

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2004
Fairbanks Senior Center - 7:30pm**

Present: Co-Chairs Tracy Billig & Bob Jacobson, Michael Grosberg, Bill Kneeland, John Nikula, Marty Ragonas, and Sheila Stewart. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary.

Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs:

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm.

The committee was reminded that they would be meeting at 6:30pm in the LSRHS Library before Town Meeting convenes. Attire for Town Meeting should be business casual.

Item 1: Approve minutes from the 2/2, 2/5, & 2/9/2004 meetings:

Tracy Billig pointed out that her last name was misspelled in the February 2nd minutes.

VOTED: Motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 5, & 9, 2004 meetings, with the understanding that the above mention change is to be made. Motion made by Tracy Billig and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 absent (Grosberg, Rowe, Simmonds).

Item 2: Review Speaking assignments for articles at Town Meeting:

Tracy Billig provided committee members with a handout listing the different articles, the FinCom's position, and the FinCom's representative's name.

Bob Jacobson reminded committee members to speak up at Town Meeting if they have anything to add at Town Meeting, even if they are not the FinCom's representative for the article that is being discussed.

Item 3: Vote on remaining articles pending from last meeting:

Article 5: Expand Solid Waste Disposal:

John Nikula stated that they might want to be careful with their vote on Article 5, because it might be indefinitely postponed. Tracy Billig asked if the committee felt a vote should be taken now, or should the committee report at Town Meeting. Bob Jacobson suggested reporting at Town Meeting, so that they might get some more information or facts. Marty Ragonas asked if the committee could request a break to take a vote on this article during Town Meeting. Sheila Stewart stated that past practice was to get up as a group and meet behind the curtains.

Article 9: FY04 Budget Adjustments:

Kerry Speidel informed the committee that new State Legislation allows the Town Manager to make some budget adjustments administratively. Any adjustments that may need to be made should fall within the new legislation's guidelines. Maureen Valente stated that the legislation is good for small amounts, and probably would not need FinCom's recommendation.

Article 10: Unpaid Bills:

There is currently 1 unpaid bill, and it is covered under contract. No Town Meeting action is needed.

Article 11: Stabilization Fund:

The Town's Assessor has completed the FY04 Re-evaluation. There is an additional \$107,000 of tax revenue due to higher than expected new growth. The money is available for FY05. The money can be put in the Stabilization fund.

Marty Ragonas stated that it is always good to raise the Stabilization Fund, especially since it has not been done in a while. She asked what the balance is for the Stabilization Fund. Kerry Speidel informed her that there is approximately \$1.2 million in the Stabilization Fund.

Bob Jacobson asked if the money was not put into the Stabilization Fund now, could it be done in FY06. Kerry Speidel informed him that it could, but that Town Meeting appropriation would be needed.

John Nikula asked how much could this lower someone else's real estate taxes. Maureen Valente stated very little.

Maureen Valente stated they everyone has worked hard at holding the departments to a 3% budget. It has been tough on the schools, and they might want extra money. Negotiations are still ongoing.

Bob Jacobson stated that the money should be set aside. It will most likely be needed for FY06. There is a possibility that something might come up, and we will need this money. Everything thus far has been agreed upon.

VOTED: Motion to not recommend appropriating funds into the Stabilization Fund for FY05. Motion made by Marty Ragonas, and seconded by Tracy Billig. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Rowe, Simmonds).

Article 13: Flynn Elevator:

Kerry Speidel believes the Town has the money to cover this project, but we might come in a little short. The Town is currently waiting for all bids to come in.

Bob Jacobson stated that this article could be discussed at the meeting before the Annual Town Meeting.

Item 4: Affirmative vote on LS Excess & Deficiency Fund:

Kerry Speidel asked the committee to take a formal vote on this matter. Pauline Paste needs something in writing for her records.

VOTED: Motion to make the amount of \$76,681.87 available to fund the Excess & Deficiency Fund. Motion made by Michael Grosberg and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Rowe, Simmonds).

Item 5: Reserve Fund Transfer Requests:

#04-07 requested by Historic District Commission in the amount of \$650.00.

The HDC clerical budget was based on a lower pay step than what the secretary is currently receiving. The amount that was originally budgeted is almost exhausted.

VOTED: Motion to approve the request. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Rowe, Simmonds).

Item 6: Line Item Transfer Requests:

#04-06 requested by the Police Department in the amount of \$11,300.00.

Maureen Valente informed the committee that this transfer would allow the Police Department to send 2 female officers to the recruit officers training academy. The Town has been calling the Town of Framingham to use one of their female officers when needed. One of the candidates that we will be sending to the academy is from the Town of Sudbury.

VOTED: Motion to approve the request. Motion made by Marty Ragonese, and seconded by John Nikula. On vote, motion carries 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Rowe, Simmonds).

Other Business:

Michael Grosberg asked when nominations for co-chairs would be accepted. Bob Jacobson stated that would be done at the May meeting.

Maureen Valente informed the committee that she might be requesting a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$7,000 in the near future. She might need money to fill the Fire Chief's position. The Town will be hiring a consultant to help with the search. Michael Grosberg asked if \$7,000 would be enough. Maureen Valente stated that she was not sure, and would hopefully know by the end of April.

John Nikula asked if there are any potential legal fees in the future. Maureen Valente stated there was nothing, but that negotiation costs might be an issue.

Michael Grosberg thanked Maureen Valente, Kerry Speidel, Robin Porcella, and the FinCom co-chairs for all their time and help.

Item 7: Adjourn:

The committee adjourned at 8:25pm.