

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Monday - December 20, 2004
Fairbanks Senior Center - 7:30pm**

Present: Co-Chairs Bob Jacobson & Marty Ragonas, Tracy Billig, Michael Grosberg, Bill Kneeland, Larry Rowe, John Nikula and Norman DeLuca. Also present: Suzanne Petersen, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary.

Item 1: Opening Remarks:

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm.

Item 2: Approve Minutes:

Marty Ragonas asked for a spelling error to be corrected under Item 10.

Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2004 meeting with the above mention changes to be made. Motion made by John Nikula, and seconded by Michael Grosberg. On vote, motion carries 6 in support, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Rowe, Stewart)

Item 3: Vote on Interim Appointment to FinCom:

Bob Jacobson and Tracy Billig both nominated Norman DeLuca to fill the vacant position on the Finance Committee. This nomination is for an interim appointment; with the hope that the Town Moderator will appoint Mr. DeLuca to a full-term following Town Meeting.

The committee was presented with a copy of Norman DeLuca's application for appointment for their review.

Voted: Motion to approve the interim appointment of Norman DeLuca to the Finance Committee. Motion made by Marty Ragonas and seconded by Michael Grosberg. On vote, motion carries 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Rowe, Stewart).

Item 4: Update on 12/9 meeting with Cost Centers:

Bob Jacobson and Marty Ragonas both attended the meeting on Dec. 9th at L-S. The purpose of the meeting was for the three cost centers to express to the School Committees, the Finance Committee Chairs and to Selectman Drobinski that even level services budgets will require an override due to increased costs in general and growth in particular. To provide a level service budget, SPS would need a 5% increase and LSRHS would need a 7% increase. In addition, the LS reapportionment will be reduced, thereby increasing the assessment by 4%.

Marty Ragonas stated that she believes the Finance Committee does not have a predisposed opinion against an override budget. She asked the committee for their opinions on an override budget. The committee agreed that the success or failure of an override would depend on strategies concerning the amount and the apportionment of the override. The committee believes all of the cost centers have been working hard to keep their budgets at level service and have been working within the guidelines provided. Bob Jacobson wrapped up the discussion by stating that he believes it may be very tough to get through the year without an override.

Item 4A: Curbside Pay-As-You-Throw:

Peter Glass of the Earth Decade Committee was invited to make a short presentation on the warrant article that the Earth Decade Committee plans on presenting at the April Town Meeting. They will be asking the citizens to approve a curb-side pay-as-you-throw trash pick-up program. The Finance Committee members were provided with hand-outs explaining the program.

Mr. Glass told the committee that the approximate increase in a resident's tax bill will be \$125 per year based on the FY04 tax impact information in last year's warrant. The amount of the override needed to fund the article is \$750,000. He conceded that as with all services, this program might not benefit all the citizens of Sudbury. Benefits of the program to the town: increased recycling, less trash trucks going up and down the streets of Sudbury, less noise, and less pollution. Transfer station stickers fees will be eliminated and the taxpayer will not have to pay private contractors. There are State Grants available that the Town will be able to apply for but there can be no guarantees that any other funds will be available. Discussion followed during which Mr. Glass answered questions concerning the presentation.

Item 5: Liaison Updates:

John Nikula stated that he was speaking with Bill Place, DPW Director, and that the Capital Improvement Committee is recommending half of what he is asking for.

Bill Kneeland stated the LSRHS school committee met on Dec. 10th. Utility expenses are still the major concern for them, although November came in at \$20,000 less. This will continue to be an unknown. Any rebate on utilities received may be used toward the operating budget or may be used to reduce the cost of the project. If the total cost of the project is in excess of \$72.3 million it will impact the SBAB reimbursement.

Marty Ragones provided the committee with a hand-out from the Capital Improvement Planning Committee listing the capital items that were approved for funding in FY06 by the CIPC. She stated that the CIPC voted to request an increase for the FY06 Capital Budget to \$250,000.

Tracy Billig provided the committee members with a handout provided by SPS. The handout consists of a report from the SPS Space Inventory Task Team, and Projections Assumptions. Currently musical instrument classes at Noyes School are taught in the hallway. Curtis School is currently the only school that is not overcrowded, but it will become an issue in a year or so. The hope was that no school would meet the maximum capacity of 600 students, and currently there are 2 over that limit. There is no time frame set as yet as to when they plan to address these issues, but the task team is scheduled to meet again after the holidays.

Item 6: Reserve Fund Transfer:

#05-11 Salary Adjustment Transfer in the amount of \$34,124.69 is being requested to cover the salary retros due to the Supervisory Union employees.

Voted: Motion to approve the Salary Adjustment Transfer #05-11. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by John Nikula. On vote, motion carries 7 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Stewart).

Item 7: Budget Hearing Discussion:

The committee was reminded that the hearings start January 6th, and they will be televised.

Item 8: Other Business:

Marty Ragones stated that the Teachers' Contract project has been posted to the website.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:15pm.