

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012

Present: Chairman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Vice-Chairman Robert C. Haarde, Selectman John C. Drobinski and Town Manager Maureen G. Valente

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:34 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

At 7:34 p.m., Chairman O'Brien opened the meeting, and he wished everyone a Happy New Year. He referred to two memorandums from the Town Clerk's Office notifying the community of the following information: the Town Election will be held on March 26, 2012, nomination papers for the 13 official open positions must be picked up in-person at the Town Clerk's Office and intentions must be filed by February 3, 2012 (nomination papers for open Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School-related positions are available at the School), census forms will be mailed this week and should be returned within ten days and dog owners must register their dogs prior to April 2, 2012 to avoid a late fee. Chairman O'Brien stated additional information regarding all items is posted on the Town website.

Chairman O'Brien announced the Annual 2012 Town Meeting will begin on Monday, May 7, 2012. The warrant period is open, and all articles for inclusion in the Warrant should be brought to the Selectmen's Office to be stamped no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

Chairman O'Brien encouraged residents to attend the numerous public hearings which will be held throughout January and February regarding the budget and potential Town Meeting articles. He stated the various public meeting schedules are posted on the Town website.

Chairman O'Brien stated the Board will hold a joint meeting with the Wayland Board of Selectmen on January 25, 2012 to discuss issues of mutual interest and to meet with representatives from NStar to discuss service provided during last year's power outages.

Chairman O'Brien stated representatives from the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School Committee and the Superintendent have accepted the Board's invitation to discuss the proposed capital project and changes to its District's Regional Agreement. The discussion is scheduled for the Board's March 7, 2012 meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Chairman O'Brien stated the Police Department informed the Board that a section of Route 20 will be closed from midnight on January 8, 2012 to approximately 4:00 p.m. on January 8th to accommodate the relocation of a building from 407 Boston Post Road to the Prudential Real Estate site.

Reports from the Town Manager

Town Manager Valente thanked the Board's staff, Mary McCormack and Patty Golden, for their outstanding coordination and oversight of the annual renewal of alcoholic beverages licenses' process to comply with State regulations.

Reports from the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Drobinski reminded citizens to check on elderly neighbors during the current cold spell. He also stated he looks forward to the work ahead in 2012.

Vice-Chairman Haarde stated collective bargaining discussions continued with the Sudbury Public Schools through the holidays. He also stated the Route 20 Sewer Advisory Committee and the Route 20 Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee will meet next week.

Chairman O'Brien stated collective bargaining discussions are continuing with Lincoln- Sudbury Regional High School (L-SRHS).

Health Insurance Collective Bargaining - Chapter 32B – Section 21-23 – Next Steps

Present: Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau and Sudbury Labor Counsel Kevin Feeley

At 7:45 p.m., Chairman O'Brien opened a discussion to update the community on next steps for implementation of the State's Chapter 32B section 21-23 in Sudbury to change employee health insurance. He provided a brief summary from the time the Board voted on November 21, 2011, to proceed with implementation of the Chapter 32B section 21-23 in Sudbury to present.

Chairman O'Brien explained the State Legislature changed the laws relative to Chapter 32B, which provides municipalities the local option to not include health benefits and health plan design in the collective bargaining process. He stated the Board voted to adopt the option on November 21, 2011 as a means to save money on the costs of health benefits, preserve jobs and to continue to offer the best services for Sudbury as possible. Chairman O'Brien stated the Board has held several Executive Session discussions to review and analyze pertinent information collected and presented by Town Manager Valente and Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau. After carefully studying the information and figures provided, he stated the Board voted to proceed with the process for making allowable health plan revisions.

Chairman O'Brien noted the Board instructed Town Manager Valente and Assistant Town Manager Bilodeau to meet with the Insurance Advisory Committee so as to advise them of the rigid timeframes set by the State for those towns which choose to move forward with the implementation process. He stated the Board held another Executive Session meeting earlier this evening, and it now has a sense of where the greatest potential for savings is for Sudbury, which is to enroll in the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) plans.

Selectman Drobinski stated he believes it is in the best interest of Sudbury for the Town to continue with the implementation process. He emphasized the Town's employees are valued and that implementing these options will save jobs and keep services at the high level expected by Sudbury taxpayers.

Vice-Chairman Haarde stated no one has taken these deliberations lightly. He stated he is convinced savings can be realized by the Town implementing these options. He added that comparisons of coverage and costs were studied for options outside of the GIC. However, he stated the Board ultimately decided it was best for the Town to avail itself of the benefits derived from the greater scale of the GIC. Vice-Chairman Haarde stated the changes will result in lower premiums for the Town and lower out-of-pocket costs for employees. He believes these changes will allow the Town to provide better services by retaining, and possibly hiring, more employees. Further, he shared his own experience of when his employer made similar changes several years ago regarding health plan options. He stated he believes joining the GIC is in the best interests of all parties, and that he would join himself if he could. Vice-Chairman Haarde highlighted that joining the GIC was a recommendation previously made by the Budget Review Task Force. He acknowledged these types of changes are difficult, but in the end, he hopes everyone will benefit from them.

Chairman O'Brien stated the Board's next step is to instruct Town Manager Valente to inform the Insurance Advisory Committee that the Town will proceed with the implementation process, and to have the public employee committee begin the thirty-day required notice/negotiations with all labor groups.

Selectman Drobinski emphasized the Board looked at these issues very carefully and deliberated with the respect of Sudbury's citizens and its Town employees in mind.

Assistant Town Manager Bilodeau summarized the Town's next steps, including notifying the GIC prior to March 1, 2012 of Sudbury's intentions to join with an effective date of July 1, 2012 and notifying all employees approximately in mid-March of GIC open enrollment periods. She urged employees to review plans for approved physicians, coverage and cost in order to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. Chairman O'Brien suggested coverage and costs for prescriptions should also be reviewed. Ms. Bilodeau stated the Town will assist employees as much as possible throughout the conversion process.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager and Town staff to begin the process to negotiate with the Insurance Advisory Committee and for the Town of Sudbury to start the process of joining the Group Insurance Commission health benefits program, with an effective date of July 1, 2012.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Regular Session minutes of December 19, 2011.

Selectman Drobinski recused himself, as he had done previously, from the vote on the December 6, 2011 Regular Session minutes.

It was also on motion

VOTED: To approve the Regular Session minutes of December 6, 2011, as amended.

Cheri-Anne Cavanaugh Trust Fund - Donation

Vice Chairman Haarde asked to be refreshed on the purpose of the Cheri-Anne Cavanaugh Trust Fund and why the request is submitted by the Board of Health Director Bob Leupold.

Town Manager Valente provided a brief background of the Trust Fund and its connection with the Sudbury United Methodist Church. She noted the funds are expended under the direction of the Town Social Worker, a staff member under the Board of Health.

Selectman Drobinski and Chairman O'Brien stated the genesis of the Trust Fund was very long ago.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept, on behalf of the Town, an \$860 donation from the Sudbury United Methodist Church Rebecca Circle into the Cheri-Anne Cavanaugh Trust Fund, to be expended under the direction of the Town

Social Worker, to counsel Lincoln-Sudbury High School students, and to send a letter of appreciation to the Rebecca Circle.

Green Community Grant – Accept Energy Efficiency Incentive

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept, on behalf of the Town, an energy efficiency incentive check from NStar in the amount of \$3,600, as part of the Green Community Grant, for installation of Digital Controls in the Fairbank Boiler room, where it is estimated that the Town will save 26,000 KWH annually, as requested by the Building Inspector, Jim Kelly.

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) – Board Liaison Appointment

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the Town Manager as the Board of Selectmen liaison to the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) for an indefinite term.

NStar Electric Company Utility Petition – Goodman's Hill

Chairman O'Brien announced this agenda item has been rescheduled to the January 17, 2012 meeting.

Massachusetts Municipal Association – Business Meeting Voting

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager or her designee to vote, on behalf of the Town of Sudbury, for the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) proposals and issues, at the MMA Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

Town Manager Valente noted the MMA issues to be voted are not yet available. She stated the Board would determine its positions on these issues at its January 17, 2012 meeting.

Annual 2012 Town Meeting – Meeting Date

Chairman O'Brien had noted in his opening remarks that the Annual 2012 Town Meeting will begin on Monday, May 7, 2012. He had explained that the warrant period is now open, and all articles for inclusion in the Warrant should be brought to the Selectmen's Office to be stamped in no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, and that additional information is posted on the Town website.

Expression of Gratitude and Sympathy for Bob Gottberg

On behalf of the Town, Town Manager Valente offered condolences to the family and friends of Bob Gottberg. She noted Bob had given his time and talents to many Town projects. Selectman Drobinski noted Bob had been very involved with the Town's septage facility and related matters.

At 8:10 p.m., Chairman O'Brien announced the close of the regular meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk