

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Monday- September 21, 2009**  
**7:30pm – Flynn Building (Silva Room)**

**Present:** Chairman Chuck Woodard, Joan Carlton, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Bob Stein, and Sheila Stewart

**Opening Comments**

The meeting was opened at 7:31pm.

**Election of New Members**

The committee members were informed that both Joan Carlton and Bob Stein have spoken with the Town Moderator. The FinCom now needs to take an official vote.

**VOTED:** To appoint Joan Carlton to the Finance Committee to fill the position held by Debbie Zurka. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and second by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 7 in support and 0 opposed.

**VOTED:** To appoint Robert Stein to the Finance Committee to fill the position held by Todj Gozdeck. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Jim Rao. On vote, motion carries 7 in support and 0 opposed.

**Budget and Information Delivery Timetable**

Selectmen Larry O'Brien started the discussion by informing the committee that he, Maureen Valente, John Brackett, and Susan Iuliano have met to discuss the budget process. The LSRHS school committee has been informed of what was being proposed, but they have not yet been given the opportunity to provide any input. The group has been looking at ways to change the budget process without changing the date of the annual town meeting. The committee was informed that in order for Sudbury to change the date of the annual town meeting, that Lincoln would need to change the date of theirs as well. At this time, the Town of Lincoln is not willing to change the date of their annual town meeting. In regards to the Budget Working Group: if the Group faces the same issues as last year, the Selectmen would look to postpone the budget articles until May again.

Susan Iuliano, SPS school committee, stated that they are in the initial stages of discussing what can be changed due to the constraints of an early town meeting. She stated that the goal is to streamline and improve the budget process, while maintaining transparency and providing the same level of budget detail to taxpayers. The cost centers would provide the same budget information, just at a different time than in previous years.

The committee was provided with a "Suggested Revised Budget Calendar". It was noted that this calendar is strictly for discussion purposes. Larry O'Brien pointed out that the changes would result in more time being available at the end of the process.

One of the main changes to the calendar has to do with the dates of the budget hearings. Maureen Valente suggested that in January, instead of having the three main cost centers present their budgets, the FinCom would meet with the other groups. Then in February, budget hearings for the three main cost centers would take place as there should be more accurate revenue estimates available at that time.

Maureen Valente also reminded the committee that we are facing an election year, so it is possible that the release of the information from the state could be delayed.

Larry O'Brien reminded the committee that this is strictly a sample calendar. The group is willing to answer any questions or address any concern that the committee might have.

Bob Jacobson stated that the LS school committee and the Town of Lincoln need to be brought up-to date as to what is being discussed.

The committee also discussed what information actually has to be put into the warrants.

### **Funding the FY11 Budget**

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, provided the committee with a set of revenue estimates for FY10 & FY11. She noted the following points regarding the estimates: FY10 has already seen a 10% reduction in State Aid, the estimates do not include any of the stimulus funds, and there are already discussions taking place that more State Aid cuts are expected for FY10.

Maureen Valente reminded the committee that approximately \$321,000 was used from the Abatement Surplus line to balance the FY10 budget.

Maureen Valente informed the committee that it is possible that the Board of Selectmen will be proposing a Local Tax Article for the annual town meeting. She is currently tracking what other towns are doing. Andrea Terkelsen, Finance Director, informed the committee that an estimated \$88,000 could be raised if the town imposed the 2.25% meal tax and an estimated \$16,000 if the local hotel tax is imposed. Larry O'Brien stated that the board will most likely book the article, because they could always Indefinitely Postpone it at the town meeting.

The committee was informed that Free Cash will not be used to fund the budget.

**There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:04pm.**