

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011
EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:45 P.M – 10:12 P.M.)

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

Discretionary Fund - Expenditures

Town Manager Valente reported a listing has been provided to her of residents who have been deemed in need by the Town Social Worker and local authorities for consideration of receiving a monetary holiday gift. She stated the list includes 24 names, and the recommended gifts range between \$75 to \$125. Ms. Valente stated the same process was utilized as in previous years by Town Social Worker Martha Lynn and representatives from Sudbury's Council on Aging, local clergy and Sudbury's Veterans' Agent to determine residents who are experiencing financial difficulties.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: As Co-Trustees of Town Trust Funds, to approve expenditures from the Discretionary Fund as presented, and as further recommended by the Community Social Workers.

Collective Bargaining - Update

Town Manager Valente distributed copies to the Board of the agenda for tomorrow's meeting with the IAC and representatives from each union. She reviewed the agenda and the perspectives which she and Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau intend to present.

Ms. Valente summarized the highlights of the discussion as the FY13 benchmark for savings of \$563,000, which represents plan design changes only. If the Town were to join the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) which is now an option available to it by law, the expected savings would be in the range of \$700,000 to \$1,200,000. She explained the maximum savings of \$1.2 million was calculated by assuming Sudbury joined GIC, and if all members chose the Tufts Health Plan.

Ms. Valente suggested presenting the goal that the Board had previously set: the Town is interested in saving more than the estimated benchmark figure for it to consider not joining GIC. She noted formal talks would need to begin by December 19, 2011 to meet the proposed April 1, 2012 effective date. Ms. Valente further noted informal discussions could continue and run parallel to the formal discussions. She emphasized the importance of presenting the message that the Town's only interest in change is for what is in the best interests of Sudbury and its residents, and that it is not punitive in nature.

Selectman Drobinski stated the agenda looks good, but that it is hard to establish parameters for the discussion at this point.

Vice-Chairman Haarde agreed that the perspective needs to be expressed that teachers are valued so much that the Town wants to pursue every option available to preserve jobs and possibly make new hires. Selectman Drobinski agreed that it must be communicated that any changes considered are for the greater good.

Chairman O'Brien noted the cost centers are able to use realized healthcare-related savings for other purposes, such as avoiding layoffs.

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011
PAGE 2

Vice-Chairman Haarde asked who will attend tomorrow's meeting. Ms. Valente reviewed the invitation list, which totals 24, including IAC members, the president of each union, a few invited guests, Assistant Town Manager Bilodeau and her. She noted that, if and when formal discussions commence, it has been suggested a smaller working group be established. Ms. Valente highlighted future votes would require support from a majority of the covered employees. She stated that School employees in Sudbury represent 71% of the total covered employees, and realistically they will be the determining group for any decisions voted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk