IN SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

7:00 PM

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

ZOOM Meeting

Present: Chair Janie Dretler, Vice-Chair Radha Gargeya, Select Board Member Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Dan Carty, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Victor Garofalo

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dretler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and recognized the presence of Select Board Members Radha Gargeya, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Dan Carty, and herself. Roll call was taken: Gargeya-present, Kouchakdjian-present, Carty-present, Dretler-present

Opening Remarks by Chair

Chair Janie Dretler

- Hoped all enjoyed the good weather during the long weekend
- Stated that she attended many meetings in the last week

Reports from Town Manager

Town Manager Sheehan stated that he had nothing to report at this time

Reports from Select Board

Vice-Chair Radha Gargeya

- Recognized the well-attended Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Advisory Committee public input session held on 10/8/26, which lasted approximately two (2) hours

Member Lisa Kouchakdjian

- Reminded Board Members that registration is now open for the MMA (MA Municipal Association) Conference, and that she recently registered for the Conference
- Stated that she attended this month's MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal) meeting, which included a legislative update and discussion with MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) regarding government affairs as well as discussion regarding agricultural farmland and best practices with MAPC Public Health and Food Systems Planner

- Mentioned a brief telephone conversation with Town Manager and the Superintendent of Minuteman Vocational Education School and related next steps; and hoped that the Minuteman Superintendent would attend a Select Board meeting in the next couple of months
- Announced the upcoming accessible trick-or-treat event in the Meadowbrook Road/Meadowbrook Circle neighborhood on Halloween between the hours of 5:00 – 7:00 PM; she stated that the event is open to all and thanked the Sudbury Commission on Disability for sponsoring the event

Board Member Dan Carty stated that he had nothing to add at this time.

Public Comments

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, stated that on October 8th the FBI posted a briefing regarding a former Plymouth MA Public School Director who was sentenced for stealing food and equipment from that Town. He acknowledged that he submitted a request to the LSRHS School Committee and the SPS School Committee regarding his concerns about such financial matters. He commented that recent Select Board Office Hours were cancelled.

Mr. Sharma went over his allotted three-minute comment period.

Chair Dretler acknowledged that the Select Board Office Hour session was held on October 7th at 7:00 PM at the Fairbank Community Center.

A.Consent Calendar (2 items)

1. Proclamation of 100th birthday for resident

2. Accept memorandum from the Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director and vote the Trust Fund Spending Limits for FY2027

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 and 2 as presented. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar Items 1 and 2 as presented

Vice-Chair Gargeya referenced tonight's packet page #9 regarding investment income for FY24, FY25 and FY26 reflects interest rates and interest is earned on free cash as well.

Miscellaneous

Chair Dretler detailed that the two Candidates would be interviewed by the Board this evening and would check to ensure that two posts are available in consideration of the number of Members stepping down from membership.

Appoint Anne Devine, 24 Polonoket Avenue, to the Sudbury Cultural Council with a term to expire 5/31/2029

Present: Anne Devine

Ms. Devine stated that she has volunteered in the Town for many years and has experience bringing folks in at Loring.

Vice-Chair Gargeya asked about related top priorities. Ms. Devine said she would like to work on getting teenage residents involved in the community activities.

Board Member Kouchakdjian thanked Ms. Devine for her continued volunteerism in Town.

Board Member Carty thanked Ms. Devine and was pleased to see residents wanted to be on the Cultural Council.

Chair Dretler stated that Ms. Devine would likely be officially appointed to the Cultural Council at the next Select Board Meeting.

Appoint Sri Nikhitha Kasibhatta, 244 Bay Drive, to the Sudbury Cultural Council with a term to expire 5/31/2029

Present: Sri Nikhitha Kasibhatta

Ms. Kasibhatta stated she was very community oriented and has been volunteering at the Loring School PTO and the Girl Scout troop in Town. She stated she has interest in the Cultural Council.

Vice-Chair Gargeya asked about priorities. Ms. Kasibhatta suggested monthly newcomer coffee meetings and multi-cultural experiences to children.

Board Member Kouchakdjian thanked Ms. Kasibhatta for her interest and willingness to serve the community.

Member Carty stated he was happy to see people stepping up to become members on the Cultural Council and thanked Ms. Kasibhatta for her interest in joining.

Chair Dretler explained that Board Members needed to assess how many people were coming off the Sudbury Cultural Council before the Board could officially vote on the two appointments at this meeting.

3. Hear Annual Report from Sudbury Access Corp (SAC) and: Vote whether to accept Annual Report Vote on 3-year contract extension Vote whether to approve list of obsolete equipment for disposal or resale

Present: Lynn Puorro, Jeff Winston, Terry Lockhart

Mr. Winston stated that SudburyTV is providing more coverage than ever thanks to a great crew headed by Lynn Puorro.

Vice-Chair Gargeya noted that the Town provides great coverage to the public because of SudburyTV and every aspect of civic dialogue is presented to everyone in the community.

Board Member Kouchakdjian asked if the group had everything that they need from a technical/equipment perspective. Ms. Puorro responded that the Sudbury Access Corp (SAC) has provided her team with all that is needed and is very supportive. She added that upcoming considerations include accessibility services, captioning and audio descriptions.

The "SudburyTV Fiscal Year 2026 Programming Report – July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026" by Lynn M. Puorro was presented as submitted to the Sudbury Access Corporation Board of Directors.

Board Member Carty inquired about the level of related cable subscriptions and the impact on finances at SudburyTV. Mr. Winston acknowledged that cable subscriptions continue to decrease and related billing has not been implemented yet.

Board Member Carty asked about "end of life" equipment status. Ms. Puorro explained that the Flynn Building is not covered much anymore since most meetings in Sudbury are conducted remotely.

Mr. Winston presented the SAC Annual Report, highlighting expanded programming and technical advancements, especially the completion of wiring at the multi-purpose room and the Fairbank Community Center.

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that the SAS Contract had not changed, expires on 11/15/26 and would be extended through 11/15/29.

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to accept Sudbury Access Corp (SAC) FY26 Annual Report - Financial and Operating Reports as required by their contract. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To accept Sudbury Access Corp (SAC) FY26 Annual Report - Financial and Operating Reports as required by their contract

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to extend the Sudbury Access Corporation (SAC) contract for a three-year term to expire November 15, 2029. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To extend the Sudbury Access Corporation (SAC) contract for a three-year term to expire November 15, 2029

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to approve the list of obsolete equipment for disposal or resale. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the list of obsolete equipment for disposal or resale

4. Energy & Sustainability Committee Update

Present: Olga Faktorovich Allen, Chair; Venk Gopal, Vice-Chair – Energy & Sustainability Committee

Ms. Allen detailed that the Committee is requesting an update to the Committee Mission Statement which includes updates to ongoing energy initiatives including climate change aspects and solar program management.

Ms. Allen also presented updates on what the Committee is currently working on and the importance of increased non-reliance on fossil fuel modes. She acknowledged that it had been some 17 years since the mission statement was updated and stressed climate resilience.

Chair Dretler mentioned aspects of the solar revolving fund which reflects new language as presented. Town Manager Sheehan commented that current initiatives are more focused on electrification and opined about solar incentives helping to offset some of the Town's increased electricity costs, by adding more solar areas around Town.

Vice-Chair Gargeya asked about Climate Resiliency topics such as associated climate hazards such as wild fires, flooding, and how the public might be kept informed about these occurrences.

Board Member Carty asked about Sudbury being labeled "a community of choice." Ms. Allen responded such status involves leading in preparedness, and affordable clean energy.

Board Member Carty inquired about working on described incentives with the Sudbury Sustainability Coordinator. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that the Committee works closely with the Sustainability Coordinator and the Committee has supported related funding over the years. Board Member Carty agreed with combined efforts with securing associated grants.

Board Member Kouchakdjian thanked the Committee for the important work they undertake and was pleased to see Town groups, committees, commissions and boards working closely to advance such efforts as well. She mentioned the benefit of increased involvement with the Conservation Commission and the Historical Commission regarding related matters and stressed the human impact regarding climate change.

Chair Dretler stated that the Committee will come back at a future Select Board meeting to present suggested updates as detailed at this meeting. Ms. Allen was in agreement.

Mr. Gopal confirmed he has been working with the Sustainability Coordinator on the battery storage topic and also speaking with various Town stakeholders and departments for presentation to the Select Board. Chair Dretler stated that such detail regarding a battery storage bylaw and related financial policies would be considered at an upcoming Select Board meeting.

5. Review and discuss Financial Management Policies: Debt Management, Investments, Capital Assets, Other Post Employment Benefits Liability (OPEB), and List of Acronyms

Town Manager Sheehan and Finance Director Garofalo presented policy topics including debt management, investments, capital assets and other OPEB considerations and related list of acronyms.

Board Member Carty commented about maintaining certain policy language regarding debt terms and reporting obligations. Mr. Garofalo recognized that many such requirements were mandated by State law. Mr. Garofalo agreed to revise language concerning maximum debt terms.

Regarding Town investments and capital assets, Mr. Garofalo confirmed that towns have a certain amount of flexibility. Board Members requested that investment performance reports be included in discussion.

Edits and modifications to the capital assets topic were discussed. Board Member Kouchakdjian indicated her agreement with proposed capital prioritization criteria as explained by Mr. Garofalo.

Chair Dretler stated that the OPEB topic would be continued to the next Select Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Gargeya recommended that a clean report version be presented. Board Members agreed that additional review was required before a clean version could be presented to the Finance Committee.

6. Review and discuss proposed amendments to c. 68, Town Meeting Bylaw

Town Manager Sheehan reviewed aspects associated with the timing of Town Meeting to allow for a meeting date to not necessarily be held on the first Monday in May, which has been the custom. Members indicated no opposition to changing such date.

Board Member Carty mentioned that the Town Meeting date scheduled in April or May would be good. Board Member Kouchakdjian mentioned that April or May would be preferrable and suggested the Board consider a Saturday Town Meeting.

Chair Dretler expressed some concern about night meetings and seniors not driving at night. Members agreed to experiment with a day meeting.

Town Manager Sheehan presented the Fall Town Meeting topic and possible elimination of mandatory discussion by the Board in July. Board Members agreed that such elimination of a July decision would not be problematic.

Town Manager Sheehan suggested eliminating the last two sentences in Section 68-6 and recommended that Sections 68-9, 68-11 and 68-14 be consistent with use of the "moderator" term. Board Member Carty agreed with displaying consistency with this term.

Town Manager Sheehan mentioned changing the public speaking time allocation. Board Members indicated that there was no reason to change such guideline.

Town Manager Sheehan asked Board Members if the mandatory annual Town Forum continued to serve a purpose. Vice-Chair Gargeya recommended that such consideration be voted on at Town Meeting. Board Members were in agreement.

Board Member Kouchakdjian recommended that a related pro vs. con listing be prepared for review. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed he would report Select Board decisions to Town Counsel.

7. Fall 2026 Select Board Newsletter Topic Discussion

Related discussion took place and Members presented their topics:

Chair Dretler - Budget Working Group article

Board Member Kouchakdjian - Vocational Education article

Board Member Carty - Agricultural Committee article

Vice-Chair Gargeya - DPW article

8. Approve Meeting Minutes: August 11, 2026, September 1, 2026

8/11/26 Open Session Minutes

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to approve the Select Board 8/11/26 Open Session minutes, as edited. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the Select Board 8/11/26 Open Session minutes, as edited

9/1/26 Open Session Minutes

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to approve the Select Board 9/1/26 Open Session minutes, as edited. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the Select Board 9/1/26 Open Session minutes, as edited

9. Upcoming Items

- Town Bylaw Revisions
- Financial Policies
- Charter Review discussion for future meeting

C. Executive Session/Adjourn Open Session

1. Vote to close Open Session and enter Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to review and approve executive session meeting minutes "[to] comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. (Purpose 7)

- September 1, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

Vice-Chair Gargeya motioned to close open session and enter Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to review and approve executive session meeting minutes "[to] comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. (Purpose 7)

- September 1, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To close open session, enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to review and approve executive session meeting minutes "[to] comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. (Purpose 7) and not return in open session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.