Finance Committee ~ Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2002
Fairbank Senior Center – 7:30pm

Present: Tracy Billig & Michael Grosberg, Co-Chairs, John Nikula, Bob Jacobson, Bob Hurstak, Marty Ragones, Larry Rowe, Sheila Stewart. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary

Opening remarks from Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs Tracy Billig and Michael Grosberg opened the meeting at 7:40pm.

Michael Grosberg thanked all members of the Finance Committee for their efforts. He believes a difference is being made.

Item 1: Approve minutes from September 10, 2002 meeting

Michael Grosberg asked the committee to review the minutes and mention any concerns they might have.

VOTED: Move to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2002 meeting. Motion made by Bob Hurstak and seconded by John Nikula. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor and 0 opposed.

Item 2: Presentation by Kerry Speidel on Early Retirement incentive

Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, introduced Assistant Town Manager Wayne Walker, who would be making this presentation.

Assist. Manager Walker informed the committee that the State of Massachusetts enacted this program in May. The committee was informed that Mr. Walker would be making a presentation (not a recommendation) to the Board of Selectmen tonight on this topic as well. He informed the committee that the Selectmen would not be taking a vote this evening. Mr. Walker also informed the committee that the Selectmen have 3 options when they vote: take no action, accept the program, or decline the program.

The committee was informed that all employees in the Town of Sudbury who would qualify for this incentive hold vital positions. He does not see this program as saving the town money since all positions would have to be re-filled. So far, the only town in the Metro-West area to accept the program is Ashland.

Item 3A: Review of Financial Summit Presentation:

Kerry Speidel gave a brief description of how the financial summit will work. Maureen Valente, Town Manager will make the introduction. Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, will discuss the financial indicators. There were a total of 26 indicators, and the Town chose 10 to use. Kerry believes the presentation will last roughly 30 to 45 minutes long. The meeting will be held at the library and usually runs from 7:30 to 9:00pm.

Item 3B: Presentation from K-8 on FY2003 Budget Cuts

This presentation was made by William Hurley – Superintendent K-8, Patricia Grenier – Asst. Superintendent K-8, and Paul Funk – Director of Business and Finance.

Mr. Hurley presented the Finance Committee with a handout showing the FY03 Budget Reduction Impact. When it came time to reduce the school budget, they tried making reductions that would have the least impact on the children. There are 17.5 positions less than last year. Mr. Hurley informed the committee that for FY04 some programs will have to be eliminated if the budget remains the same as this year. If any

other positions have to be eliminated, they would directly affect the students. The schools are currently working below the state average for number of employees.

Michael Grosberg asked how this reduction has effected the morale within the schools. William Hurley informed him that the staff is still anxious about positions being eliminated since everyone is aware of the fiscal crisis. Some staff members have voluntarily left for fear of their position being eliminated or not. Mr. Hurley believes there has been an impact on the staff's job performance, since the employees are worrying about job security.

Marty Ragones asked if services are shared between K-8 and Lincoln-Sudbury High School. Paul Funk informed her that L-S shares transportation, the Town of Sudbury helps with the lawns and plowing, and that by state law the Town processes the schools payroll.

Item 4: Presentation from L-S liaisons on FY2003 Budget Cuts

The liaisons did not receive any written report to present to the Committee.

Item 5: Update from liaisons

Marty Ragones informed the committee that she and Larry Rowe met with the K-8 and that the meeting went very well. A SPED presentation will be made in November. William Hurley, Superintendent gave them a handout "A Parent's Guide to Spec. Ed." To take a look at. Mr. Hurley informed them it would take approximately 1 hour for the presentation.

John Nikula informed the committee that he had spoken with William Place, DPW Director. The new highway building is within budget, but the occupancy date is a few weeks behind schedule. John Nikula also informed the committee that the Recreation/Pool is having heating & lighting issues, and that they will be coming forward with a reserve fund transfer request very soon.

Bob Jacobson updated the committee on the new high school. Right now, construction is about one month behind, and that the biggest issues facing them now is getting the concrete work completed. The next meeting for the L-S Building Committee is scheduled for October 17. John Nikula asked about the sports turf. Bob Jacobson informed him that discussions were still being held.

Item 6: Presentation to Voters

Michael Grosberg informed the committee of the presentation being made to the other committees and groups through out the town. Their next presentation is going to be November 12 @ 7pm . Michael informed everyone that it was a fun and good way to reach out to the voters. Marty Ragones asked if they were faced with any questions. Tracy Billig informed her there were a few but good questions coming from the voters.

Item 7: Other business and follow-up items

Sheila Stewart requested that the FinCom roster to be updated. Her email is incorrect.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.