

**Town Of West Boylston
Finance Committee
Meeting of October 7, 2013**

A meeting of West Boylston Finance Committee (Fincom) convened at 7:03 pm in the general meeting room at town hall. Those attending were Ray Bricault, Pat Crowley, Chris Berglund, Jim Marinelli, Bill Fay, Dave Eckhardt, and Pete Murphy.

The minutes of September 16, 2013 were accepted and approved as amended 6-0.

Police Chief Minnich was invited to the meeting to participate in a discussion of the warrant article on the Mixer property. The Board of Selectmen have put forward the warrant article as solely a liability issue. Chief Minnich stated the Mixer building is currently too easy to get into. There is a problem securing the building due to the document storage containers adjacent to the building, which allow easy access to the building roof. People are accessing the roof and have broken out the gym windows on the roof. Securing the building will require that the containers be moved away from the building, and all doors and windows be boarded. People are currently in the building everyday. The Town Manager estimate for securing the building is \$20,000, with all doors and windows covered in plywood. Both the police chief and fire chief recommend demolition of the building.

There is not enough free cash to fund all of the warrant articles. The Mixer demolition cannot currently be funded from free cash. No plan for the Mixer property has been proposed by the Board of Selectmen. There was a discussion of the possible future of the property. The expected cost to demolish the Mixer building is \$218,000. The town issued an RFP for the pool demolition with an adder for the Mixer demolition. The cost of demolition of the pool is \$76k.

Motion: Article 6 - As long as the source of funds is not stabilization, Fincom will endorse the portion of the warrant article to raze the pool. Moved by Pat Crowley and seconded by Dave Eckhardt. There was discussion. The pool is secure and will be included in the Parks development plan, which will be implemented within a year. It will be more economical to include demolition of the pool in the overall Parks plan and work, plus the money for demolition could be included in the Parks financing plan. The motion failed 1-6.

Motion: Article 6 - Do not endorse the pool portion of warrant article 6. Moved by Ray Bricault and seconded by Pat Crowley. The reason given for not endorsing the warrant article will be that it should and will be included in Parks planning and implementation. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved 6-0. Pat Crowley was not in attendance during the vote.

Motion: Article 6 – Amend the previous motion to endorse the pool portion of the warrant article 6 only if warrant article 5C is defeated. Moved by Ray Bricault and seconded by Pat Crowley. The amendment was approved 7-0. The amended motion was then discussed and there was significant discussion about the continuing lack of planning for town property. The amended motion was approved 5-2.

Motion: Article 6 – Do not endorse the Mixter demolition portion of the warrant article. Moved by Ray Bricault and seconded by Jim Marinelli. There is no plan for the property and no source of funding. Bill Fay moved to table the motion at this time. Seconded by Dave Eckhardt. There is not enough information at this time. The motion to table was approved 6-0 (Pat Crowley was away from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Motion: Article 1 – Fincom will not make a report to town meeting. Moved by Ray Bricault, seconded by Dave Eckhardt. The motion was approved 6-0, (Pat Crowley was away from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Articles 2-4 were skipped. Fincom will not offer an opinion on these articles.

Motion: Article 10 – Endorse the article at a cost of \$29,000. Moved by Pete Murphy, seconded by Jim Marinelli. The motion was approved 6-0 (Pat Crowley was away from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Motion: Article 7 – There is no information on this article. Table any action until more information is available. Moved by Ray Bricault, seconded by Bill Fay, 6-0 (Pat Crowley was away from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Motion: Article 8 - **The article cost is \$15,000, \$7500 provided by the town. Provide no opinion**, moved by Dave Eckhardt, seconded by Ray Bricault. The motion was approved 6-0 (Pat Crowley was away from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Motion: Article 9 – Dave Eckhardt reported that the project to replace flange gaskets and repack valves was reasonable after 15 years of service. The new gaskets should provide even better life. There was a motion to endorse the article. Moved by Dave Eckhardt, seconded by Bill Fay, 6-0 (Pat Crowley was away from the meeting at the time of the vote).

Article 11 – There is no information available at this time and no action will be taken until the next meeting.

Motion: Article 12 – There are two bills from a previous year: \$204 for the schools, and \$175 for sewers. There was a motion to endorse the article. Moved by Dave Eckhardt, seconded by Ray Bricault. The motion was approved 6-0, (Chris Berglund was out of room).

Motion: Article 13 – Endorse the article. Moved by Chris Berglund, seconded by Ray Bricault. The motion was approved 7-0.

Motion: Article 14 – Endorse the article. Moved by Ray Bricault, seconded by Chris Berglund. The motion was approved 7-0.

Motion: Article 5 – The article has three parts: A) The same housing consultant will be used. B) Hire a consultant to promote senior housing. C) Produce a plan for park development. Funding for the article will be from the Community Preservation Fund (CPF). There was a motion to endorse. Moved by Ray Bricault, seconded by Bill Fay. The motion was approved 7-0.

Bill Fay reported on his review of town grant activities. Grant reports were distributed for August and February. The state alerts the town on state grant opportunities. Department heads know which grant work is required and are preparing the grant applications. The Town Manager believes that most small towns do not have grant

writers. There is a municipal association support for grant writing. The experience of the Town Manager is that the national grants are very unlikely to pay off. Conclusion: State opportunities are well known. National opportunities are not as well known, but very difficult to obtain. No further action is planned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Pete Murphy
Secretary