

Joint FinCom/CIB meeting May 8, 2013

FinCom Convened at 7:10 PM

Members present: Ray Bricault, William Fay, Jr., David Echardt, Patrick Crowley, and Christopher Berglund.

CIB Convened at 7:20

Members Present: Ray Bricault, Christopher Berglund, Patrick Crowley and Aaron Goodale

The Fincom unanimously approved the following transfers:

\$100 from Acct 0100262000 Emergency Management Services to 01002-916400 Emergency Management Supplies.

\$12,000 from 01001-32067000-000 FinCom Reserve to 01-51-6200 Town Counsel – line overspent because of Litigation regarding the Reservoir Motor Lodge

\$12,300 from 01091405170 Group Health Insurance to 01-0420051 Public Works Supplies to cover steel road plates and fertilizer/chemicals for parks.

The DPW director, Anthony Sylvia, attended the meeting to discuss replacement of the 27 Year old Ford Tractor. A new tractor will lighten the load on other DPW equipment due to the increased capacity of the tractor. The 71,000 cost includes all needed attachments. Mr. Sylvia estimates the salvage value of the old tractor will be less than \$2,000. He anticipates a two month lead time to take delivery of the tractor and that we would then have the use of the tractor from mid to late August through the first snowfall.

There was a discussion on Article 17 for a new mower for the DPW. The old mower will become a backup to the new mower, if it is purchased. Mr. Sylvia confirmed that all parties involved (operators, “customers”, mechanics) believe the type of mower they are seeking to purchase is the proper replacement for the old mower and the new mower is a zero turn mower. The \$17,000 cost of the mower does not include any attachments; however the DPW currently does not anticipate a need for any attachments.

There was then a brief discussion on wing plows for the winter. As the lead time to take delivery of wing plows is less than one month this item was tabled and may be a DPW request for the fall Town Meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the purchase of bleachers for the town Parks. There is currently a lack of bleachers/team seating throughout the parks. The bleachers will be portable, similar to the bleachers we currently own. There was a question on securing the bleachers. Mr. Sylvia stated this is not necessary as the bleachers are “as large as this room”.

**After being duly moved and seconded, the FinCom and CIB voted to include \$185,000 for a new street sweeper (discussed at previous meetings) and \$71,000 for a new tractor in the capital article at Town Meeting.**

Discussion moved to the schools media center leaks. It appears no maintenance has been done on the school roof in years. There appears to be structural issues that should have been addressed when the roof was replaced approximately 5 to 6 years ago for approximately \$1,000,000. The School Committee could not answer if the problems are under warranty. Chairman Bricault asked that specific questions related to the engineering report that shows the cost to correct all issues is approximately \$210,000 be sent to him via e-mail. He will consolidate the questions and forward them to the School Committee. It was decided to table this capital request until we have more information.

There was a discussion on the cost of the surveillance cameras that the school requested. The bulk of the cost is due to wiring the cameras. It was decided to ask the school committee to obtain a quote on an all wireless system before taking action on the security package request.

There was a brief discussion on the schools conversion to natural gas. No action taken.

There was a brief discussion on the library window issue. Ray will contact Louise Howland, library director, to get an update on the status of the window repair/replacement.

There was a discussion on the razing of the Helen C. Mixter building and the town pool. Selectmen Kevin McCormick spoke on the reasons the BOS wants to take this action. The main concern is the security/liability issues the structures present. He stated that this was the number one goal on the Board of Selectmen's list for this year and it is the number one issue that the board hears about from town residents. There was a discussion on alternative sources of funding to accomplish this goal, specifically, the use of community preservation act funds to raze the structures. Patrick Crowley, chair of the community preservation committee, stated that this would be an allowable use of CPA funds, however, there would need to be a perpetual deed restriction that states the land will remain open space.

We discussed the FISP/Fincom meeting regarding the purchase of buildings for a new town hall/senior center. The compiled list of question was circulated with the agenda for tonight's meeting. Chris Berglund asked that a question regarding the source of funds for the increased operating costs of two buildings vs. the current town hall be added to the list.

The committee then took votes on our positions on the warrant articles. The votes were all duly moved and seconded and the decisions were all unanimous. The votes are listed below with an indication on if they were FinCom, CIB or both boards. If no CIB vote was taken, the article was outside the scope of the CIB. All articles were voted on without further discussion with the exception of the following:

Article 1: The CIB had a discussion on whether the presentation should be under article one or with the CIB article. The decision was to present under article 1. Ray will send Pat the PowerPoint presentation from last year and Pat will update the presentation and present it at Town Meeting.

Article 9: We need to get a % increase year over year (Ray to ask). There was a discussion on why the light department does not have to have an article on the warrant each year to have their budget approved. Town Administrator, Leon Gaumond, stated he would add this to a future BOS agenda after Town Meeting.

Article 16: Ray will talk to the MBC about how this should be accomplished in the future. There should be an integraton of the schools ( and other muni structures) into a single comprehensive approach, or a general discussion/plan to centralize building maintenance.

Article 19: The FinCom was in agreement that the use of stabilization funds to raze the buildings is an improper use of stabilization funds. From a purely financial standpoint it does not make sense to raze the structure, particularly the Mixter building. The future use of the Mixter property is unknown. If the property were to be sold it is unkown what the sales price would be and unkown what the increase in the sales price would be without the building. N addition it will cost the town substantially more money to raze the structures than it would cost a non government owner because of the provailing wage laws. It was decided that the FinCom will not endorse this article with an explanation that from a financial standpoint this makes no sense, however this is not a purely financial decision as both structures are eyesores and many residents have expressed a desire to have these buildings removed.

#### Article Votes

1 – Fincom no; CIB yes

2 – Fincom endorse

3 - Fincom endorse

4 - Fincom endorse

5 – Fincom no opinion

6 – Fincom no opinion

7 – passed over

8 - Fincom endorsed (numbers are rounded) \$1,430 for Fire Dept Opticon System; \$900 for retiree overbilling; \$15 for Fire Department Belmont Springs

9 – passed over

10 – passed over

11 - Fincom endorse

12 – passed over (portions approved with votes earlier in meeting)

13 - Fincom endorse

14 – Fincom endorsed at a prior meeting no action taken

16 - Fincom endorse (not to exceed 25,000)

17 - Fincom endorse

18 - Fincom endorse (at \$8,800)

19 – Fincom not endorse

20 – passed over

21 - Fincom no opinion

22 - Fincom no opinion

23 - Fincom no opinion

24 - Fincom no opinion

25 - Fincom endorse

26 – Both Boards Endorse

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick J. Crowley

West Boylston Finance Committee Vice Chairman