

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2025

7:00 PM

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

ZOOM Meeting

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

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 7:01 PM, via Zoom telecommunication mode.

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

Call to Order

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

Opening Remarks from Chair

- Extended best wishes to former Fire Chief John Whalen and to recently appointed Fire Chief Tim Choate

Reports from Town Manager

- Mentioned the swearing in ceremony of Fire Chief Tim Choate yesterday; Chief Choate has been with the Fire Department for many years
- Wished Chief Whalen the best
- Mentioned that the Governor released the Municipal Empowerment Bill; potential revenue opportunities for the Town in FY27 and beyond
- Proposal regarding permanent remote/hybrid meeting law via Zoom being considered by Legislators
- Continued monitoring of Federal budget for certain areas of funding; Sudbury might be looking at a million dollars in funding over the next two years

Reports from Select Board

Member Dan Carty

- Extended best wishes to former Fire Chief John Whalen, and to current Fire Chief Tim Choate

Member Janie Dretler

- Commented that she will miss Chief Whalen and is looking forward to working with Chief Tim Choate

Member Charlie Russo

- Acknowledged Black History Month; Sudbury Historical Society scheduling a related event on Thursday, February 6

Member Lisa Kouchakdjian

- Extended her best wishes to former Fire Chief Whalen and newly appointed Fire Chief Choate
- She attended the MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination) this morning; discussion topics included new subregional group formation focusing on various types of housing trusts and how related CPA funding might be used

Public Comments on items not on agenda

Resident Karen Arpino, 51 Colonial Road, spoke of the increased expense associated with adoption of the proposed energy stretch code. She stated that many MA communities have repealed this cost-prohibitive initiative.

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, thanked Chair Roberts and Mr. Carty for having a good conversation with him at the last Select Board hours session. He mentioned a possible million-dollar federal grant and mentioned best interest-rate opportunities for the Town.

Consent Calendar

As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, vote to approve a new Common Victualler License for Zayith Tapas and Bar, 621 Boston Post Road, as requested in an application dated January 17, 2025, subject to conditions put forth by the Health Department, Fire Department and Building Department

Vote to accept the Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Service FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant for \$11,745.99. These funds will be used to purchase replacement firefighting gear for three (3) members of the Fire Department

Mr. Russo stated that the Town was “ahead of the curve” with securing the Safety Equipment Grant and congratulated the Fire Department on securing such funding.

Mr. Carty motioned to approve Consent Calendar items #1 and #2, as presented in tonight’s meeting packet. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar items #1 and #2, as presented in tonight’s meeting packet

Vote to accept 2025 Annual Town Meeting articles submitted by Jan. 31, 2025 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form. Also vote on order of articles, and designate articles for the consent calendar. Also vote to refer any Zoning Bylaw amendments and street acceptance articles to the Planning Board

Board Members agreed to consider agenda items #3 and #4 at the same time.

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting warrant articles

Vocational Education Article

Ms. Kouchakdjian commented that the proposed Vocational Education Article should not be included in the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant until more information is gathered. Ms. Kouchakdjian stated that she would be willing to share continued updates with the Board and requested that the Board Members agree to keep communication lines open with Mr. Jeff Stulin, Chair of the Minuteman School Committee. Chair Roberts stated that such communication should continue with Mr. Stulin.

Board Members agreed that eliminating the Vocational Education Article at this time was a wise idea.

Petition Article: Modify bylaw C. 52

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that signatures were not brought forth regarding the article, so it would be eliminated from the Warrant Article listing.

Board Members discussed proposed Town Meeting Articles, including:

- Article 2 – FY25 Budget Adjustments – Mr. Carty noted that this article was historically not included on the Town Meeting Consent Calendar
- Article 9 - Unpaid Bills of Prior Fiscal Years – It was also noted that this article was historically not included on the Town Meeting Consent Calendar
- Article 12 – FY26 Stabilization Fund – Members recognized the requirement of a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting
- Article 15 – Create Pension Stabilization Fund – Members reviewed the article, which required a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting
- Article 19 – Establish Electric Vehicle Revolving Fund – Mr. Carty recommended the article title be reviewed, adding that such approval at Town Meeting required a majority vote
- Article 23 – Amend General Bylaws C.5, Finance Committee – Board Members mentioned that a majority vote was required
- Article 35 – Atkinson Pool Renovation Additional Funds – Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting was required
- Article 36 – SPS – School Classroom Instructional Equipment Replacement; Board Members discussed associated tax levy funding
- Article 40 – SPS-Haynes Elementary Roof Replacement and Repair – Members noted that the Article would be included on the November Election Warrant
- Article 41 – SPS-Nixon Elementary Roof Replacement and Repair – Members noted that the Article would be included on the November Election Warrant
- Article 42 – Sudbury 250th Committee Funds – Board Members acknowledged that a majority voted would be needed for such funding
- Article 47 – Community Preservation Act Fund – Sudbury Housing Authority Allocation – Mr. Carty commented that this article should not be included on the Town Meeting Consent Calendar and required its own discussion time
- Article 57 – Walkway Funding and Taking – Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that a two-thirds vote was needed

Chair Roberts stated there was time for the Select Board to make article changes, if needed. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that a final vote could be made by the end of March.

Mr. Russo commented about:

- The Stabilization Fund Article
- Status of the Open Space Master Plan item
- Language review for the Atkinson Pool Article
- The need for further review of School Capital Articles (#38 – #41)

Town Manager Sheehan detailed that many of the Town Warrant Articles had been reviewed by Town Counsel and consideration of added article modifications would be sent to Town Counsel, as well.

Mr. Carty motioned to acknowledge receipt of 2025 Annual Town Meeting Articles submitted by 1/31/25 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form, as outlined on Select Board Meeting packet pages 20 & 21, less Article item #28. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To acknowledge receipt of 2025 Annual Town Meeting Articles submitted by 1/31/25 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form, as outlined on Select Board Meeting packet pages 20 & 21, less Article item #28

Town Manager Sheehan acknowledged efforts made by Select Board Executive Assistant Patty Golden, to have all articles prepared in a timely manner, given time limitations.

Discussion on Sudbury Public School Committee vacancy and next steps moving forward

Chair Roberts stated there were no related updates at this time. She hoped to discuss the topic at the next Select Board meeting.

Discuss topics to be assigned for Winter 2025 Select Board Newsletter

Board Members discussed topic preferences:

Lisa Kouchakdjian – Museum at the Parsonage and interview someone from the Historical Society

Dan Carty – Transportation Update

Janie Dretler – Interview with DPW Director

Charlie Russo – Atkinson Pool status, or Municipal Empowerment Act

Jen Roberts – Sudbury CPA

Town Manager Sheehan noted that Newsletter Articles must be submitted by 2/24/25 and be approved by 3/11/25.

7. Upcoming agenda items

2/4/25 Meeting:

- Acceptance of Town Meeting Articles
- School Committee Vacancy
- Vocational Warrant Article update/detail, if possible
- Chair Roberts recommended the Executive Session meeting be postponed to the next Select Board Meeting.

Future Agenda Items

- Town Manager Goals update - early May
- Code of Conduct feedback

Adjourn

Ms. Dretler motioned to adjourn the Select Board Meeting, enter into Executive Session and not return to open session. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Meeting, enter into Executive Session and not return to open session

There being no further business, the Select Board meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

SB Meeting 2/4/25 - Documents & Exhibits

1. As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, vote to approve a new Common Victualler License for Zayith Tapas and Bar, 621 Boston Post Road, as requested in an application dated January 17, 2025, subject to conditions put forth by the Health Department, Fire Department and Building Department.

Attachments:

- 1.a Zayith Common Victualler Application_SB
- 1.b Department Feedback_Zayith CV_2025

2. Vote to accept the Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Service FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant for \$11,745.99. These funds will be used to purchase replacement firefighting gear for three (3) members of the Fire Department.

Attachments:

- 2.a FY25 Governor's Award Letters_Part249
- 2.b FY25 DFS Award Letter_Part249
- 2.c FY25 FFE Grant Executed Contract_Sudbury

3. Vote to accept 2025 Annual Town Meeting articles submitted by Jan. 31, 2025 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form. Also vote on order of articles, and designate articles for the consent calendar. Also vote to refer any Zoning Bylaw amendments and street acceptance articles to the Planning Board.

Attachments:

- 3.a 2025 ATM_Articles
- 3.b Articles combined 1 thru 58

4. Discussion of Annual Town Meeting warrant articles

Attachments:

- 4.a Voc Ed emails LK

6. Discuss topics to be assigned for Winter 2025 - Select Board newsletter.

Attachments:

- 6.a SB Newsletter Previous Topics_01.29.25
- 6.b SB Newsletter Previous Topics_01.29.25

7. Upcoming agenda items

Attachments:

- 7.a Upcoming agenda.items 02.04.25