

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2003
FAIRBANK SENIOR CENTER
7:30 PM**

Present: Co-Chair Michael Grosberg, Co-Chair Tracy Billig, Robert Jacobson, Don Hutchinson, Larry Rowe, Martha Ragonas. Sheila Stewart arrived at 8:40 p.m. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, Shauna Simmonds, and William Kneeland.

Co-Chair Mike Grosberg opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. He stated that there would be no FinCom meeting on May 13, 2003. He went over the ground rules for the meeting, stating that the purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to understand the current state budget numbers. He outlined the agenda and then asked for the Town Manager to provide an update on State Aid.

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, stated that the revenue projections used to prepare the balanced budget in February assumed a 10% loss of State Aid. When the Governor's Budget was released, it produced a deficit of \$357,000. Under the House Ways and Means Budget, Sudbury received a loss of 9% of State Aid, less than originally projected. Valente stated that her best guess is that we have enough revenue to fund the budget voted in February.

The Committee asked various questions about the increase in the LS Assessment. Valente stated that the LS Budget request has not changed, but since their Chapter 70 allocation went down, their assessment to their member towns has to increase.

Item 1. Vote on reappointing Sheila Stewart to CPA .

VOTED: To reappoint Sheila A. Stewart as the Finance Committee's representative to the Community Preservation Committee for a one-(1) year term beginning May 1, 2003 and ending April 30, 2004. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Robert Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent (Hurstak, Nikula, Stewart).

Item 2. Presentation by Minuteman on amount requested.

Tom Markham, Director Community Relations, made the presentation on behalf of Minuteman. He was accompanied by Paul Lynch, Sudbury's representative on the Minuteman School Board.

Markham stated that the overall budget is down 1.5%. The budget is funded by two types of revenue, assessments and other (state aid, receipts, grants, etc.). Ten and one-half positions were cut from the FY2004 budget, including the tech teacher at the Curtis Middle School. Markham went on to discuss the impact of the Governor's Budget;

however, he stated that various state leaders advised Minuteman to disregard this budget and just assume that there would be a 20% decrease in Chapter 70. The Governor's budget has cut Minuteman's Chapter 70 aid by 70%.

Markham stated that assuming the House Ways and Means Budget is approved, the Minuteman assessment to Sudbury would be \$281,232. He reminded the Committee that they could only vote the proposed assessment up or not. He stated that six-(6) or nine-(9) member communities that have approved assessments have approved them at the higher number (i.e. for Sudbury that would be \$373,813). The Minuteman budget for FY2004 will be approved if eleven-(11) out of sixteen-(16) member towns approve it.

Committee member Sheila Stewart arrived at 8:40 p.m.

Item 3. Presentation by SPS School Committee on amount requested.

Bill Braun, SPS School Committee Chair, Bill Hurley, Superintendent, and Paul Funk, Business Manager, were present at the meeting to represent Sudbury Public Schools. Braun went through the *Budget Comparisons* spreadsheet.

Superintendent Hurley stated that if there is additional money available over and above what is presented in the warrant, that it should go to the Town (Operating Departments) to settle union contracts. He further stated, that if there are additional funds available after settling the union contracts, that SPS would like to present a case to receive the same.

Item 4. Presentation by LS School Committee on amounts requested.

Eileen Glovsky, LS School Committee, and Pauline Paste, Business Manager/ Treasurer, were present at the meeting to represent the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District.

Paste reviewed the LS Budget and Assessments. Paste stated that under the Governor's Budget, LS would receive a 46% reduction in Chapter 70 aid. Under the House Ways and Means Budget, LS would receive a 20% reduction in Chapter 70 aid and a 50% reduction in School Transportation aid. She further stated that 16.41 full-time-equivalent positions were cut from the budget, impacting a total of 17 positions, and that a total of \$370,000 was cut from salaries and an additional \$170,000 was cut from expenses.

Item 5. Presentation by Town Manager on amounts requested.

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, was at the meeting to represent the Town Operating Departments. Valente requested that the Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing *Collective Bargaining Strategy*. The Committee will reconvene following the Executive Session.

VOTED: To recess into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining Strategy. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Robert Jacobson. Grosberg, yes; Billig, yes; Jacobson, yes; Hutchinson, yes; Rowe, yes; Ragonese, yes; Stewart, yes. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Hurstak, Nikula).

The Committee returned from Executive Session and continued with the agenda.

Item 6: Vote on budget to be presented to Town Meeting 5/21/03.

The following motion was put on the table for discussion. Motion made by Robert Jacobson and seconded by Larry Rowe to increase the FY2004 Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Operating Assessment to \$12,352,149, to increase the FY2004 Minuteman Regional School District Assessment to \$373,813, and to increase the FY2004 Town Services Appropriation a total of \$75,417 as follows:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
General Government	\$1,929,658	\$1,931,480
Public Safety	\$5,133,565	\$5,191,024
Public Works	\$2,545,971	\$2,548,598
Human Services	\$ 482,261	\$ 487,146
Culture & Recreation	\$ 868,109	\$ 876,733

And to authorize the Town Manager to change the distribution of the \$75,417 as she sees fit in order to aid in the settlement of union agreements.

Jacobson stated that the justification for the additional allocation to the Town Operating Departments is to help the Town with the settlement of union contracts. The balance of the available funds (\$37,469) would remain unallocated in case assessments need to be increased further.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the fairness of the increase in the LS Assessment, after which the question was called.

VOTED: On vote, motion carries, 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Ragonese), and 2 absent (Hurstak, Nikula).

Item 7: Approve Minutes from April 9, April 8, April 7, April 1, March 27, and March 11, 2003.

VOTED: Motion to approve the minutes from April 9, April 8, April 7, April 1, March 27, and March 11, 2003. Motion made by Tracy Billig and seconded by Robert Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Hurstak, Nikula).

Co-Chair Grosberg stated that there were a few additional items of business for the agenda.

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, informed the Committee that she is recommending approval of a FY2003 Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$16,000 to fund a Household Hazardous Waste Day in FY2004. The adjustment would be funded through a Reserve Fund Transfer.

Co-Chair Grosberg reminded the Committee that there would be a Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 21, 2003 just prior to the Town Meeting. He then stated that a cancellation notice should be posted for the May 13, 2003 Committee meeting. He also advised the Committee that it may not be necessary to meeting on June 10, 2003.

No other items of business were presented.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

Submitted by:
Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director