

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
7:30pm – Grange Hall
Thursday – January 14, 2010**

Present: Chairman Chuck Woodard, Joan Carlton, Jaime Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Robert Stein, and Sheila Stewart.

Absent: Bill Kneeland

Opening Comments

The meeting was opened at 7:33pm.

Budget Hearing: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

The presentation was made by CIPC member Douglas Cohen.

He started his presentation by reviewing the FY10 budget for the CIPC, which was for \$523,816. The FY11 non-override budget will be 529,054, and is a 1% growth from FY10. The override budget will be for \$547,388 and results in a 4.5% growth from FY10.

Doug Cohen explained the process of how a certain project may/may not be approved by the CIPC. He reminded the committee that beginning in FY10, all lease payments are accounted for in the CIPC budget. \$255,783 in lease payments was unanimously approved as capital expenses for FY11.

The following is the list of projects submitted to the CIPC for FY11:

<i>Requested Item</i>	<i>Approved Amt</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>DPW – Tractor w/ mower</i>	\$23,500	5yr lease \$117,500
<i>DPW – Sweeper</i>	\$31,000	5yr lease \$155,000
<i>BUILDING – building renovations w/ asbestos removal</i>	\$42,000	
<i>BUILDING – pool women showers</i>	\$0	
<i>BUILDING – various building improvements</i>	\$58,771	
<i>BUILDING – Senior Center roof & skylight</i>	\$58,000	
<i>BUILDING – HVAC upgrades @ Fairbanks Center</i>	\$0	
<i>SPS – Nixon rooftop library HVAC & renovation</i>	\$50,000	
<i>POLICE – Live scan fingerprint system</i>	\$10,000	
<i>FIRE – Goodman Hill Radio Generator</i>	\$0	
<i>TECHNOLOGY – Upgrade DPW to VoIP</i>	\$0	
Ongoing Leases	\$255,783	all are town leases
TOTAL	\$529,054	

Chuck Woodard questioned what the average interest rate was that the town pays on leases. Bill Place, DPW Director, informed the committee that they usually receive 4%. Chuck Woodard also questioned if the \$58,771 for the various building improvements included projects for SPS or just the town. Maureen Valente, Town Manager, informed the committee that just the town submitted projects.

Bob Jacobson questioned if there is any accountability if the funds are spent. Doug Cohen responded by informing the committee that the CIPC sends out a memo stating what projects were approved and amount of funds that were allocated for the projects. The CIPC sends the memo to the respective department heads and asks that they provide a breakdown of how the funds have been spent.

Jamie Gossels questioned how the \$58,771 was arrived at for the various building projects. Doug Cohen explained that this amount is equivalent the CIPC target budget amount minus the amounts voted for the other projects. The Building Inspector is the one who prioritizes which building projects are completed first.

Robert Stein questioned who would actually be using the generator on Goodman Hill. Scott Nix, SPD Lieutenant, gave a brief overview of how the town's public safety radios work. Ted Fedynyshyn, CIPC member, gave a brief explanation of why this project was presented to the CIPC. This item was not approved, as it seems like a low priority item that was presented due to a one-time incident that took place during FY09.

Due to the economic climate, the CIPC is submitting the same amount for the Non-override and Override budgets. \$529,054 is being submitted for both budgets.

Other Business

Chuck Woodard reviewed what was discussed at the budget working group. .

Chuck Woodard explained the different budget scenarios that the working group looked at. The working group looked at budgets that contained different variables and different reductions in state aid. The working group discussed the potential amounts of possible overrides. The group agreed to discuss a 2.25% growth budget at the January 25th meeting. The 2.25% was just a marker amount that was picked.

The town is expecting local receipts to decline over 11% and state aid is expected to decline 10% in FY11. Bob Jacobson stated that an override will basically just cover the amount of lost revenues. Maureen Valente reminded the committee that they need to take the lower Minuteman assessment into consideration.

Bob Jacobson asked if the committee could be provided with an update to the union negotiations that are going on for the town. Maureen Valente informed that committee that Supervisory union settled to a similar agreement that the school system received. She gave a brief explanation of the settlement. She informed the committee that negotiations are still ongoing with the Police and Fire unions. Robert Stein questioned if they had to go back and pay any increases retroactively back to the beginning of the fiscal year. Maureen Valente informed him that it depends on what is agreed upon, but usually a retro is paid.

Robert Stein recommended putting something in the Town Crier to clarify what LS and SPS have communicated regarding cost savings. They are communicating cost savings that are really not savings, but rather cost avoidance. The public does not fully understand what is going on. The public will not support an override, if the cost centers really have achieved the savings that are being listed in the Crier.

Chuck Woodard asked the committee members if they would be willing to give an indication as to whether or not might be willing to consider an override. Jim Rao stated that he is not sure yet,

as he would need to see what the impacts will be without one. He realizes that if there is not an override, then we can expect deep cuts. Jaime Gossels agreed with Jim's comments. Chuck Woodard reminded that the town has not passed an override in two years, and he feels more funds are needed to provide the town services. Joan Carlton stated that the town's residents are going without raises, and the committee will need to make a strong case in order to get the support for an override. She stated that it will be tough. Bob Jacobson stated that due to the significant decrease in revenues, he might be willing to support an override. He would need to see what the decrease in services will be. He stated it would also be nice if the Police & fire Unions would settle before the annual town meeting.

Marty Ragonese asked what is happening about recommending a new police station. Maureen Valente stated that an article will be submitted, but that it has the potential to be pulled. There is no final decision at this time. The purpose of the article is to keep the public informed. The committee discussed the new station that was built in Littleton. Chuck Woodard asked if anyone knew the cost. Maureen Valente stated that she will get the figure if someone reminds her.

The committee discussed some of the revised information that is to appear in the warrant. Chuck Woodard informed the committee that he had previously emailed the sheets to the committee. He stated that they should get the retiree figures tomorrow. Maureen Valente stated that the town has some concerns on these figures. Estimates have always been provided in the past. If this information is going to be made public, then the cost centers need to be 100% sure that they can back these figures. At this time, there is some uncertainty. The databases that are kept do not keep track of the information the way the committee is asking for it. Maureen Valente informed the committee that the information the town keeps is based by plan type, not by the participants status (ex; active, retiree, cobra). Although good estimates have been provided, these figures are constantly changing.

The committee discussed what is on the schedule for the January 21st hearing.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 8:37pm.