school. The high school has cameras but they are not installed. Cameras will have to be purchased for Major Edwards. Third, the school committed is investigating the cost of a natural gas conversion for at least one boiler in each school. Oil would be used as a standby on the backup boilers. The low price of natural gas is expected to save money for heating the schools. There are no numbers yet on the cost of the conversion or the savings anticipated.

Town administration has a need for secure records storage, but they do not want to make the installation in the current leased building. If a town hall building purchase goes forward, this will be included in the capital plan.

The library needs to replace carpet, especially on the third floor. Chris Berlund and Pete Murphy will investigate this week. The library will be asked to present their need to the committee.

Dave Eckhardt and Bill Fay will meet with the DPW on Thursday at 1 pm. They will discuss the street sweeper and other machinery capital requests.

Ray Bricault requested that town department meetings happen quickly and before the April 3 meeting.

There will be a budget summary discussion after the meeting on April 8.

Ray Bricault gave an update on the activities of FISP in planning for a new town hall. Interest in the Three Rivers building is high and town officials, led by Town Manager Leon Gaumond, walked through the building and were satisfied with the arrangement. Some improvements will be required, but the building is satisfactory. Two analyzes prepared by Ray Bricault were presented for the Three Rivers and BBC buildings. The total incremental annual cost of using the two buildings would be \$250,000 to \$300,000. There are currently no alternatives to a two building plan. The Finance committee discussed these plans and suggested that a Three Rivers building alone plan be considered with other options for the Senior Center. The committee was also very concerned about a commitment to building maintenance. The town track record on maintenance is poor and the committee is reluctant to approve more building purchases without some new ideas on keeping the buildings in acceptable condition. A town maintenance manager was suggested. The committee also expressed concern over the price of the Three Rivers building at \$1.6 million. This is a cost of \$160/ft<sup>2</sup>, which is high for commercial property. \$120/ft<sup>2</sup> is more reasonable. Ray Bricault will deliver these messages back to FISP at their next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.