IN SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY MAY 5, 2026

6:30 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM A

LSRHS

390 LINCOLN ROAD, SUDBURY, MA 01776

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

Present: Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Dan Carty, Select Board Member Charles Russo, Select Board Member Radha Gargeya, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Victor Garofalo, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan, Town Counsel Lee Smith

Call to Order

Chair Kouchakdjian called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Opening Remarks by Chair

Chair Kouchakdjian stated she had no additional opening remarks.

A. Miscellaneous

1. Authorize the Town Manager to sign documents on behalf of the Town for the Nixon and Haynes roof projects under the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Accelerated Repair Program, including, but not limited to, the Project Funding Agreement and Project Budget

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that the Select Board had previously authorized signatures regarding Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) documents, noting that the MSBA did add related language and requested that he, the Sudbury Town Manager, sign related documents on behalf of the Town regarding the Nixon and Hayes roof projects. Town Manager Sheehan added that such documents would also be signed by the SPS Superintendent and the Chair of the SPS School Committee.

Board Member Carty motioned to authorize the Town Manager to sign documents on behalf of the Town for the Nixon and Haynes Roof Projects under the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Accelerated Repair Program, including, but not limited to, the Project Funding Agreement and Project Budget. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to sign documents on behalf of the Town for the Nixon and Haynes Roof Projects under the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Accelerated Repair Program, including, but not limited to, the Project Funding Agreement and Project Budget

2. Discussion regarding solar canopy articles 33, 34, and 35

Chair Kouchakdjian noted that this item was being included on this evening's Select Board meeting agenda, per request of Select Board Member Carty.

Board Member Carty stated that he had concerns about actions associated with solar canopy installation Warrant articles adding that political signage was involved which could reflect Conflict of Interest – MGL Ch. 55 – Disclosure on Campaign Expenditures and Contributions and State Ethics Law (Conduct of Public Officials and Employees).

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that he had no knowledge of such activity, and once he was aware of such action, associated signs were removed with haste.

Board Member Carty asked if the Town would be viewed as violating mentioned State Laws and recommended that Town officials present at Town Meeting this evening what did happen in efforts to be totally transparent.

Town Manager Sheehan responded that if the topic came up at tonight's Town Meeting session, he or someone else would present what happened. Town Manager Sheehan stated that the Select Board is not the judge of "conflict of interest law or office of Political Campaign Law; he confirmed the Open Meeting Law (OML) and Public Records Law have due process, and the Select Board is not part of that process in this case.

Chair Kouchakdjian asked Town Counsel if the Town would be in jeopardy by presenting the solar canopy Articles at Town Meeting this evening. Town Counsel Smith responded that the Public Interest Law – Ch 268A is being examined and the Select Board is not at risk and persons who might possibly be at risk are "those who may have implicated or violated the Conflict-of-Interest Law." He added that Ethics violation – Ch. 55 did not apply here as it applies to elections, and this aspect is in connection with Town Meeting.

Board Member Carty asked about the use of the solar revolving fund for the purchase of political signs. Finance Director Garofalo detailed that the Town Auditor's Office was contacted and that office recommended taking the related expense out of the solar account and putting the deposit of funds into the solar account. He confirmed that the Facilities Director's Office has the associated procurement card.

Chair Kouchakdjian and Town Counsel agreed that the matter was not under Select Board purview and not condoning policy and law and matters of personnel are not a purview of the Select Board, but is the purview of the Town Manager. Board Member Carty stated that he had no problem with the manner in which the Town Manager was directing Staff and that he just wanted to advance transparency in every way possible and let the public know that the issue was rectified.

Board Member Russo commented that the event was unfortunate, but a timely response was provided. He added that he was pleased to hear that related Staff training would take place in order to avoid any future mistakes.

Board Member Gargeya and Chair Kouchakdjian agreed with Board Member Russo that the mistake was recognized, immediate action was taken to rectify the situation, and related training will take place. Town Counsel Smith reiterated that this matter is not a political finance matter and is regarded as a possible Conflict of Interest matter, likely unintentional.

Vice-Chair Dretler joined the Select Board meeting at approximately 6:20 PM.

3. Discussion regarding May 20th Special Town Meeting Articles

Chair Kouchakdjian stated that the matter discussed tonight would likely be included on May 19, 2026 Select Board Agenda.

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that the 5/20/26 Special Town Meeting Warrant was closed.

Board Members acknowledged that Special Town Meeting petitioners would not be presenting to the Select Board at the upcoming May 19, 2026 Select Board Meeting.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned that the Select Board support Special Town Meeting Article 1 – the Bottle Bill. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

> It was on motion 4-1; Gargeya-aye, Dretler-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-no, Kouchakdjian-aye
>
> VOTED: That the Select Board support Special Town Meeting Article 1 – the Bottle Bill

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned that the Select Board support Special Town Meeting Article 3 – Sudbury recall vote article. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

Chair Kouchakdjian stated she was not opposed to a recall provision. She believed we need to put forward a recall provision that is carefully and thoughtfully vetted. She stated that this is not the right one.

> It was on motion 1-4; Gargeya-no, Dretler-no, Russo-no, Carty-aye, Kouchakdjian-no
>
> VOTED: That the Select Board vote not to support Special Town Meeting Article 3 – Sudbury recall vote article.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned that the Select Board support Special Town Meeting Article 4 (petition vote of no confidence). Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

Chair Kouchakdjian stated she was very disappointed about this article. She stated the allegations within the article are baseless and that the false allegations have caused division within our community. Chair Kouchakdjian stated people have been fed misinformation and disinformation about the School Committee, especially the chair of the Committee, who has been attacked nonstop. Chair Kouchakdjian further stated that no elected official should go through what the Chair of the School Committee has gone through. Chair Kouchakdjian stated she was saddened for our community that it is being put through this process for baseless, meritless allegations.

It was on motion 1-4; Gargeya-no, Dretler-no, Russo-no, Carty-aye, Kouchakdjian-no

VOTED: That the Select Board vote not to support Special Town Meeting Article 4 (petition vote of no confidence)

Chair Kouchakdjian and several other Board Members indicated that no elected official should have to experience such unjust treatment.

Recess

At 6:53 PM, Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to recess the Select Board meeting. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To recess the Select Board meeting