

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY JANUARY 9, 2024

7:00 PM - ZOOM

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

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

Absent: Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 7:00 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, Dretler-present

**Opening remarks by Chair**

- Thanked the Dept. of Public Works for keeping the roads safe during the recent storms

**Reports from Town Manager**

- Thanked DPW, Sudbury Police and Fire, EMTs and utility partners including Eversource for power restoration efforts during the last storm
- Thanked residents for their patience during the recent storms
- Mentioned the Governor had evoked modest budget cuts
- Confirmed ongoing work regarding the Sudbury operating and fiscal budget for FY25
- Governor will be unveiling the budget next week, as well as local aid to cities and towns

**Select Board Reports**

**Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian**

- Thanked DPW for efforts during recent storms
- Wished all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024

**Board Member Carty**

- Wished everyone a happy 2024
- State Transportation aid has been reduced, affecting ear marked funding for the Go Sudbury! program

**Board Member Russo**

- Board Member officially joined the Select Board meeting at 7:07 PM; Russo-present
- Extended thanks to DPW for their contributions during the storms
- Advised residents to check storm drains in anticipation of bad weather
- He thanked the Goodnow Library for stocking “hot spot” devices for patrons; especially during utility outages such as he is experiencing currently at his home

### **Public comments**

Resident Kay Bell, 348 Old Lancaster Road, wished all a healthy and happy 2024. She commented about the vocational high schools in the area, and stressed that the vocational schools offer many competitive career offerings such as early childhood education, veterinary preparatory training, web design, biotech, the trades, cosmetology, engineering and food preparatory training. She thanked the Board for working to get Sudbury students into a vocational school.

Resident Len Simon, 40 Meadowbrook Circle, requested that the memo he submitted regarding gun safety be included in tonight’s Select Board meeting documentation. He commented about related Town zoning maps discussed at the Select Board meeting in December, 2023; and stated that such discussions might actually encourage and attract gun shop operators to Sudbury. He strongly recommended the Board consider the formation of a firearms subcommittee as well as a firearms public forum.

Resident Jack Ryan, 155 Ford Road, mentioned activities taking place on the BFRT in Concord and Acton; and hoped such activities on the BFRT in Sudbury would not be influenced by a gun shop in the proximity of the trail. He emphasized that the Select Board take time to consider this matter and to conduct a public open session on the topic.

### **Consent Calendar**

**#1 - Vote to accept a donation of \$5000 from the Jean Lind Teen Center to be used solely for Park and Recreation Teen programs.**

**#2 - Vote to approve execution by the Town Manager of an Agreement between the Town and Woodard and Curran in the amount of \$35,000 for Engineering Consulting Services to assist the Town of Sudbury with the APWA Self-Assessment Improvement and Evaluation Phase set forth in Appendix A dated November 29 2023, to be completed in its entirety by December 31, 2024, unless otherwise extended; and to act on anything relative thereto.**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 and 2, as listed on the Select Board meeting agenda of 1/9/24. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar Items 1 and 2, as listed on the Select Board meeting agenda of 1/9/24.

### **Vocational Education update**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian confirmed that she and Town Manager Sheehan recently visited Nashoba Valley Technical High School. She added the vocational schools have experienced an increase in enrollment and are currently not accepting new students.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian mentioned she would maintain contact with the five vocational schools on the Select Board list as well as monitoring new technical school programs, additions or construction.

Town Manager Sheehan noted that vocational education high schools are very much in demand and offer many “cutting edge” career programs. He agreed it was most challenging to secure a permanent vocational school partner. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed he has been in communication with administrators from these schools and will continue the search.

Board Member Carty asked if all of the five listed vocational schools had been contacted and if we have been told they are not accepting Sudbury as a member of their district. Town Manager Sheehan responded in the affirmative.

Board Member Carty asked how many Sudbury students had been unable to secure vocational education placement.

Board Member Russo stressed the importance of the vocational education topic, and thanked Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian for drafting the Vocational Education memorandum. He recommended that written communications from the five vocational schools be included in the Select Board packet, and was also interested in knowing the number of Sudbury students who were not admitted to a vocational education school. Chair Dretler confirmed that all related informed being requested would be distributed to the Board Members.

Board Member Carty recommended that another Vocational education update be provided to the Board in approximately six months.

### **Fair Share Act update**

Town Manager Sheehan stated the Fair Share Act went into effect last year and supports areas of Education (Ch. 90) and infrastructure (particularly transportation). He provided specifics about the Sudbury allocation of Fair Share funds, acknowledging that this additional revenue is useful for the Town.

Board Member Carty asked if any additional direct payments to the town should be expected. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that was the case. Town Manager Sheehan stated he wasn't sure but hopeful, then added any education payments were likely to come in the form of grants.

Board Member Carty also asked should these funds be viewed on top of budget or in place of budget, and Town Manager Sheehan replied this was a potential opportunity to lower taxes.

Board Member Russo asked if the Fair Share allocation might provide a new baseline for budget planning. Town Manager Sheehan indicated that the allocation would not replace the Chapter 90 funding.

**Discussion of Sudbury General Bylaws, Article XXV, Capital Planning**

Town Manager Sheehan addressed the Sudbury capital planning process and suggested that the Board review the DLS (Division of Local Services) related recommend presented to the Board in 2020. Town Manager Sheehan mentioned the importance of eliminating inefficiencies.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian agreed with promoting planning efficiencies, and wished to be respectful of Town volunteers as well. Chair Dretler concurred that Board Members should re-examine the DLS report.

Board Member Carty recommended working through the current budget and let Town Manager Sheehan get one full budget cycle under his belt before making any capital planning modifications.

**Update on status and next steps on the proposed firearms business use zoning bylaw**

Present: Planning and Community Development Director Adam Burney, Town Counsel Lee Smith

Town Manager Sheehan reviewed edits made to the existing zoning bylaw.

Mr. Burney explained there were two possible locations in the industrial district which might be suitable for firearms business zoning. He referenced his related memo to Town Manager Sheehan dated December 28, 2023.

Board Member Russo asked about the two possible locations. Attorney Smith indicated that he wanted to examine the options and zoning aspects in further detail, before presenting any type of recommendation to the Board. Board Member Russo detailed that identification of such location and Special Permitting would help close the door to gun shop appeal and would help protect public safety. Board Member Carty agreed that if the Town decides not to take any action on this matter, gun shops could open without proper safeguards.

After robust discussion, Board Members agreed not to act or vote tonight in consideration of Board Member Roberts' absence.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian expressed her concerns about creating a firearms zoning bylaw at this time. Attorney Smith commented that the Town could be sued in any circumstance. Board Member Russo mentioned that he would be fine to IP (Indefinitely Postpone) this topic at any time, but in the interests of protecting the public it might be wise to act sooner than later.

Board Member Russo motioned to continue the firearms zoning discussion. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To continue the firearms zoning discussion

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian suggested the Board consider having a Town Forum to consider such a firearms article.

Town Manager Sheehan recommended specificity at the next meeting, including consideration of property setbacks and that Attorney Smith present 250' setbacks within the Sudbury ID District.

Chair Dretler confirmed the topic would be on the Select Board agenda for the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Discussion on potential 2024 Annual Town Meeting articles to be submitted by the Select Board, and also authorize the Town Manager to submit articles on behalf of the Select Board.**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to authorize Town Manager Sheehan to submit Annual town Meeting articles on behalf of the Select Board. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To authorize Town Manager Sheehan to submit Annual Town Meeting articles on behalf of the Select Board

Board Member Carty suggested using \$17,000 of ARPA funding to match the grant for the Catch Connect transportation program. Chair Dretler agreed to put that item on the Select Board meeting agenda for the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Members suggested conducting an ARPA update/status check in the near future.

**Discuss and possible vote to approve proposed 2024 Municipal Update Newsletter Schedule of Deadlines for Select Board assignment, submission and approval**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the proposed 2024 Municipal Update Newsletter Schedule of Deadlines for Select Board assignment, submission and approval. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To approve the proposed 2024 Municipal Update Newsletter Schedule of Deadlines for Select Board assignment, submission and approval

**Vote to review and possibly approve open session minutes of 11/28/23, 12/5/23 and 12/12/23**

11/28/23

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the Select Board open session minutes of 11/28/23, as edited. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To approve the Select Board open session minutes of 11/28/23, as edited

12/5/23

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the Select Board open session minutes of 12/5/23, as edited. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To approve the Select Board open session minutes of 12/5/23, as edited

12/12/23

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the Select Board open session minutes of 12/12/23. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To approve the Select Board open session minutes of 12/12/23

**Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn the Select Board Meeting. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:25 PM.

## **1/9/24 SB Meeting - Documents & Exhibits**

2. Vote to approve execution by the Town Manager of an Agreement between the Town and Woodard and Curran in the amount of \$35,000 for Engineering Consulting Services to assist the Town of Sudbury with the APWA Self-Assessment Improvement and Evaluation Phase set forth in Appendix A dated November 29 2023, to be completed in its entirety by December 31, 2024, unless otherwise extended; and to act on anything relative thereto.

**Attachments:**

2.a 2023.11.29 Sudbury APWA Services Proposal

3. Vocational Education update

**Attachments:**

3.a SB status report VocEd\_2024-01-09 AJS-LK

4. Fair Share Act update

**Attachments:**

4.a MassDOT Fair Share Amendment awarded to Sudbury 12.11.23

4.b Fair Share MMA 2023-08-09

4.c MassDOT FY24 Fair Share Educ and Transport Funds and Prequalification Reminders

5. Discussion of Sudbury General Bylaws, Article XXV, Capital Planning

**Attachments:**

5.a CapitalBylaw memo 2024-01-09v2

5.b Capital bylaw - current

5.c Sudbury\_Capital\_Report\_DLS

6. Update on status and next steps on the proposed firearms business use zoning bylaw (continued from 12/19/23 meeting).

**Attachments:**

6.a Modified\_Setback\_Analysis\_FAU\_Bylaw\_232812

6.b Firearms Bylaw AJS 2024-01-04

8. Discuss and possible vote to approve proposed 2024 Municipal Update Newsletter Schedule of Deadlines for Select Board assignment, submission and approval.

**Attachments:**

8.a SB Newsletter 2024 Schedule

9. Vote to review and possibly approve open session minutes of 11/28/23, 12/5/23 and 12/12/23.

**Attachments:**

9.a SB\_draft\_11.28.23\_min\_for\_reviewdocx

9.b SB\_draft\_12.05.23\_min\_for\_review

9.c SB\_draft\_12.12.23\_min\_for\_review

10. At the close of Open Session, vote to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Civilian Dispatchers) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares (exception 3).

**Attachments:**

10.a DRAFT Dispatch agrt 12.29.23