

**Town Of West Boylston
Finance Committee
Meeting of April 24, 2013**

The meeting of West Boylston Finance Committee (Fincom) convened together with the Board of Selectmen at 7:00 pm in meeting room 1 at Town Hall. Those attending were: Ray Bricault, Chris Berlund, Dave Eckhardt, Pat Crowley, Bill Fay, and Pete Murphy. Absent were Greg Zakarian, Jim Marinelli, and Eric Reddy. Aaron Goodale attended for a joint CIB meeting.

The Town Meeting warrant articles were reviewed with the Board of Selectman. The minutes of the review in the joint meeting were recorded by the Town Clerk.

At 7:45 pm, the Fincom reconvened in a separate meeting in meeting room 3.

Minutes were approved without corrections for the meetings of April 8 and April 17. Greg Zakarian is still officially a member of the Financial Committee even though he has not attended meetings. He should therefore be listed as absent in the minutes of meeting for the past year.

The next Fincom meeting is April 29. This meeting is to discuss the future capital planning priority items for the next 5 years. There was a discussion of the need for this reconsideration of the plan now. No departments have indicated any change to their capital plans. The DPW does have a new director and changes are expected to their capital plan. How we should now approach revising the capital budget was the question discussed. The decision was to move all of the capital requests beyond FY14 out one year and request the DPW Director to prepare a capital plan for review before the next town meeting. All other capital items in the capital plan will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The school committee outstanding request for the purchase of a security package has had the cost change to \$15,000 for locks and \$27,000 for video. The cost of locks decreased and the video cost increased significantly. There is not enough information to understand these cost changes. Selectman McCormack (from the joint meeting) wants the costs to be assembled together as a single security package. Fincom will review the costs as a package. More information will be requested from the school committee to both understand and justify the cost.

The plans for conversion of two boilers at the schools to natural gas fuel are being finalized and funding the project now may be added to the May town warrant. The initial cost estimate is \$225,000. This seemed high to the Fincom. The natural gas supply line from the street will be installed at no cost to the schools by the gas supply company. Further discussion and information is needed.

The Library Director told Ray Bricault that the cost to replace the Palladium window is at least \$30,000. Repair is possible and it is expected to be much less expensive than replacement. More information will be forthcoming.

The warrant article 19, calling for approval to spend money for the demolition of the Mixer building and the town pool, was discussed. There is no support on the committee to spend any money for demolition without some good reasons and a specific plan. There is also no support to spend stabilization funds on demolition, since this is not an appropriate use of these funds. The Fincom believes the Mixer building can be boarded up and then sold, as is. The town pool is a different problem and demolition could be considered separately. The committee will advise the Town Manager that the current warrant article will be opposed. No vote was taken.

Mr. Bricault provided a summary of the latest FISP discussions. FISP feedback is that there is general support for a Three Rivers building purchase. For the town to proceed with the purchase, the building must be identified as unique to the state. The documents prepared for the state approval, list the price as \$1.575 million. The going rate for purchased office space in the area is approximately \$100/ft², which would make the preferred selling price close to \$1 million. Some members of the Fincom believe the purchase is sensible, but the price must be reduced to reflect the market, others do not endorse the purchase. The matter has not been put to any vote as there are far too few details at this point. The second building, the BBC, the need and use of this building is unclear. The message from the Fincom to FISP is the BBC is not yet justified. There needs to be a better and specific plan. There is no plan that anything will be advanced with either building for the June election.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Pete Murphy