

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
January 26, 2023
1: :00 PM

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Conference Account**

WEBSITE: [http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom](http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/Meeting%20Conducted%20Via%20Zoom)

Present: Chairman: Jeff Levine

Members Present: Anna Newberg, Bob Lieberman, Marilyn Tromer, Colin Warwick, Paul Marotta and Carmine Gentile

Members Absent: Don Sherman

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center, Jack Ryan

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource), Kay Bell (Chairperson of Commission on Disabilities), Pat Brown

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 1:08 PM
Attendance by all those members above confirmed by roll-call affirmation.

Meeting Agenda: Special Meeting: Consideration of Council on Aging sponsorship of a Warrant Article for 2023 Town Meeting re: Funding of Audiovisual and Technical support

The meeting commenced with Jeff Levine giving a background review of the new Fairbanks Community Center building design dating back to the late fall of 2021. The furniture, fixtures equipment and audio-visual components were included in a project team proposal for each program room. Jeff and Debra sent back to the project team early in the process that noted that essential items were not included, but the narrative was never changed. At present there is \$350,000 allocated for funding based on earlier proposals. This amount is deemed insufficient to adequately fund the design modifications including Assisted Listening Devices with microphones and speakers in the ceilings. The desire is to have flexibility to use any program room for any purpose throughout the building. An architect will review the new redesign for enhanced systems and then send out for competitive bids.

A motion was raised by Carmine Gentile and seconded by Paul Marotta, and unanimously approved by roll-call vote to approve the submission of a warrant article for Town Meeting as noted below on behalf of the Sudbury Council on Aging.

ARTICLE TITLE: FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or to transfer from available funds, the sum of \$200,000, or any other sum or sums, to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager, for the purchase of audio-visual and related equipment, and associated design services, and installation services for the Fairbank Community Center project to address needs and associated costs therefor, or to act on anything relative thereto.

After additional discussion and based upon the outcome of the upcoming Select Board meeting on January 30, 2023, a motion was raised by Anna Newberg and seconded by Carmine Gentile , and unanimously approved by roll-call vote as follows:

Move to empower Jeffrey Levine, as Chairman of the Council on Aging, to submit a warrant article for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting on behalf of the Council on Aging requesting the Town to vote to raise and appropriate, or to transfer from available funds, the sum of \$200,000, or any other sum or sums, to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager, for the purchase of audio-visual and related equipment, and associated design services, and installation services for the Fairbank Community Center project to address needs and associated costs therefor, or to act on anything relative thereto

The meeting discussion then turned to the Council on Aging report concerning the request for additional funding of audio-visual equipment. See Exhibit 'A' for further details.

Motion was made by Anna Newberg to adjourn. Second by Carmine Gentile
Unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 1:33 PM.

Exhibit “A”

COUNCIL ON AGING REPORT: This request is submitted to meet the need for enhanced audio-visual equipment to address the special needs of the users of the Senior Center program spaces at the new Fairbank Community Center. The capability of the equipment contemplated by this request was not part of the request approved by the Town at its 2022 Annual Town Meeting. At the time that Article was brought forth, the narrative for that proposal provided minimum ADA (Americans with Disability Act) and MAAB (Massachusetts Architectural Access Board) compliance but did not address all of the requests of the users. Specifically, it did not include Assisted Listening Systems, speech enhancement systems, or hybrid remote learning AV systems in all program rooms that support Senior Center programming. The contemplated equipment will enhance the ability of all patrons to hear and be heard within a given program space, with special emphasis on the hearing impaired, will enhance the availability of, and interaction with, virtual and remote programming for all patrons of the Senior Center, and will enable persons unable to attend programming at the Senior Center to interactively participate in programming originating at, or transmitted through, the Senior Center. The capability of the enhanced equipment will expand the availability and participation of residents in our community unable to attend programs in person and make for a more welcoming Senior Center for all residents. In addition to the equipment needed, approved funds will be used for necessary redesign services and the installation of the systems ordered. The best time to install these systems is now, as the building is under construction. To wait will likely result in higher costs and unnecessary disruption of programming at the Senior Center.