

## SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

(Meeting can be viewed at [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org))

Present: Chair Charles Russo, Vice-Chair Janie Dretler, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts, Interim Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau

Also Present: Attorney Lauren Goldberg, Town Counsel Lee Smith, both of KP Law

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 5:15 PM via Zoom telecommunication mode.

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

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

### **Opening Remarks by Chair**

Chair Russo stated this was a special Select Board meeting to consider possible override for the schools, capital exclusion for the fire pump engine, and any other potential override aspects not previously considered for inclusion on the Annual Town Meeting ballot. He noted that the Board would consider “pro” and “con” arguments at this meeting for advertising.

Chair Russo addressed related policy aspects, and requested an agenda item regarding override/s (fire engine) educational awareness sessions be included on the February 28<sup>th</sup> Select Board agenda. Vice-Chair Dretler offered to work on the educational awareness piece.

### **Reports from Interim Town Manager**

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau confirmed that those wishing to present the “pro” and “con” arguments should contact the Select Board’s Office no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> by 10:00 AM., with final arguments due by Thursday, February 25. Interim Town Manager Bilodeau added that legal counsel would provide the “con” arguments if no one comes forward.

Attorney Goldberg confirmed the related policy dictates that the Select Board will determine who might be most appropriate to represent the “pro” and “con” positions.

### **Reports from Select Board**

#### **Vice-Chair Dretler**

No reports were presented.

#### **Board Member Roberts**

No reports were presented.

Board Member Carty

No reports were presented.

Board Member Kouchakdjian

No reports were presented.

**Public Comments on items not on agenda**

None

**Discussion and vote on possible override (schools) and capital exclusion (fire pumper) questions, as well as any that were not anticipated at the time this meeting is posted, for inclusion on the March 27, 2023 Annual Town Election ballot; and further to direct the Interim Town Manager to provide written notice of such questions to the Town Clerk on February 9, 2023.**

Board Members discussed aspects of the requested overrides. Vice-Chair Dretler stressed that such overrides require serious consideration, and indicated she wants the community to hear the associated concerns and position of the Select Board Members. The School Committee is faced with several drastic measures to meet the essential student needs including significant cuts to school transportation.

Chair Russo confirmed that the Sudbury School Committee put great effort into seeking potential funding sources for much needed education services. He indicated that the override request was reasonable and not far reaching, in consideration of the inflationary factors at this time.

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

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

VOTED: To endorse the addition of an override as requested by the Schools, and the Capital exclusion for the fire engine pumper truck ballot questions for inclusion on the March 27, 2023 Annual Town Ballot, and to further direct the Interim Town Manager to provide written notice of such questions to the Town Clerk on today's date of February 9, 2023; as detailed in the Select Board packet.

Board Member Roberts also acknowledged the importance of the proposed fire truck, the needs and hard work of the Sudbury Fire Department and safety officials, and to provide them with the essential tools. Board Member Kouchakdjian agreed with Board Member Roberts stressing the importance of public safety, the number one issue.

**Adjourn**

Board Member Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn. Vice-Chair Dretler seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

## **SB meeting 2/9/23 Documents & Exhibits**

1. Discussion and vote on possible override (schools) and capital exclusion (fire pumper) questions, as well as any that were not anticipated at the time this meeting is posted, for inclusion on the March 27, 2023 Annual Town Election ballot; and further to direct the Interim Town Manager to provide written notice of such questions to the Town Clerk on February 9, 2023.

### **Attachments:**

- 1.a BALLOT QUESTIONs FINAL DRAFT 2-9-23 for SB Meeting
- 1.b Ballot Question Arguments Timeline March 2023 ATE\_v3