

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Monday – January 22, 2007
Lower Town Hall – 7:30pm

PRESENT: Chair Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Larry Rowe, Sheila Stewart, Ralph Verni, Chuck Woodard, and Debbie Zurka

Opening Remarks:

The meeting was opened at 7:45pm.

Budget Hearing: Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School

Bill Kneeland, liaison to Minuteman, introduced school committee member Paul Lynch and Superintendent Bill Callahan to the committee.

Paul Lynch, Vice-Chairman of the school committee, started the presentation by introducing himself and Superintendent Callahan. He informed the committee that these are figures tentative, and that the school district is made up of 16 communities including Sudbury. The school is currently seeing a decrease in the enrollment figures, and the number of students from Sudbury is lowering.

Superintendent Callahan provided each committee member with two handouts. He reminded the committee that these are tentative figures. The school committee will be holding their public hearing tomorrow night and will hopefully vote on their budget. The school is required by February 1st to provide each treasurer with the FY08 assessment figures.

Mission statement:

- Provide pre-college, pre-career talent exploration and matching to students in Grade 9-12
- Provide learners with strong motivation and preparation for college and career paths

Challenges that Minuteman must address in the FY2008 Budget Proposal:

- Federal and State competency attainment beyond current level of passing the Language Arts and Mathematics MCAS exams
- All future graduates of Minuteman will be required to attain the level of proficiency in not only English Language Arts and Math, but by 2010 to attain the same level of proficiency in the Earth/Physics, Human Services, and Technology.
- The FY08 budget proposal provides the human and material resources to make these objectives successful

Enrollment and Access to District Students:

The school needs to reintroduce itself to parents with high school age students. This will be a priority for the remainder of this year and for FY08.

Paul Lynch informed the committee that Superintendent Callahan will be retiring after this school year. He had served as the principal for 25 years. Paul Lynch believes if Bill Callahan stayed on

he would be able to turn the enrollment figures around. He stated that the students at the school speak very highly of him.

Other Business:

Bob Jacobson informed the committee that Thursday night's hearing has been canceled. The agendas have been switched around. Because of the events this past week, everyone needs to complete what they are working on. There is currently a discussion taking place to decide whether or not to push back the starting date of the Town Meeting to April 9th. Nothing has been definitely decided, and he will keep the committee up-to-date.

Budget Hearing: Community Preservation Committee

Sheila Stewart, liaison to the CPC, introduced the chairman of the CPC, Chris Morley.

Chris Morley provided the committee members with a handout of his presentation.

Overview of CPC:

- CPA revenue is derived from a 3% property tax surcharge, a 100% state match, and interest on fund balances.
- This years receipt equal \$2,497,612, with interest earnings of \$222,218
- 100% match is anticipated through FY2009, and perhaps being steadily reduced over ensuing years as more towns join CPA.
- The CPC has budgeted \$2.5 million in revenue for FY08
- CPA Fund Balance has more than \$3.5 million.
- Most of this savings is available to be expended in all 4 statutory categories of Open Space, Community Housing, Historic Preservation, and Recreation.
- For Town Meeting 2007 there are 9 CPA articles. Seven are new projects being proposed, with total expenditures of \$450,000 plus the eventual purchase price of the Johnson land.
- Debt Service this year equals \$793,098 (roughly a \$39K reduction)
- Bonding will be proposed for the Johnson land purchase.

Budget Guidelines:

- Always budget conservatively
- Attempt to fund core projects at 10% statutory minimum
- Build up reserve for future projects
- Bond land acquisitions/large projects to both leverage CPA revenue for future projects, and as fairness issue to spread the cost of long-term benefits over more than one set of taxpayers

Nine CPA Articles for TM08:

- The first three articles are for a total of \$145,000 and deal with the Rail Trail. The trail will run from the AAA Train Station on Union Ave to the north Concord boarder. Bob Jacobson asked if there was any detail as to what has already been spent and where this project is going. Chris Morley stated that \$25,000 was spent last year on the feasibility study. This is the next step in the project. This project is listed in the master plan.
- Johnson Land Purchase. The Board of Selectmen is currently in negotiations, so an exact amount is not known. The land will give the Town access to some trails.
- Housing Trust Allocation \$250,000. This will be a new vehicle for creating community housing in Town. The CPA has explored several avenues and obtained multiple

appropriations for community housing, but to date no housing units have been created/acquired.

- Amend TM05 Article 42. The amendment extends the time period for this article by one year, and allows more than \$100,000 to be spent per unit.
- Carding Mill House Planning \$25,000 – Goal is to protect the house from the weather and vandals. The need is to starve off further significant deterioration by securing the building.
- Sudbury Town Center Project \$30,000 – this is a smaller portion of the amount the Town plans to spend on the initial survey and engineering for this project.
- General Budget & Appropriation Article

Ralph Verni asked who invests the funds in the saving account. Chris Morley informed the committee that Treasurer, Andrea Terkelsen does. Andrea Terkelsen stated that they tend to look at what the cash flow will be for the next 12 to 24 months.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 8:30pm.