

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Monday – October 15, 2007
Flynn Building Conference Room – 7:30pm

PRESENT: Chair Chuck Woodard, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Jim Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Sheila Stewart, Ralph Verni, and Debbie Zurka

Item 1: Approve Meeting Minutes:

Chuck Woodard and Marty Ragonas submitted corrections to be made.

VOTED: On motion, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2007 meeting with the understanding the submitted changes will be made. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Ralph Verni. On vote, motion carries 9 in favor and 0 opposed.

Item 2: Transfers and Other Business:

There were no transfers to be approved.

Item 3: Young Property Update:

Chuck Woodard informed everyone that the committee will need to make a recommendation on this purchase. It is to be presented at the Special Town Meeting that is to be held on December 3rd. He advised everyone to look over the packet of information that was provided.

Sheila Stewart presented the committee with a map outlining the potential development area. She stated that this is a very realistic project that can be completed, with the hope of building 10 to 16 housing units. This will be a two phase project: The first phase is to purchase the land for approx. \$860,000. The second phase includes units of affordable housing and the creation of recreation land. There is a small pond located on the plot of land.

Jim Jacobson asked if there were currently any trails on the property. Sheila Stewart informed the committee that there are, but is not sure if there is an intent to add more. She also informed the committee that there is a developer who would like to purchase the property to build some houses.

Chuck Woodard asked if Sheila could explain the cost chart of page 1 of the hand-out. She stated that the goal is to use CPC funds to purchase the property and then they hope to receive State AHT and Home Funds. They are not looking to bond the project. She believes this will be the first year that the CPC might actually spend more than what they have taken in.

Jim Jacobson asked about what some of the affordable housing units built in the past have looked like. Sheila Stewart informed him about the 4 complexes that are located just past the Atkinson Pool. Marty Ragonas stated that they are decent units, and if you didn't know the area that you would not realize that they are part of affordable housing.

VOTED: On motion, to recommend the allocation of \$860,000 of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to be used solely for the purchase of the Young property located off of Boston

Post Road, with the understanding that the Finance Committee will be advised of any development plans in the future. Said development plans to be reviewed by the FinCom as a separate matter. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed

Item 4: Budget Hearing Schedule:

The committee was advised that Bob Jacobson composed this draft of the FY09 Budget Hearing Schedule. Bob listed a meeting for January 7th, but believes this meeting does not need to be held. An explanation of the structural deficit that the town was facing was included in the first meeting held last January.

Ralph Verni stated that he liked the way the hearings began last year. He found the brief presentation to be useful, since it educated the public and it gave a reference point.

Chuck Woodard stated that he and Maureen Valente could do a videotaped presentation before the budget hearings begin, and then have the presentation re-played before each budget hearing.

Sheila Stewart asked if it was possible to receive the paperwork on the revenue projection before the January 7th meeting. Bob Jacobson suggested delaying the revenue projection presentation to a later date. This way the committee can ask Maureen Valente for any info she has as of January 31st, and then the committee will have the info to look at before the final budget recommendations.

Item 5: Town Forum:

The committee was informed that the purpose of the Town Forum was for the committees and boards of the town to give brief presentations to the Board of Selectmen. Chuck Woodard informed the committee that the forum is scheduled for October 23rd, and he will email members with the time. Chuck stated he will be discussing the letter that was sent to the cost centers. Bob Jacobson informed the new members that this was a very informal meeting with the selectmen. Ralph Verni stated that he would go to offer moral support.

Item 6: Budget Review Task Force Update:

Marty Ragonas provided the committee with a schedule of upcoming meeting dates and topics for the Budget Review Task Force (BRTF).

Marty informed the committee that Town Manager Maureen Valente and Asst. Town Manager Wayne Walker made a presentation to the BRTF in regards to benefits and collective bargaining that the town side is facing. She stated that both did extremely well, and that members of the task force are asking good questions.

Jamie Gossels stated that it was a very informative meeting. Bill Kneeland stated that it was very frustrating. He realizes there are constraints on what can be done, but a strategic plan to deal with the cost of benefits needs to be put in place. The budgets for all of the cost centers are just going to continue to rise.

Item 7: Code of Conduct:

Ralph Verni stated the he was asked to provide a copy of the paperwork to the Town Moderator, so he did. Myron Fox did come back with a few suggestions. Ralph reviewed the changes that Myron presented.

Ralph Verni stated that he has not received any other comments, so he believes the paperwork is ready to be given back to Maureen Valente and to get it posted.

VOTED: On motion, to approve the Code of Conduct as submitted with the Myron Fox edits. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Item 8: Liaison Meeting Update:

Marty Ragonese stated that she met with Maureen Valente, but that since she has not completed budget meetings with her staff, discussions of the letter that was sent to the cost centers was put off until the next liaison meeting. She informed the committee that the Capital Improvement Committee was down to four members and the Kirsten Roopenian has stepped down from the committee. The Finance Committee does have the right to appoint one person to the Capital Improvement Committee.

Chuck Woodard stated that Maureen Valente will be reporting to the FinCom about the capital projects that the school department completed that they did not get approval on or go out to bid on.

Ralph Verni stated that the student body continues to grow at LS, and that Special Ed. will be a budget challenge again.

Bill Kneeland stated that they have met with SPS, and their next meeting is scheduled for November 15th. SPS does not think there should be a problem getting the info together. They have seen a decrease in enrollment this year. They have a contract in place for the next three years to cover their utilities.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:40pm.