

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minute of Meetings
Thursday, January 22, 2004
Lower Town Hall - 7:30pm**

Present: Co-Chairs Tracy Billig & Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, John Nikula, Marty Ragonese, and Sheila Stewart. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary, and Town Manger Maureen Valente.

Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs:

The meeting was opened at 7:50pm.

Item 1: Presentation of FY05 Minuteman Regional Vo-Tech Budget:

Paul Lynch, Vice-Chairman & Sudbury Representative to the Minuteman School Committee, introduced himself to the FinCom. He has served four years on the school committee. He is currently working on sub-committee that is looking at ways to keep enrollment figures up. He informed the committee that last year's valedictorian was from Sudbury and went on to attend MIT.

Superintendent Dr. Ron Fitzgerald made the presentation to the FinCom. He informed the committee that the figures being presented to them tonight were not definite due to the unknown possible cuts to State Aid. Minuteman will be using to the State Assessment Method to calculate member community assessments for FY05. Dr. Fitzgerald informed the committee that this would be his last budget hearing before the Sudbury Finance Committee, since he is retiring in August 2004.

Currently, State Minimum figures and transportation costs will have the greatest effect on the budget.

The total FY05 budget request is \$15,344,339. Of that, \$7,998,503 will be raised through assessments. Enrollment is up by 19%.

The Department of Education usually releases their minimum calculations about a month after House One is released. Until stable State figures are known, Minuteman will not release any official assessment figures for FY05.

Most school systems have their salary budget above 70%, but not Minuteman. Salaries make up 66% of the budget for Minuteman. Collective bargaining talks are currently ongoing.

There is currently no money in the budget to buy new equipment. The distribution for the rest of the FY05 budget funds are as followed:

- 66% Salary
- 13% Fixed Costs (an increase of 1% compared to last year))
- 7% Transportation
- 6% Maintenance (a decrease of 1%)
- 5% Instructional (a decrease of 1%)
- 2% Support
- 1% Administration

The lowest FY05 assessment rate projected for Sudbury is \$280,308.

Minuteman Vo-Tech will be holding their annual budget hearing on Jan. 27, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. at the Minuteman High School library.

Item 4: Presentation of Fy05 Capital Improvement Budget:

Capital Improvement Committee member Bob Hurstak made the presentation to the FinCom.

At their Dec. 4, 2003 meeting, the Capital Improvement Committee voted to recommend that the following nine items be funded for FY05:

1. Replacement of DPW vehicle unit #29 - \$7,500
2. Replace diving boards at Atkinson Pool - \$8,000
3. Fire Department headquarters vehicle exhaust system - \$32,000
4. Replacement of DPW vehicle unit #4 (pick-up truck) - \$7,000
5. Replacement of Fire Department Bucket Truck - \$25,000
6. Building Improvements to various town Buildings - \$6,000
7. Replacement of DPW vehicle unit #22 (backhoe)- \$29,500
8. Replacement of DPW vehicle unit #25 (loader)- \$35,000
9. Walkways - \$100,000 from Community Preservation Act Funds

Tracy Billig asked why the repairs for the Police Department Building were not on this list. Bob Hurstak responded that could be on the list in the future. A lot of money would be needed for this project, and the Capital Improvement Committee wanted to use the funds to replace the various vehicles that tend to get put aside. They also wanted to give the new police chief a chance to get settled in his position, so that he can then have a chance to decide what his needs/wants are for the department.

Bill Kneeland asked if the \$100,000 to be used on the walkways would be for repair of existing walkways or to build new ones. Bob Hurstak responded that it is to be used on new walkways. Maureen Valente informed the committee that the Highway Department does have a small amount of money in their budget that is used to keep up with the maintenance of the existing walkways.

Bob Hurstak informed the committee that there were two other requests from the Atkinson Pool, which will need to be dealt with in the future. The windows and the lockers in the locker rooms will need to be replaced.

Maureen Valente informed the committee that the above ground gas tanks at the DPW will need to be replaced. During the last inspection, the state inspector informed the Town that we will need to start thinking about replacing the tanks. They are not currently in any eminent danger.

Item 5: Review Narrative Assignments for Town Report:

Tracy Billig informed the committee that Kerry Speidel had sent out an email earlier in the day, containing a copy of last year's FinCom report for Town Warrant. The liaisons will need to write up the narratives, but Kerry will prepare the various grids.

Item 6: Other Business:

Maureen Valente informed the committee that the Department Heads from the Town offices will be at the January 26, 2004 budget presentation meeting to answer any questions they might have.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 8:55pm.