

**IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006**

Present: Chairman Lawrence O'Brien, Selectmen John C. Drobinski, Maureen Valente, Town Manager, and William J. Keller, Jr. arrived at 8:00 p.m.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

At 7:35 p.m., Chairman O'Brien began the meeting by congratulating the Finance Department, Finance Director, Finance Committee, the three cost centers, Minuteman Vocational Regional High School and the Town Manager for their efforts in preparing this year's Town budget.

Chairman O'Brien also reminded everyone that the 5:00 p.m. deadline on February 3rd is approaching for taking out papers for this year's election season. Presently, there are 16 open seats. Interested parties can inquire regarding the process and obtain applications by contacting the Town Clerk's Office. Participation in one of these positions is a great way to be involved with the community.

Town Manager Valente announced the retirement of Rita Farrell who served the employees of the Town of Sudbury admirably for the past 29 years at the Lincoln Sudbury Credit Union. On behalf of the employees of Sudbury and Lincoln, Ms. Valente and Chairman O'Brien thanked her for her service and wished Ms. Farrell well in her future endeavors.

Chairman O'Brien also announced Selectman Keller would be arriving late to tonight's meeting.

Town Trust Funds - FY06 Second Quarter Report

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: Acting as Co-Trustees of Town Donations, to accept the Town Trust Funds FY06 Second Quarter Report, dated December 31, 2005, as presented.

Donations - Fire Department

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept donations to the Sudbury Fire Department: 1) from Mark Rosenthal and Erica Martin of 74 Belcher Drive in the amount of \$75, and 2) from Evelyn & Maurice Beliveau, 36 Milo White Road, Jericho, Vermont, in the amount of \$50, to be deposited in the Fire Department Gift Account and to authorize expenditure by the Fire Chief.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of January 17, 2006.

Auction Permit Agent - Appointment

It was on motion unanimously

Voted: To appoint Mary A. Daniels, 7 Harriman Rd., Hudson, as an Auction Permit Agent, for an indefinite term.

Community Housing Committee - Appointment

The Board reviewed a memo from Chairperson, Amy Lepak, dated January 17, 2006, requesting the appointment of Sheila M. Cusolito. In consideration of Ms. Cusolito's nomination, Chairman O'Brien mentioned she has served as an alternate member of the Committee for the past three or four months, and he is comfortable endorsing her candidacy.

It was on motion unanimously

Voted: To appoint Sheila M. Cusolito, 28 Maple Avenue, as member of the Community Housing Committee, for a term to expire April 30, 2006, to replace JoEllen Samojla who resigned in October.

Community Athletic Field Complex Steering Group - Creation

A brief discussion ensued regarding the need for a steering group to review the Community Preservation Committee proposal for a community athletic field complex. Selectman Keller has been working with the groups involved for the past two months and shared that the Town of Acton's agreement is being used as a model. Acton has done a very good job covering many of the same issues, which will need to be addressed by Lincoln and Sudbury. Town Manager Valente reported the proposal has also been reviewed and supported by Town Counsel.

It was on motion unanimously

Voted: To endorse creation of a steering group, with participation from the Board of Selectmen, to study the Community Preservation Committee proposal to develop a community athletic field complex at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (L-SRHS) and to develop a memorandum of understanding between L-SRHS and the Town. (NOTE: This vote rescinded later in the discussion and re-voted. See below.)

It was also on motion unanimously

Voted: To appoint Selectman William J. Keller, Jr., 31 Churchill Street, Sudbury, to represent the Board of Selectmen as a member of the steering group, which will study the Community Preservation Committee proposal to develop a community athletic field complex at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (L-SRHS) and develop a memorandum of understanding between L-SRHS and the Town.

A second vote was later taken and on motion unanimously

Voted: To strongly endorse creation of a steering group, with participation from the Board of Selectmen, to study the Community Preservation Committee proposal to develop a community athletic field complex at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (L-SRHS) and to develop a memorandum of understanding between L-SRHS and the Town, said agreement to contain language which includes all three artificial turf surfaces.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Town Manager Valente distributed a list of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles dated January 31, 2006, and announced the Minuteman Stabilization Fund Article had been withdrawn at the

request of Minuteman. Ms. Valente also noted the request to withdraw the article to Amend Wayland-Sudbury Septage Facility Agreement had been withdrawn. It will remain on the final numbered list of articles.

It was on motion unanimously

Voted: To approve the list of 2006 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, dated January 31, 2006, as numbered, pursuant to the Board of Selectmen's prior acceptance, and further to approve the withdrawal of the "Minuteman Stabilization Fund," a previous proposed and accepted article from the 2006 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee

Present: Robert N. Jacobson, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Marty Ragones, Finance Committee Co Chair, Debbie Zurka, William E.Kneeland, Jr., Michael E. Grosberg, M. Teresa Billig, members of the Finance Committee.

At 7:45 p.m., Chairman O'Brien welcomed the Finance Committee members. Selectman Drobinski extended his gratitude to the Committee for the many hours given to the deliberation amongst themselves, and with the various cost centers, in the process of preparing this year's Budget.

Mr. Robert Jacobson gave a brief presentation of the Budget which the Committee is hoping to recommend. Mr. Jacobson thanked all who contributed in the Budget preparation process, such as the Board of Selectmen, Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee, the Sudbury School (K-8) Committee, the Finance

Director, the Business Managers from both school systems and the Town Manager. With a very difficult task at hand, the groups worked well together and congenially to achieve a result in the best interest of the Town.

Mr. Jacobson stated that the proposed Budget for this year should support Town services, class sizes and school programs at least at the same level as last year. This Budget can be achieved without a property tax override. There are still a few unknowns which could factor into the final Budget, such as the outcome of collective bargaining negotiations, which is still underway. The Budget figures, as presented, were achieved from a combination of spending cuts and higher projections for revenues. Free cash is anticipated to be \$500,000 higher than anticipated. Another \$200,000 from overlay surplus now available, as well as a small amount of additional State aid, contributed to this increased revenue projection. Unfortunately, the Governor's budget did not recommend much in the way of growth in State aid for Sudbury.

Mr. Jacobson noted this year's Budget, if approved, would translate to a Real Estate Tax increase of approximately \$336 (\$278 from the operating budget and \$58 from debt) for the average homeowner based upon an average home price of \$661,000. This is approximately a 3.75% increase over FY06.

Selectman Drobinski opined that this budget news would be very positive for Sudbury taxpayers, especially the elderly, who have expressed concerns about rising taxes. Chairman O'Brien also noted the efforts of the Tax Collector's Office to find free cash, and the Town Manager's efforts and projects, such as the sales of gravel, all contributed to the outcome of a positive Budget prognosis. Selectmen Keller concurred that the Committee should be very proud of the work it will be presenting to the Town.

Finance Committee Co-chair Martha Ragones announced their next meeting would be March 20, 2006, at Town Hall. The meeting will be a public forum to give the Town the opportunity to be better informed and to meet and communicate with Committee members.

Chairman O'Brien announced Senator Pam Resor has requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen on March 14, 2006, to address some of the issues related to State aid. He extended an open invitation and hopes it will be covered by Channel 8.

Town Manager Valente highlighted the modest increase which has been allocated to the Capital Budget this year. This is an area which has traditionally been hit hard with spending cuts. However, the Committee has made a commitment in the past few years to address these issues in a timely and economical fashion since delays cause more expense.

Recreational Field Naming

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Town Manager Valente, dated January 18, 2006, denoting the benefits of naming the new recreational field on Maynard Road for the Cutting Family who have served the Town of Sudbury in various capacities dating back to the 1600s.

It was also on motion unanimously

Voted: To recommend the new recreational field on Maynard Road be named "Cutting Field," and the Park and Recreation Department should discuss said recommendation with the Cutting family.

Reports from The Board of Selectmen

Selectman Drobinski reported having attended the 60th wedding anniversary celebration for June and Clay Allen held at the Senior Center. The Allens were presented with a plaque and a lovely evening was had by all who attended. Selectman Drobinski stated Sudbury owes the Allens a debt of gratitude for their community service and contributions to the beautification programs of the Town.

Selectman Keller also noted the Allen anniversary celebration was covered well by the local newspaper. Mr. Keller also highlighted a very good article on Steve Meyer, former Conservation Committee member, which appeared in the *Boston Globe West* on Thursday, January 26, 2006. Steve has been waging a strong fight against cancer and welcomes communications from fellow residents. Selectman Keller said the article was very inspirational, and he encouraged everyone who knows Steve to stay in touch even if only via an email message.

Chairman O'Brien reported he attended four D.A.R.E. graduations which were all supported very well by the Community. Also, he and Town Manager Valente met with the Chairman of the Metrowest Group Management Committee to discuss Sudbury's future participation and shared their present dissatisfaction with the fee structure versus services provided.

Chairman O'Brien also attended two meetings last week with some members of the cost centers as well as Finance Committee members to review the FY07 budget.

Mr. O'Brien attended a forum at the R. J. Grey Junior High School in Acton on January 30, 2006, to discuss Acton's Chapter 70 funding reform proposal to raise State funding to a minimum of \$2000 per student. The forum was attended by a cross-section of over 100 Bay State legislators, educators, selectmen, and school committee members who shared the financial challenges the school systems and communities all face. Sudbury was represented at this meeting by Dr. Brackett, two members of the School Committee as well as Chairman O'Brien. Chairman O'Brien further reported the sentiment of those in attendance was that more State aid should come to the Towns.

Senior Volunteer Coordinator - Grant

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the grant in the amount of \$12,000 from The Sudbury Foundation for the continued support of the Senior Volunteer Coordinator position at the Fairbank Senior Center and to authorize expenditure of these funds under the direction of Kristin Kiesel.

Reports from the Town Manager

Town Manager Valente presented a letter to the Board from the Town of Kingston Board of Selectmen, dated January 18, 2006, seeking support from all municipalities in the Commonwealth for legislation which would remove the current cap on Lottery distribution. Governor Romney indicated he will file such a proposal.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To support the request from the Town of Kingston Board of Selectmen, dated January 18, 2006, to petition State legislators to remove the current cap on Lottery distribution.

Ms. Valente concluded her report by recognizing the many Town employees and committee members who have worked diligently to get the FY07 Budget to the very positive point reported earlier this evening. Responding to a question from Chairman O'Brien, Ms. Valente responded that the Finance Committee had concluded their hearings and should be voting this evening.

Executive Session

At 8:43 p.m., Chairman O'Brien announced the close of the regular meeting and it was on roll call unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and collective bargaining proceedings.

Chairman O'Brien announced regular session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk