

**Town of West Boylston  
Finance Committee  
Meeting of March 26, 2014**

A joint meeting of the West Boylston Finance Committee (Fincom) and Capital Investment Board (CIB) convened at 7:13 pm by the Vice Chair in the Selectmen's meeting room at town hall. Those attending were Chris Berglund, Pat Crowley, Dave Eckhardt, Bill Fay, Jim Marinelli, and Pete Murphy. Aaron Goodale attended for the CIB meeting. The chair, Ray Bricault, was absent .

- Minutes of meeting for February 25, 2014 were distributed. A motion to approve was made by David Eckhardt. The motion was approved 7-0.
- The DPW made a request for a budget transfer of \$5,000 from salary and wages to highway supplies. The monies will be spent on the town common flagpole spot light replacement (\$1600) and summer house repairs (\$1500). There was no provided justification for the additional \$1900, except that the summer house cost is not fixed. A motion was made by Dave Eckhardt to approve the transfer, subject to explanation of the need for the additional \$1900. The vote to approve the transfer was 7-0.
- Reports were given by members on the meetings with town departments:
  - DPW Report (Dave Eckhardt provided an email summary) – The new street sweeper allowed street cleaning to be twice as efficient this last year. This freed manpower for other projects.
  - DPW has five capital items:
    1. A basin cleaning truck replacement, which is to be moved from fy2016 to fy2015. This new truck will now include a high pressure pump, budget estimate is \$180,000. There will be no plow or sander on the truck as there was on the old truck. Aaron Goodale reported that the old truck was not maintained and suffered salt corrosion, causing electrical and other issues. There was discussion of the need for high pressure wash capability.
    2. Wing plow – Budget estimate \$20k – DPW only needs one more wing plow instead of two plows in the capital budget.
    3. Fuel station – Budget estimate \$20,000. The DPW director will provide details when he meets with the committee.
    4. The DPW pickup truck will be transferred to Parks. It is still being used by DPW. A new Ford Explorer is now requested for \$40,000.

There was discussion about whether the DPW Director is entitled to a vehicle or just mileage. This question will be asked of the Town Manager.

5. An Additional plow truck – Budget estimate was \$115,000. The estimate has been revised to \$180,000.

The DPW fy2015 total \$440,000. DPW could defer either of the requested trucks one year. The Town Manager reportedly wants to defer the plow truck.

- No capital requests are expected from the schools, except the gas conversion that has been already approved. No response has been received from the schools on the request for information on capital expenses.
- Fire and Police – Police – Repaving the parking area is in the budget for \$42,000. Window replacement will be deferred to the energy savings proposals. High band radios have not been purchased, the department is still waiting for a regionalization decision. All fy2013 monies were spent. IT maintenance will be in operating budget this year. No cruiser is in the budget for this fiscal year. There are no capital requests from Fire. DPW is still planning to retrofit the old ambulance for use as a DPW vehicle for \$20,000. This expense needs to be added to the DPW budget.
- Library and town hall (Pete Murphy provided an email summary) – The library has four capital items:
  1. One of the boilers has developed a leak and had to be shutdown. The full scope of the problem cannot be determined until the boiler can be opened and inspected. The problem is expected to be a gasket rebuild for \$5,900. If pressure parts need to be replaced the cost would rise to \$13,000. A replacement would be \$33,000. Rebuilding the second boiler at the same time will be considered once the problem has been defined.
  2. Carpet replacement is in the capital budget for fy2016. A change to carpet tiles is being considered to reduce the cost of installation.
  3. The large window in the main staircase has been repaired but the repair is temporary. A window replacement is expected within three years. The budget estimate is \$51,000. There was some discussion

of other alternatives to reduce the cost. These will be raised with the Library Director when she meets with the committee.

4. Sidewalks at the library continue to deteriorate, especially at the street. There are no curbs and the sidewalk edge is crumbling and uneven. The library works on sidewalk problems with the DPW.
- Town Hall is submitting the replacement accounting software as a separate warrant article for \$90,000. This replacement is required because the old software is no longer supported. New office furniture is also required at the new town hall, but this is expected to be an expense from the \$400,000 reserved for improvements at the new town hall.

Other discussion items included:

- The committee does not have an updated capital fund balance. This will be requested from the Town Manager.
- Bidders responding to the town RFP for building energy improvements will have a walk-through on April 2 of all town buildings. Selection of the successful bidder is expected at the end of April.
- The approved expense for the Masonic hall window project will not go forward. No agreement was reached with the Masons on town ownership of the window. The CPC has voted to rescind the approved expense.

The motion to adjourn was made by Chris Berglund and approved at 8:17 pm.  
The next meeting is Tuesday, April 1.