

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 29, 2007 – Thursday
Lower Town Hall – 7:30pm

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

ABSENT: Marty Ragonas

Joint meeting with Lincoln Finance Committee:

Bob Jacobson opened the meeting at 7:45pm. He informed the public that this meeting is held annually to keep each committee informed of what is happening in the other's town. The meeting helps to keep the line of communication open.

Bob Jacobson informed everyone that the negotiations with the unions are still ongoing. There is not much info to be given at this time.

The Town of Sudbury is facing a structural deficit. As with most communities the major issues are the cost of salaries and benefits, utilities and fuel costs, and the rising cost of SPED.

The town is currently looking at a 4 to 7% cost increase to provide the same services as the year before. The town is facing two decisions; pass an override or cut back on services/personnel. The town is projecting a flat revenue growth.

Bob Jacobson explained that there are two capital exclusions on the budget this year, the fire truck and a new building for the police department. The police station would not have an effect on the FY08 budget. Maureen Valente manages the debt very well, and tries to maintain a level on debt.

The Lincoln FinCom stated that they understand and agree what is happening with the structural deficit. They were able to use a budget guideline of 3%. They have a 4% revenue growth projected. They agreed that both towns will continue to work together. They have not decided whether or not an override should be proposed. The Lincoln FinCom is supportive of the class size budget that was proposed by LSRHS.

Ralph Verni stated that if they were going to use the level class budget, than there would not be a need to propose an override. The Lincoln FinCom agreed that they would need to have more discussions before deciding. The enrollment increases at the high school have been small, but the operating costs have been increasing very high.

Bob Jacobson thanked the members of the Lincoln Finance Committee for attending tonight.

Presentation of the New Police Station:

Maureen Valente stated that they would be dealing with the financial aspect of the new station tonight.

Debbie Zurka asked what would happen with the old building if the town approves a new building. Maureen Valente stated the building would be empty and we would have to look at the different options available. They have spoken with a realtor, and the town should be able to get good money if the property is sold. The town might be able to use the property, but she does not see much municipal need for it. The Board of Selectmen would need to decide.

The architect, Greg Carell, informed the committee that his mission is to build a durable low maintenance building. They will use lots of insulation. Planning on using brick so that there will be no painting involved. There will be rubber flooring, and concrete block walls. This will be more expensive, but in the long run will pay off. The new building includes some unfinished space, so the department will be able to expand as needed in the future. It will be built so that if an addition ever needs to be added in the future, the town will be able to add on.

Maureen Valente explained that the carriage house will be a secure place that will be used to keep the ATV & mobile signs. It will also be able to be used to store bulk evidence. It is a small area in the back of the station, and will be relatively inexpensive to build.

Bob Jacobson asked if tours would be made available to the public. He highly recommends everyone to take a tour. He stated that the town is not over exaggerating the condition of the current station, it is in a horrible condition.

Chief Peter Fadgen stated that they are working on getting pictures put onto the town's website. He is scheduling tours at the end of February into March.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:05pm.