

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2023

7:00 PM - ZOOM

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

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

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 7:02 PM, via Zoom telecommunication mode.

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

Call to Order

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

Opening remarks by Chair

- Thanked staff, sponsors, artisans and all volunteers for their work at a great Holiday Village event on December 2.
- Chabad sponsoring a Menorah lighting event Thursday, Dec. 7 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in front of Town Hall with entertainment and refreshments
- Congratulated Town Moderator Cate Blake, who was recognized by the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce for her outstanding public service as Town Moderator

Town Managers Report

- Thanked all involved in the Holiday Village Event, particularly to hosts, volunteers and organizers
- Working on the FY25 Budget with revised guidance distributed yesterday and will continue working on the Capital Budgets over the next couple of months in preparation of presenting to the Select Board and the Finance Committee on January 31, 2024
- State is beginning consideration regarding the first steps involved in the planning FY25 budget planning, including coming up with a consensus revenue estimate for the Town's general government aid – Ch. 70 school aid, veterans aid, library aid to be released in July 2025

Select Board Reports

Vice-Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian

- Thanked all involved with the successful Holiday Village Event
- Park & Recreation is seeking a new member and additional information is on the Town website

Board Member Jennifer Roberts

- Thanked all involved in the Holiday Village Event, especially those who organized the Event and the many participants
- Extended blessings to all with commencing of Hanukkah on December 7th, especially at such a difficult time for the local Jewish communities
- Finance Committee conducting a Budget hearing with SPS tonight, which can be reviewed on SudburyTV

Board Member Charles Russo

- Thanked all who organized and participated in the Holiday Village Event
- The US Dept of Agriculture updated the Hardiness Zone maps (1st update in more than a decade); now MA falls into Zone 6 and 7 (used to be Zone 5) in consideration of climate change and associated challenges for the State
- Comprehensive Master Plan discussion focusing on updates, and planning took place at last Planning Board meeting in order to advance the Master Plan
- Mentioned additional holiday events in Sudbury, including the Menorah lighting

Board Member Daniel Carty

- Congratulated those who organized and hosted the Holiday Village Event, as well as the participants
- Looking forward to the Menorah lighting December 7th at 5:00 PM
- Housing Production Visioning Forum to take place December 13th at Town Hall at 7:00 PM
- Announced he and Board Member Roberts will be conducting Select Board Office Hours on December 14th at Noon via Zoom
- MWRA presenting their feasibility study regarding expansion of their services in MetroWest on December 19th at 8:30 AM
- SPS commencing with FY24 budget discussions, meeting twice a week until Christmas; and recommended the Select Board discuss related budget topics at their meeting on December 19, 2023

Chair Dretler mentioned that she viewed the SPS meeting last evening with discussion regarding the opening of the Fairbank Community Center and the occupancy of SPS staff in the Center.

Public comments

Resident Radha Raman Gargeya, 120 Powder Mill Road, expressed appreciation for advancing the anniversary celebrations associated with the Battle of Old North Bridge and hopes that the Town continues to recognize Sudbury's story.

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, inquired about funding from MA Secretary of Education. He suggested conducting a related Q & A session.

Resident Dianna Warren, 32 Old Framingham Road - Unit 30, confirmed she sent an email to the Select Board regarding the 250th Anniversary of Sudbury's involvement with the Battle of Old North Bridge and associated related celebrations to be the charge of an appointed committee. She recommended the Board not rush the process and encouraged the Board to reach out to knowledgeable, expert individuals. She suggested not limiting the scope

of duties and not be constrained regarding the composite of the membership. She exemplified the Town of Concord's process.

Consent Calendar

#1 - Vote to call Annual Town Meeting for Monday, May 6, 2024, 7:30 PM, and open Warrant. Articles due to Select Board/Town Manager's office no later than 4:30 PM, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve Consent Calendar item #1. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To call Annual Town Meeting for Monday, May 6, 2024, 7:30 PM, and open Warrant. Articles due to Select Board/Town Manager's office no later than 4:30 PM, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024

Annual Tax Classification hearing - In accordance with General Laws Ch. 40, sec. 56, as amended, to determine the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate. In attendance will be the Board of Assessors (Joshua M. Fox, Esq., Chair; Trevor A. Haydon, Liam J. Vesely), Cynthia Gerry, Director of Assessing, and presenting will be Harald Scheid and Alex Cervone, Principal Regional Assessors.

Present: Joshua Fox, Chair of Board of Assessors, Trevor Haydon, Cynthia Gerry, Director of Assessors, Harald Scheid and Alex Cervone

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to open the Annual Tax Classification hearing - In accordance with General Laws Ch. 40, sec. 56, as amended, to determine the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To open the Annual Tax Classification hearing - In accordance with General Laws Ch. 40, sec. 56, as amended, to determine the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate

Town Manager Sheehan outlined the tax classification process, adding that the disclosure period concludes today; final certifications would not be presented today and voting on this aspect would take place at the Select Board meeting of December 12, 2023.

Attorney Fox presented proposed residential exemptions, senior means exemption, and small commercial exemption. Board members inquired about related considerations.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned not to adopt a Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2024. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: Not to adopt a Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2024

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption for Fiscal Year 2024. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: Not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption for Fiscal Year 2024

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned in accordance with Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2012, the total FY2024 cap on the exemptions granted by the Means Tested Senior Tax Exemption shall be .5% (half of one percent) of the residential property tax levy. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: In accordance with Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2012, the total FY2024 cap on the exemptions granted by the Means Tested Senior Tax Exemption shall be .5% (half of one percent) of the residential property tax levy

Mr. Scheid presented the “Fiscal Year 2024 Classification Hearing, December 5, 2023,” which included The Fiscal Year 2024 Levy Limit and Amount to be Raised:

- Assessed Valuations
- Aggregate Value Increases by Major Property Class
- Shifting the Tax Burden
- Tax Rates and Options
- Tax Impacts
- Voting a Tax Shift Factor
- Optional Exemptions

Board Member Russo motioned The Select Board of Sudbury votes in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax rates and sets the Residential Factor at 0.9698, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.41, pending certification of the Town’s annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: The Select Board of Sudbury votes in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax rates and sets the Residential Factor at 0.9698, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.41, pending certification of the Town’s annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to continue the Tax Classification hearing to the Select Board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7:30 PM. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To continue the Tax Classification hearing to the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Discussion of 250th anniversary celebration of Sudbury's involvement in the Battle of Old North Bridge, April 19, 1775

Chair Dretler acknowledged anniversary celebrations would include all the associated events in 1775 and 1776.

Board members provided comments and edits to the "Town of Sudbury – Sudbury 250 Committee" draft document.

Topics considered included: Committee membership, charge-mission, duties, residency of members, and periodic updates from the Committee to the Select Board.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to establish a committee to plan Sudbury's events, marking the 250th Anniversary and to request appropriation of funds at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting to support such activities. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To establish a committee to plan Sudbury's events, marking the 250th Anniversary and to request appropriation of funds at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting to support such activities

Vote to review and possibly approve open session minutes of 10/23/23 and 11/14/23

10/23/23 Minutes

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the open session minutes of 10/23/23, as edited. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the open session minutes of 10/23/23, as edited

11/14/23 Minutes

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the open session minutes of 11/14/23, as edited. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the open session minutes of 11/14/23, as edited

Executive Session

Vote to close open session, and enter executive session to review, approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) (Purpose 7), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to close open session, and enter executive session to review, approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) (Purpose 7), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g). Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To close open session, and enter executive session to review, approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) (Purpose 7), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

SB Meeting 12/5/23 - Documents & Exhibits

2. Annual Tax Classification hearing - In accordance with General Laws Ch. 40, sec. 56, as amended, to determine the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate. In attendance will be the Board of Assessors (Joshua M. Fox, Esq., Chair; Trevor A. Haydon, Liam J. Vesely), Cynthia Gerry, Director of Assessing, and presenting will be Harald Scheid and Alex Cervone, Principal Regional Assessors.

Attachments:

- 2.a TAX CLASSIFICATION HRG 2023
- 2.b SudburyTaxClassificationHearingDocument_FY2024 12 4

4. Discussion of 250th anniversary celebration of Sudbury's involvement in the Battle of Old North Bridge, April 19, 1775.

Attachments:

- 4.a DRAFT Sudbury 2025 Committee v3

5. Vote to review and possibly approve open session minutes of 10/23/23 and 11/14/23.

Attachments:

- 5.a SB_draft1_10.23.23_min.for.review
- 5.b SB_draft1_11.14.23_min.for_review

6. Vote to close open session, and enter executive session to review, approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) (Purpose 7), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).

Attachments:

- 6.a BOS ES 8-20-15_for_review
- 6.b BOS ES 10-26-16_minutes_for_review
- 6.c BOS 05-22-17_ES_minutes_for_review