

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

(Meeting can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)

Present: Chair Jennifer Roberts, Vice-Chair Charles Russo, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member William Schineller, Select Board Member Janie Dretler, Town Manager Henry Hayes, Jr.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 7:06 PM, via Zoom telecommunication mode.

Chair Roberts announced the recording of the meeting and other procedural aspects included in the meeting.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Select Board Roll Call: Russo-present, Carty-present, Schineller-present, Dretler-present, Roberts-present

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) public Listening Session; Select Board discussion on ARPA submissions/decision process.

Chair Roberts provided detail regarding ARPA funding for Sudbury.

Chair Roberts stated that all ARPA requests would be reviewed in consideration of specified criteria:

- Public Health
- Economic Insecurities due to COVID-19
- Inequities Exacerbated due to COVID-19
- Education Impacts due to COVID-19
- Long-Term Infrastructure
- Other

Dennis Mannone – Sudbury Park & Recreation

Mr. Mannone presented request for \$100,000 to purchase a vehicle in order to transport Sudbury Public School students from school to Sudbury after-school recreation programs.

Vice-Chair Russo asked if Park & Recreation currently had any such vehicles. Mr. Mannone responded not. Mr. Mannone mentioned the requested vehicle could be used in summer months as well, and could be shared with other Town Departments.

Mr. Mannone confirmed the subject vehicle would accommodate fifteen students.

Board Member Schineller noted that Wild Wednesday transportation was currently supplied by school buses, and suggested that such proposed transportation might be redundant. Mr. Mannone noted that there is a current shortage of bus drivers, and scheduling was problematic.

Board Member Carty asked if the proposed vehicle would be considered a special-rank vehicle. Mr. Mannone responded not, because the vehicle was not classified as a school bus. Board Member Carty asked if existing staff

would be able to drive the subject vehicle. Mr. Mannone detailed that the vehicle would be driven by full-time staff initially; likely himself.

Chair Roberts opined about potential financial shortfall, if proposed transportation was not in place. Mr. Mannone said a new vehicle would be of particular benefit on Wild Wednesdays, and would certainly play a major role with increased participation in afterschool recreation programs.

Vice-Chair Russo asked about a planned vehicle replacement fund. Mr. Mannone confirmed a designated percentage of funds would be saved for maintenance and eventual replacement. Mr. Mannone indicated that the new recreation site at the Fairbank Center would likely increase student participation.

Kay Bell - COD (Commission on Disability) Chair, 348 Old Lancaster Road

Ms. Bell requested ADA website accessibility in the amount of \$35,000 for the scanning of related documents, and \$40,000 for a web developer.

Chair Roberts asked if funding in the amount of \$35,000 might make a significant contribution on the proposed project. Ms. Bell responded that \$35,000 would not satisfy a great amount of documentation, and the ADA Transition Plan for Sudbury recommended the project be completed within five years, not ten years.

Vice-Chair Russo noted that over 60% of HTML (HyperText Markup Language) documents were currently accessible.

Chair Roberts asked if Mark Thompson, Technology Administrator, had confidence that the proposed project was feasible. Ms. Bell responded in the affirmative.

Laura Howrey, 55 Old Post Road – Sudbury Food Pantry Administrator

Ms. Howrey requested two amounts of ARPA funding; \$100,000 for additional food provisions, and \$1 million in order to lease or construct a new facility.

Ms. Howrey mentioned the unprecedented increase in food-challenged families, and negative effects of the inflationary cost of food. She stated the Boston Food Bank has decreased allocations. Ms. Howrey noted that 30% of recipients of the Food Pantry are Sudbury residents.

Ms. Howrey explained that 5,000 square feet of pantry-related space was the ask. Vice-Chair Russo if other pantry sites could share resources/space. Ms. Howrey responded that the mixing of bulk food supplies would be problematic.

Chair Roberts asked about an alternate plan. Ms. Howrey replied that the Pantry could stay in the basement of the existing site, but a sense of dignity and supply was the goal for recipients.

Lisa West, 42 Hawes Road, HOPEsudbury Vice-President

Ms. West requested ARPA funding in the amount of \$50,000 to help with services in such unprecedented times, and \$25,000 for gift cards. Ms. West confirmed that HOPEsudbury currently helps some 60 to 70 Sudbury families.

Ms. West confirmed as of March, HOPEsudbury has used over half of the yearly stipend to serve recipients.

Board Member Schineller inquired about the relationship between HOPEsudbury and Town Social Worker, who also requested gift cards. Ms. West replied that out of district students, and employees are unable to receive any associated help from the Town, so this funding helps.

Board Member Dretler asked if \$65,000 for the HOPEsudbury Fund and \$15,000 for gift cards would be sufficient. Ms. West responded in the affirmative.

Chair Roberts inquired about primary reasons for increased need. Ms. West responded the summary from Town Social Worker attributes evictions and inflationary rates as significant factors.

John Riordan, 12 Pendleton Road – Sudbury Housing Trust

Mr. Riordan requested ARPA funding in the amount of \$300,00 for the emergency rental and mortgage program, which would meet the ARPA guidelines. He stressed the severe housing shortage in Sudbury, the State, and the Nation.

Board Member Carty asked if this request was the same request made by in the Housing Trust in October 2021. Mr. Riordan responded affirmatively. Board Member Carty requested funding request breakdown. Mr. Riordan highlighted; rental assistance - \$125,000; \$75,000 - grant program funding (deferred home maintenance needs); \$75,000 - Mortgage Assistance Program; \$25,000 – consulting services from RHSO (Regional Housing Services Office).

Nuha Muntasser, 193 Dutton Road - Sudbury DEI Co-Chair

Ms. Muntasser requested \$15,000 for needed training of DEI members and the greater community. Ms. Muntasser confirmed this allocation would be a one-time funding allocation.

Town Manager Hayes reminded Select Board Members to consider the value of competing ARPA interests/requests, as well as the immediacy need factor.

Chair Roberts confirmed such DEI request had been an expressed need for some time, and hoped that the Board could make a decision within the month.

William Schineller, 37 Jarman Road

Mr. Schineller (presenting as resident, and not Select Board Member) requested ARPA funding in the amount of \$15,000 for an RFP to initiate a program to continue with the progressive removal of utility/electric overhead wiring and poles.

Board Member Carty thanked Mr. Schineller for bringing this request back to the Board.

Chair Roberts stated the Board would address this proposal further. She expressed her hope that ARPA decisions would be made in the month of April. Town Manager Hayes requested that the Select Board look closely at the opportunity, not only to help right now with requests received, but to advance the end result to provide long-term benefit, long after the persistence of COVID.

Recess

Chair Roberts read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Russo moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Schineller seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Schineller-aye, Roberts-aye

VOTED: To recess for five minutes

Discussion and possible vote regarding Sewataro/Liberty Ledge Property Manager/Camp Operator Agreement Negotiation Update

Vice-Chair Russo detailed progress made with the Camp Operator Agreement Negotiations. Vice-Chair Russo referred to various aspects presented within the “Proposed Contract Adjustment For Camp Sewataro Operator Agreement – Contract Renewal,” dated 3/24/2022.

Vice-Chair Russo provided updates regarding important factors associated with the “Proposed Contract Adjustments for Camp Sewataro Operator Agreement Contract Renewal:”

- Minimum Payment
- Term Length
- Revenue Share
- Number of Campers
- Public Access
- Public Access/ADA Access Improvements
- Full Staff Accounting
- Water Quality Enhancements
- Public Events
- Public Swimming
- Intellectual Property

Chair Roberts indicated she that she would like to see additional financial incentives for the Town, and expressed interest in learning more about the proposed ADA Access Improvement plan.

Chair Roberts suggested the right upper corner of the Sewataro property be made available to residents when Camp is not in session and during the evenings.

Board Member Dretler inquired about aspects identified by the Health Department, and comments from Park & Recreation, as well. Ms. Dretler agreed that resident access to the upper portion of the site would be beneficial, and suggested that dogs being allowed on the property.

Board Member Schineller motioned to fix the term of the Sewataro contract to a five-year term, and to continue negotiations under that assumption. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 2-3; Carty-aye, Dretler-no, Russo-no, Schineller-aye, Roberts-no

VOTED: To not support fixing the term of the Sewataro contract to a five-year term, and to continue negotiations under that assumption.

Mr. Brody explained the IP (Intellectual Property) Proposal.

Resident Daniel Brock, 380 Willis Road, expressed his desire to complete related negotiations by April. He stressed the Town should honor what was agreed to. He explained that Camp management worked to continue

programming for campers and the community during a most difficult time. He noted that the Camp Operator was also able to conduct food pantry activities and movie nights.

Resident Len Simon, 40 Meadowbrook Circle, stated the first thing to remember was this property is town-owned land, and residents should be able to vote to research the best use for the site. He noted the NOI (Notice of Intent) issued by the Conservation Commission could take up to six months to complete.

Resident Bob May, 98 Maynard Farm Road, noted that support of the agreement was reflected by a small number of Sudbury families who take advantage of the site. He suggested that more families should be able to use the property.

Discussion and possible votes on 2022 Annual Town Meeting items: logistics, order and consent calendar; positions on articles; Select Board reports, review draft Annual Town Meeting warrant. Final warrant version to be approved no later than the 4/5/22 meeting.

Chair Roberts motioned to accept edits made to the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vice-Chair Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Schineller-aye, Russo-aye, Roberts-aye

VOTED: To accept edits made to the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Board Members agreed to wait on Article #15 – Funding of Operations for Passive Recreation Requirements of the Sewataro/Liberty Ledge Property, and Article #16 – Funding of a Land Use Consultant for the Sewataro/Liberty Ledge Property.

Board Members expressed preference to wait for Finance Committee votes on Article #22 – Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment Funding, Article #23 – Fairbank Community Center Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment Funding (FF&E), and Article #24 - Additional Funding: Construction of Fire Station No. 2 Housing/Living/Office Area.

Article #34 – On-call Architecture and Engineering “House Doctor” services.

Board Member Dretler motioned to support Article #34 – On-call Architecture and Engineering “House Doctor” services. Vice-Chair Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 2-3; Schineller-no, Carty-no, Russo-aye, Dretler-no, Roberts-aye

VOTED: No to support Article #34 – On-call Architecture and Engineering “House Doctor” services.

The majority indicated the preference to receive more information regarding this project, when a Facilities Director would be in place.

Article #42 – Town-wide Drainage and Roadway Reconstruction

Chair Roberts read in the words of the motion. Board Member Carty moved in the words of the Chair. Vice-Chair Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0-1; Dretler-abstain, Russo-aye, Schineller-aye, Carty-aye, Roberts-aye

Citizen's Comments on items not on agenda

No comments

Consent Calendar:

Vote to accept a COVID-19 test kits grant from the MetroWest Foundation in the amount of \$50,000

Chair Roberts read in the words of the motion. Board Member Dretler moved in the words of the Chair. Vice-Chair Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Carty-aye, Schineller-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye, Roberts-aye

VOTED: To accept a COVID-19 test kits grant from the MetroWest Foundation in the amount of \$50,000

Adjourn

Chair Roberts read in the words of the motion. Board Member Carty moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Dretler seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Carty-aye, Dretler-aye, Schineller-aye, Russo-aye, Roberts-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 PM.