

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

MONDAY MAY 2, 2023

MEETING PRIOR TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONF. ROOM "A"

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

Present: Chair Charles Russo, Vice-Chair Janie Dretler, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Member Lisa Kouchakdjian, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan, Town Counsel Lee Smith

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 6:30 PM.

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: Carty-present, Kouchakdjian-present, Russo-present, Roberts-present, Dretler-present.

Chair Russo stated there were two topics to be considered at this meeting; The Sudbury Police Sergeants Union Agreement with the Town, which was approved in Executive Session; and Article 55 – Control of Firearms Zoning.

“Memorandum of Agreement Between the Town of Sudbury and the Sudbury Police Sergeants Union, MCOP Local 370/A”

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that the Select Board followed the statute with approving the Agreement on April 25, 2023 and ratifying that decision at this meeting. Town Manager Sheehan noted that the Agreement was consistent with the other settled agreements.

Article 55 – Control of Firearms Zoning

Attorney Smith stated that the proposed bylaw would be subject to Attorney General review in consideration if the bylaw would be consistent with the Constitution. He opined that a total ban is likely to be challenged based on the 2nd Amendment, and possibly the 14th Amendment, which would be difficult to challenge and very costly.

Attorney Smith stressed there were no other MA or national municipality where a total prohibition regarding sale of firearms exists. He confirmed that the Attorney General more recently approved a related zoning amendment in the town of Plainville, which limits sale of guns and shooting ranges in certain districts of that town. He mentioned such bylaws in Brookline, Dedham, Plainville and Newton.

Board Members discussed the process involved with adoption of such a bylaw. Each Member expressed their opinion on the topic.

Chair Russo opined that the proposed bylaw needed further specificity and consideration, before he could be comfortable with endorsement.

Vice-Chair Dretler stated if Article 55 did not pass tonight, she was committed to working on the bylaw as soon as possible.

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

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

VOTED: To support Article 55

The motion failed.

Board Member Roberts distributed a drafted statement regarding the Boards rational for not supporting the Article, as presented. Board members provided edit to the statement. Further Board discussion took place.

Vote to Recess Meeting

Chair Russo motioned to recess the Select Board meeting at 7:02 PM, and resume at Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 PM. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To recess the Select Board meeting at 7:02 PM, and resume at Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 PM in the Auditorium.