

Finance Committee ~ Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2003
Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Library – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Robert Jacobson; Martha Ragonis; Don Hutchinson; John Nikula; and Robert Hurstak. Later attended by: Tracy Billig, Co-Chair; Michael Grosberg, Co-Chair; Sheila Stewart; and Larry Rowe. **Also present:** Kerry Speidel, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector.

At 6:05 p.m., Kerry Speidel suggested that the meeting begin so that all business could be addressed before the 7:30 p.m. Annual Town Meeting. The Committee concurred. Speidel suggested the Committee first consider Items 2, 7 and 9.

Item 2: Discuss and vote on Article 9- Stabilization Fund. Speidel explained that no funds were anticipated to be available to transfer into the Stabilization Fund in FY2004, therefore she requested that the Committee support an Indefinite Postponement of this article.

VOTED: Move to recommend Indefinite Postponement of Article 9. Motion made by John Nikula and seconded by Don Hutchinson. On vote, motion carries 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Four (4) members absent (Billig, Grosberg, Rowe, Stewart) at the time of the vote.

Item 7: Vote to support Indefinite Postponement of Articles 34- 45. Speidel explained that these articles address the sale and transfer of various parcels of town-owned land to the Sudbury Housing Authority. Both the Sudbury Housing Authority and the Board of Selectmen are supporting an Indefinite Postponement of these articles to allow more time to review the Housing Authority's CPA funding request.

VOTED: Move to recommend Indefinite Postponement of Articles 34 – 45. Motion made by John Nikula and seconded by Robert Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Four (4) members absent (Billig, Grosberg, Rowe, Stewart) at the time of the vote.

Item 9: Vote to support Indefinite Postponement of Articles 56 & 57. Speidel explained that these articles were filed in opposition to Articles 34 and 35, with the purpose being to transfer the same land to the Conservation Commission rather than to the Sudbury Housing Authority. Since Articles 34 and 35 are expected to be Indefinitely Postponed, the petitioners, along with the Board of Selectmen are supporting Indefinite Postponement of these two (2) articles.

VOTED: Move to recommend Indefinite Postponement of Articles 56 and 57. Motion made by John Nikula and seconded by Don Hutchinson. On vote, motion carries 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Four (4) members absent (Billig, Grosberg, Rowe, Stewart) at the time of the vote.

Co-Chairs Tracy Billig and Michael Grosberg arrived at the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m. The Committee next considered Item 3.

Item 3: Discuss and vote on Article 30- Purchase Street Lighting. Speidel explained that there was nothing new on this article. Staff continues to analyze the purchase and believes that all Street Lights could be purchased at little or no cost to the Town. The benefit of the purchase to the Town is anticipated to be better service and cheaper rates. If there is a cost to purchase, the borrowing would be structured so as not to have an impact on the FY2004 Budget.

VOTED: Move to Recommend Favorable Action on Article 30. Motion made by Martha Ragonis and seconded by John Nikula. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor, 0 opposed. One (1) member absent (Rowe) at the time of the vote.

The Committee decided to return to the beginning of the agenda.

Item 1: Discuss results of meeting on April 1, 2003. Co-Chair Billig briefly reviewed the information presented and discussed at the April 1, 2003 Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, LSRHS School Committee, and the SPS School Committee. She stated that all groups were in basic support of proceeding with Option C and that the Town Manager and Town Counsel would draft a motion to continue the budget articles to a later date. She further stated that each group would need to be ready to discuss the budget under Options A or B, should C fail.

Item 4: Confirm vote on Article 49- Signs and advertising bylaw. Speidel explained that the Committee previously voted to Recommend Favorable action on this article, but that it was being brought up for reconsideration. Co-Chair Grosberg expressed his dissatisfaction with the language allowing additional signage for businesses. The Committee discussed his concerns and potential language modification.

VOTED: Move to Recommend Favorable Action on Article 49. Motion made by John Nikula and seconded by Don Hutchinson. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Grosberg).

Item 5: Discuss and vote on Article 31- CPC Recommendations. Speidel explained that this article is a non-binding resolution merely presenting the CPC's Budget Recommendations for FY2004.

VOTED: Move to Recommend Favorable Action on Article 31. Motion made by Sheila Stewart and seconded by Larry Rowe. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Nikula).

Item 6: Discussion and vote on Article 32 A – C CPC Funding. Sheila Stewart, Finance Committee liaison to the CPC, presented information on this Article. Article 32A is a request for appropriation of a total of \$136,800 from anticipated FY2004 CPA

Revenue. Article 32B is a request to appropriate \$430,000 for the purchase of the Dickson Property and for approval to bond the purchase price over a number of years. Article 32C is a request to appropriate \$320,000 to serve as matching funds for a grant to build affordable housing and for approval to bond the same over a number of years. The Committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing the pros and cons of leveraging CPA revenue.

VOTED: Move to Recommend Favorable Action on Article 32A. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Robert Hurstak. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Nikula).

VOTED: Move to Recommend Favorable Action on Article 32B. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Robert Hurstak. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Nikula).

VOTED: Move to Recommend Favorable Action on Article 32C. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Robert Hurstak. On vote, motion carries 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Nikula).

Item 8: Discussion on Article 54- Don Hutchinson's Presentation. Don Hutchinson distributed copies of his presentation to the Committee. He stated that it was not his intent to add fuel to the fire, but to let Town Meeting know that additional study needs to be done before a realistic solution can be found.

Item 10: Discussion and vote on Article 55- Zoning Bylaw. Speidel stated that this article addresses the creation of a Water Resources Overlay District and really has no financial impact.

VOTED: Move to take No Position on Article 55. Motion made by John Nikula and seconded by Robert Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 9 in favor, 0 opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted By:
Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director/ Treasurer-Collector