

**Finance Committee ~ Minutes of Meetings
Tuesday, February 11, 2003
Fairbank Senior Center – 7:30pm**

Present: Co-Chairs Michael Grosberg Tracy Billig, Bob Hurstak, Don Hutchinson, Bob Jacobson, Sheila Stewart, Larry Rowe. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary

Opening remarks from the Co-Chairs:

Michael Grosberg opened the meeting at 7:40pm and apologized for the late start.

Item 1: Approve Minutes from the January 30th and February 4th, 2003 meetings:

Michael Grosberg asked the committee members to state any concerns or questions they have might on either set of minutes.

Don Hutchinson stated that there were some spelling errors, and had sent Kerry an email regarding this.

Sheila Stewart asked for some corrections to be made to the February 4th minutes regarding her discussion on the Pool.

Michael Grosberg asked if there is a motion to approve the minutes with the understanding that the above mentioned corrections are made.

VOTED: Move to approve the minutes from the January 30 and February 4, 2003 meetings. Motion made by Sheila Stewart and seconded by Don Hutchinson. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

Item 2: Miscellaneous items / Vote remaining monied articles:

Article 49: Amend Zoning Bylaw (Signs and Advertising devices)

Some committee members had second thoughts about their original votes. It was decided to talk about this article again at the March meeting.

VOTED: Move to Report at Town Meeting. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Tracy Billig. On Motion, vote carries 7 in favor, and 0 opposed.

Articles 31 & 32: Community Preservation Committee FY04 Budget & Borrowing Authorization

Kerry Speidel informed the committee that legal counsel and the CPC are continuing to revise the language used in these articles. Sheila Stewart stated she has meeting Wednesday with the CPC, and will be able to provide more detail at the next meeting.

Bob Jacobson asked if it was possible to arrange a speaker for the next meeting on how the bonds issued works against the funds to be raised. Kerry Speidel informed him she would put more information together for the committee for discussion at the March meeting. Kerry Speidel stated she would ask a member of the Community Preservation Committee to attend the March meeting to answer questions that need to be clarified.

Item 3: Additional discussion on 0% budget

Kerry Speidel provided a sheet listing the summary of changes to the Budget Summary sheet. The following changes were discussed:

1. Decreased Minuteman Assessment by \$77,195 per instructions of Sudbury Public Schools
2. Increased Pool revenue by \$91,356 per instructions of Town Manager. The Pool staff will be adding new programs and will have to monitor the expenses so that the Pool does not deficit spend. The Pool Director will be given instructions that he will not be allowed to expend more than what he has raised.
3. Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Debt Assessment increased by \$208 due to a change in the assessment ratio. Also increased the Prop. 2 ½ Exemption revenue by the same amount.
4. Adjusted the Debt Service Projection for 2003 bond issue to match estimates from Financial Advisor for 10-year front-loaded structure, which increases total FY04 payment by \$528,401. Prop. 2 ½ Exemption revenue increased by the same amount. Net interest savings to the Town over the life of the bond is estimated at \$792,290. Originally planned to use a 15-year conventional structure. Town Manager, Maureen Valente, and Finance Director Kerry Speidel will present this to the Board of Selectmen.
5. Decreased the 3 cost centers by proportionate share of projected \$223,236 deficit as follows:
 - LSHS 23.10% \$51,571
 - SPS 50.03% \$111,685 decreased operations by \$95,185 & benefits by \$18,000
 - Town 26.87% \$59,980 \$40,000 reduction in Fire Department Budget
\$16,500 reduction in employee benefits
\$3,960 total increase in fire alarm inspection fees
6. Moved \$40,000 from Fire Department Budget to fund Vehicle Exhaust Removal System to Capital Article with Funding to come from transfer of bond proceeds from Article 19,1995 Town Meeting.

Michael Grosberg asked why the Town would want to front-load the bonds. Kerry Speidel stated that the Town would like to get projects off of the debt service before the LSRHS project hits the tax bill and also to save interest costs..

Tracy Billig stated that she had talked with Town Manager Maureen Valente and Town Counsel Paul Kenny, and was told that committee members could not cast a vote unless they are present at the meeting. She stated that John Nikula informed her that he would like to have money set aside for the Reserve Fund and Stabilization Fund.

Item 4: Vote on 0% budget:

Voted: Move to support a 0% (non-override) budget as outlined in FinCom recommended FY04 column of "FU04 Budget Summary Sheet" dated 2/11/03 (copy attached). Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Don Hutchinson. On motion, vote carries 6 (Grosberg, Billig, Hutchinson, Rowe, Jacobson, Stewart) in favor, and 1 (Hurstak) opposed.

Item 5: Additional discussion on if there should be an override:

Bob Jacobson informed the committee that SPS, LSRHS, and the Town met yesterday. It was a continuation of last week's meeting. He stated he believes Selectmen Larry O'Brien would not support an override. This is not the official vote by the Board of Selectmen. Bob stated that Larry O'Brien has a great concern for the unknown factors that will have an effect on the budget.

Town Manager Maureen Valente stated if there was an override approved in the fall, the funds would be used to make up for funds that the Town did not obtain. There is a possibility that we will not be able to fund what was appropriated.

Bob Hurstak stated that an override might end up being needed to fund a non-override budget, should State Aid end up being less than what has currently been estimated.

Bob Jacobson agreed, since there are a lot of unknowns that will make this very possible to happen.

Larry Rowe stated that an extra \$40 per year is worth the services and quality of life offered in Sudbury

Sheila Stewart stated she would not like to see two overrides in a year. There are still too many unknowns to support an override budget.

Item 6: Vote on an override budget:

Voted: Move to not support an override budget. Motion made by Larry Rowe, and seconded by Bob Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor (Grosberg, Billig, Rowe, Hurstak, Hutchinson, Stewart, Jacobson), and 0 opposed.

Item 7: Discussion on FinCom reports:

Larry Rowe stated that the K-8 report was not done, but will have it completed by Thursday.

Bob Jacobson presented the idea of sending a letter to the editor of the Sudbury Town Crier. The committee should explain how and why they voted the way they did as a committee.

Don Hutchinson thought this was a great idea, since it is a goal of the Finance Committee to educate the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.