

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Monday – April 25, 2011
Sudbury Grange Hall – 7:30pm

Present: Joan Carlton (arrived 8:09pm), Tammie Dufault (arrived 7:43pm), Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Robert Stein, and Chuck Woodard

Opening Comments

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm. Jim Rao informed the committee that Rick Johnson would not be making a presentation on Article 36 (Item 4).

Due to the fact that there are many people in attendance to make presentations, the approval of the meeting minutes (Item 1) was moved to the end of the agenda.

The committee was informed that they need to take a vote on whether or not to recommend the appointment of Larry Rowe to a three-year term on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. The CIPC would like for Larry to remain on the committee and Larry would like to continue with the CIPC. **VOTED:** Motion to approve Larry Rowe to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee for a three-year term ending April 30, 2014. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 7 in support, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Carlton, Dufault).

Item 2: FY12 Budget Update

Revenue Update

Jim Rao made the presentation. There were two hand-outs provided to the committee labeled “FY12 Budget Revenue Forecast Update” and “State Aid Based on House Ways and Means Estimate”.

Jim Rao stated that on April 14th the state aid figures were released, and Sudbury’s figure was a net \$300,000 higher than expected. This should be the most conservative number. There were some significant health insurance changes within the House Ways and Means Budget. If everyone is in agreement, he hopes to put something on the website showing the updated figures. The only thing that has change since the publication of the warrant is the state aid figure which is \$300,000 better than what was listed in the warrant.

Chuck Woodard questioned if LS will be keeping all of the estimated revenue increases. Jim Rao responded that Scenario A represents the historical split between the cost centers, and Scenario B allocates \$138,000 from Chapter 70 to LS.

Sudbury Public Schools

John Brackett, Superintendent, presented for Sudbury Public Schools. A hand-out was provided: “FY12 Non-Override Budget”.

He stated that the hand-out is more for the committee member’s review. The first couple of slides show where we were at the time the warrant was being prepared. He stated that they have gone out to bid on the Food Services. They have received four bids, and should realize a savings of approximately \$100,000. The money would come out of the benefits line and move to the operating budget. Marty Ragonas state she believed the cost of the benefits for the food service was \$200,000. John Brackett

stated that it was, but we need to account for the increase in unemployment claims. Robert Stein questioned if the new company will keep the current employees. John Brackett stated he is not sure, and that a contract has not been awarded.

John Brackett stated that the Circuit Breaker number has been questionable. Last year it came in at 40%, and this year it looks promising to come in at a reimbursement of 65% which allows for the school to increase the offset. They will be able to use Jim's Scenario B for the Chapter 70 funding, which results in the school and town splitting \$148,000. It was agreed to increase the facility user fees, which will create an offset of \$60,000. This will be used to offset the maintenance and custodial lines.

John Brackett informed the committee that the proposed non-override budget will fund the same teaching staff as this year. For critical needs, a House Administrator, teacher position, and a .5FTE assistant principal position at Haynes will be added. The school department will be able to meet most of their needs, but are not meeting all the critical needs.

John Brackett stated that as the superintendent of the K-8 system, he has concerns regarding the potential cuts at the high school. He does support an override proposal for LS. He stated that he supports the town in obtaining the two plows, as the school views this as a critical matter involving the safety of all school children.

Susan Iuliano, SPS school committee, reiterated that the school department will be able to meet some of their critical needs, and is glad that the FinCom recognized the importance of the critical needs list. The restorations listed by John Brackett are a small portion of what has been lost over the last couple of years. The school committee is very supportive of the requests from the other cost centers. The addition of the snow plows involves a serious safety issue for the schools. The school committee is concerned about how the cuts will affect the LS students.

Jim Rao stated that it is good to see the forecast changes move in our favor. He thanked the administration, the union, and the school committee for their work.

Chuck Woodard stated that he thought that a \$38,000 transfer to LS was an insignificant amount compared to the total shortage and wondered if the amount should be larger. Susan Iuliano responded that this would undermine some of the efforts made with the teachers' union and with the benefits negotiations. Jeff Beeler, SPS school committee, stated that this would have an impact on negotiations going forward. The union made some concessions, and this would set a bad precedence. Chuck Woodard stated he is concerned with the significant issue revolving around the special education shortfall at LS. Jeff Beeler stated that even if we do as Chuck suggests, LS will still need an override in order to balance their budget. Tammie Dufault stated she understands what everyone is saying, but believes we need to be consistent. We told the unions they need to make concessions in order for the funds to go back to their respective budgets. Bob Jacobson stated he agrees with Jeff Beeler as this will send a bad message to the unions. He believes the committee is happy with the work that has been done with the negotiations and he feels the funds should stay with SPS.

Town of Sudbury

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, informed the committee they would use the additional funds to match SPS, so that they can hire a Facility Director. This position would be added to the building department's budget. She stated that the town will not need additional funds for the non-override budget. They were able to reduce the health benefits line by \$25,000, by offering Fallon Health and an opt-out program to the employees. She stated that the town will be able to maintain the current head count and keep all core services currently being offered.

Marty Ragonas stated that the warrant shows us \$250,000 short of a level budget. Maureen Valente responded that the gasoline line and some others lines were reduced. She believes it is critical that we fill the Facility Director position. She is worried about the cut to the gasoline line and the Snow & Ice and hopes that our reserves will be able to cover these.

Robert Stein questioned the cost of the snow removal. Maureen Valente stated we currently have a deficit of approximately \$317,000 at this point. The town is working with FEMA to receive funding that will cover costs related to a 48-hour period in January. FEMA will cover 75% of our costs if we are approved, but the funds are not expected to come in before June 30th. We will be carrying a \$100,000 deficit.

Robert Stein stated he has concerns in regards to the medical emergency services and asked for an update on the town providing Advance Life Support services. Maureen stated that a proposal was put forth last year to hire four additional firefighters, which was turned-down. Due to turn-overs within the fire department, we have been able to hire seven paramedics although some need to attend the 12-week fire academy. The union has agreed that this is an important service and the two parties are meeting weekly. The town is still comparing potential revenues versus costs of the service. Currently we are using the Town of Wayland which charges a per diem rate during the day. Emerson Hospital still helps, but they charge a higher rate and there is a longer wait. The goal is to obtain 16 paramedics, with two working per shift.

Maureen Valente explained the reason for asking for the two snow plows this year. She met with the department heads and they all agree with SPS that this needs to be a priority. The DPW had problems with a plow this past winter and they were not able to obtain parts for it. \$55,000 gets us a new lease for one-year. The concept was to ask for two in order to be able to keep up all areas surrounding the various schools. There is a possibility that we will be down to one plow next year. Chuck Woodard questioned if the override did not move forward, how many plows we have. Maureen Valente responded that we have two, but that one is very old. Bob Jacobson responded that they are not working too well since we currently have people walking in the streets during snow storms. Maureen Valente stated that the town does work with the school department to get the information out to the residents as to which areas are not going to be plowed.

Tammie Dufault questioned how long it takes to clear the snow from the town and if it might be more cost effective to contract out the plowing services. Maureen Valente stated that there are not enough people with the correct equipment to do the work. Another town did a survey and the results were that there are not many communities that contract this service out.

Maureen Valente and the committee discussed the reasoning for putting this forward as an override question versus a debt exclusion.

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Scott Carpenter, Superintendent, and Mark Collins, LS school committee, made the presentation for the high school.

Mark Collins stated that at the budget hearing they advised the FinCom that they were \$1.192 million from a level service budget. He reported that they under budgeted for what was expected to be received in local aid. For the circuit breaker funding they initially expected a 40% reimbursement, but 60% is a more reasonable expectation now. This provides an additional \$220,000 to the district. He reported that the school committee has been working on some of the proposals that were presented by the FinCom. He reported that they are making some progress, but they are not where they want to be. They have been

working with the staff and a consultant. The employees are now paying 30% of the premiums regardless of which plan they are on.

Chuck Woodard stated that with the additional state aid funding, it looks like the school is down \$832,000 and is wondering if this is the amount the school department will be looking for. Mark Collins responded that he is suggesting that the FinCom and Board of Selectmen put forth on a ballot the amount of \$652,000 to cover the increase in out-of-district special education costs that will not be reimbursed. Mark Collins provided an explanation as to how the \$652,000 was arrived at.

Tammie Dufault stated since the override number was presented, she was under the impression they would be working on renegotiating with the teachers and wondered if the discussions will continue to take place up to the time of the annual town meeting. Mark Collins responded that there have been on-going conversations between the parties. There is a three-year contract in place that has not been amended. There is no legal obligation for either party to reduce the contract. Both the school committee and the teachers are committed to find ways to save. The teachers' associations have met in formal meetings and are looking to find savings for the employees and the district.

Scott Carpenter informed the FinCom that there are six families that are contesting the placements of their child. If the decision is found in the favor of the families, this could have the potential to add between another \$150,000 and \$250,000 to the \$650,000 number that Mark Collins brought up. The school department has not had this type of fluctuation in a couple of years.

Scott Carpenter stated that after the local aid increases, they are at a shortfall of \$840,000. This translates to a cut of 5.34 professional staff FTEs and 5.28 support staff FTEs. They have cut down the clerical summer help staff, as well as some other changes being made. The school district is looking at an \$844,000 shortage only if the circuit breaker comes in at the 65% reimbursement rate. An override in the amount of \$500,000 would leave the school with a \$289,000 funding gap which allows them to fund the 5.34 teaching FTEs.

Chuck Woodard questioned where the increase in circuit breaker funds show. Mark Collins responded that the costs accumulated in FY11 will be paid in FY12. Judy Belliveau, LS Finance Director, stated that in their earlier budget presentation they did not have any more carry forward funding. The circuit breaker went down in the last budget, and was reduced for the coming year.

Chuck Woodard stated that he feels that part of the cause of the shortfall lies in LS labor costs and the rate of growth resulting from the last union contract settlement. The bottom line is that LS agreed to higher cost-of-living increases, and better health benefits than the Town and SPS and as a result their labor costs have grown more rapidly. He believes \$400,000 of the shortage is related to this more rapid growth in labor costs. When looking at the results of the contracts, he opposes funding the cost of that more rapid growth because that essentially says that tax dollars should be shifted to the cost center with the most expensive labor contract, which is a bad deal for the taxpayers. Mark Collins responded that this does not tell the full story. He stated that the FinCom suggested the 4.5% budget growth, and that the FinCom never stated that this was not a reasonable target. Chuck Woodard reminded him that the 4.5% was a maximum not a minimum and was suggested before the entire economy fell apart.

Mark Collins reminded the committee that the school committee has eliminated the early retirement incentive and increased the employee's portion of the health premiums to 30% which is higher than what the town's, Lincoln, state, and surrounding community employees pay. Robert Stein stated that it is a wash since the early retirement incentive was eliminated but they added the bonus payments. Mark Collins responded that it was not a wash. You need to compare it to comparable districts. It is a long-term incentive payment to help keep employees in the district. Chuck Woodard questioned if they have

been experiencing turn-over in the staff. Scott Carpenter responded that that are now seeing turn overs for the employees in the lower steps and for employees who have been reduced to part-time.

Chuck Woodard stated that the contract for the high school is more expensive than the other cost centers. Mark Collins responded that they are just asking for the community to have the right to vote on the override.

Robert Stein stated that he is confused. Based on Bob Jacobson's proposal, the teachers were expected to save \$172,000, the school district would save \$400,000, and then there was a discussion on moving \$300,000 from the Excess & Deficiency Fund. This would be more than enough to cover the deficit the school is facing. Mark Collins stated his comments are not right. The proposal helped focus attention on the possible savings with the health plans. They did look at the proposal presented by Bob Jacobson. The proposal generated interest in ways for all the parties to find savings.

Robert Stein questioned the possibility of moving \$300,000 from the Excess & Deficiency Fund. Scott Carpenter stated they will need these funds if they have to provide the requested special education plans to the six families mentioned earlier. Mark Collins informed the FinCom that the Excess & Deficiency Fund has been at the \$380,000 amount for many years. The school committee has looked at borrowing the \$100,000, but this could become risky because of potential unexpected costs. Judy Belliveau informed the FinCom that the Excess & Deficiency Fund is the only reserve line that the school has. The balance is well below what the state recommends. She stated it would not be fiscally wise to tap into it and use the amounts previously mentioned.

Marty Ragonis stated she would have liked to have LS report that some of the proposals were looked at and accepted. It is good that they are still looking at them, but it is necessary for LS to show good faith in their negotiations. They cannot continue to go to the voters to look for additional funding. Mark Collins responded that the employees have been moving to the rate saver health plans and that they hope to be able to extend their open enrollment period. They are anticipating additional savings. He cannot commit to a change in contract negotiations. He stated that the past health care conversations have been very productive.

Override Discussion

Jim Rao reminded everyone that it is the Board of Selectmen who decide on the amount of the override and whether or not it is put forward to the voters. He asked the FinCom for their opinion of a possible override and what amount they believe should be put forth. He believes it will be helpful if the selectmen know where the FinCom stands on this position.

Chuck Woodard stated that after hearing everything, it appears that LS is short \$800,000, of which he believes \$400,000 is due to the generous contracts in place. He would support an in override in the amount of \$430,000, with \$340,000 for the Sudbury share of \$400,000 for LS and \$90,000 for the plows. He recommends that the amounts be put forth as two separate questions.

Jamie Gossels agrees with Chuck Woodard in principle. She appreciates the good work that was put into the contract negotiations by the Town and SPS, and feels it is hard to determine a specific amount of the LS shortfall that is attributable to its contracts. She feels the override amount should be somewhere between what Chuck recommended and what LS is asking. She is concerned with the idea of presenting a menu ballot, as this is something the committee has tried to avoid in the past. We could be setting a precedent by presenting one now.

Bill Kneeland stated that he supports the override for the snow plows, as this becomes a safety issue for all residents. He would support an override for LS in the range of \$400,000.

Tammie Dufault believes it will be good to purchase the plows. She witness kids in the roads this past winter by the Haynes school. Although LS is trying to address the budget issues, she commended the work that the town and the SPS system did with the negotiations. She does not believe an override should be presented until all other options have been exhausted. We still have a couple of weeks before the town meeting and discussions need to continue until then.

Robert Stein stated he could support the override for the snow plows. He stated that LS diplomatically had several opportunities to reduce the budget. He thinks it is offensive to be blaming the need for an override on the special education students. He cannot support an override for the school.

Joan Carlton supports the override for the snow plows, but that they need to be separate from the other override. She stated she could support an override for LS in the \$400,000 range.

Marty Ragonis supports the \$90,000 for the snow plow leases. She agrees with what Chuck said, and she could support \$340,000 for the high school. She stated that LS needs to find ways to start to find savings.

Bob Jacobson read from a prepared statement. He started by thanking the residents for all of the emails, but reminded everyone that it is ultimately up to the Board of Selectmen to decide whether or not an override amount is put forward to the voters. He reviewed the cost of the health care plans that LS offers their employees compared to what is offered by his company. He reviewed the number of students in the special education program, and reminded everyone that we are legally required to spend the funds. He stated that reform in health care is needed. He understand that the voters want to the right to vote on this matter, and believes the selectmen should give them right to do so.

Jim Rao stated that they need to keep the focus of the discussion and decisions on the kids. We have used overrides to fund the operating budget of the high school. He supports the selectmen in regards to letting the voters decided whether or not they want to approve an override. He supports the \$90,000 override amount for the snow plow leases. He could support an override for an amount somewhere between what Chuck Woodard and Jamie Gossels suggested. There is no guarantee that the override will pass, so it is critical that we continue to find ways to reduce costs.

Item 3: Public Comments

Selectmen Larry O'Brien stated that he has a question for LS, which he will direct through the FinCom. He stated a few time the phrase cost per employee was used, but the figure is lower than what the town arrives at. He wonders if the FinCom knows how the figure is arrived at. Jim Rao stated he did not. Mark Collins stated there is a spreadsheet, and he will get it out to Larry and the FinCom ASAP.

The committee took a break in order for attendees of the cost centers to leave the meeting. Joan Carlton left the meeting at 10:11pm, and the committee reconvened their meeting at 10:12pm.

Item 4: Presentation from Petitioner on Article 36: Reduce CPA Surcharge from 3% to 1.5%

No discussion took place as the petitioner was not in attendance.

Item 5: Deliberate and Vote on CPA Articles

Note: The votes are listed in numerical order by article, and not in the order that the committee discussed or voted.

The committee was informed that they need to take votes and make their recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting on the remaining Community Preservation Articles.

Article 28-Carding Mill Pond Harvesting

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 28. Motion made by Marty Ragonas and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton)

Article 29-Town Clerk Historical Documentation Preservation

Tammie Dufault questioned if this project is different than the past ones. Chris Morley informed the committee that it is a continuance.

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 29. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 30-Historic Projects

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 30. Motion made by Marty Ragonas, and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 31-Town-wide Walkways

Chris Morley informed the committee that this is continuance of the program allowing for the construction of new walkways.

Robert Stein questioned the stone walls that have been put up along some of the past walkways that were constructed. Jody Kablack stated that the CPA covers any restoration that needs to be completed to get the property back into good condition. They have covered fencing and retaining walls in the past.

Chuck Woodard questioned if the DPW is held accountable for the costs related to the construction of the walls. Jody Kablack responded that he is.

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 31. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 6 in support, 2 opposed (Dufault, Stein), and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 32-Sudbury Housing Trust 10% Allocation

Robert Stein questioned Jody Kablack when selecting a home, if an analysis is done to look at the fiscal impact to the town's tax revenues versus the cost to the schools. Jim Rao informed him that this was a question for Housing Trust and not Jody.

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 32. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 7 in support, 1 opposed (Stein), and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 33-Fairbank Farm Agricultural Preservation and Historical Preservation Restriction

Robert Stein questioned if the public would have access to the property. Jody Kablack responded that they are working on a provision for public access. There is a trail, but it is not usable right now. They are working with the Conservation Commission, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the owner to gain public access. The owner of the property has offered assistance in building the trail. The public will not be able to park at the farm stand in order to access the trail.

Bob Jacobson questioned if the property is developable. Jody Kablack responded that it is possible to build up to 14 on this property. Jody Kablack informed the committee that there is a PowerPoint presentation on the town's website showing the property and what is being proposed. The committee was informed that discussions have been on-going for about two years in regards to this project.

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 33 with an amount not to exceed \$750,000. Motion made by Chuck Woodard and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 34-Amend Article 31 of the 2008 Town Meeting

Chris Morley stated that in the past time frames have been set on projects to make sure the funds were spent. Due to the economic climate the past few years this project has been delayed. At this point everyone is ready to move forward with the project. Jody Kablack reiterated that the permits have been received and that they are ready to move forward.

Robert Stein questioned the specific location of the properties. Jody Kablack responded on Ford Rd, Green Rd, and Great Road.

Tammie Dufault questioned if these would be rental properties. Jody Kablack responded yes. Tammie Dufault also questioned why the term of the article will be indefinite. Chris Morley responded that they keep running into deadlines. At this time there is no indication that the project will not be completed.

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 34. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 6 in support, 2 opposed (Dufault, Stein), and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 35-General Budget and Appropriation

Robert Stein question how the budget will be affected if the proposed reduction in the surcharge is approved. Jody Kablack responded that there would be no affect to the FY12 budget.

VOTED: Motion to recommend the approval of Article 35. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 36-Reduce CPA surcharge from 3% to 1.5%

Tammie Dufault stated she presented the roll back of the surcharge last year. She stated that the CPA has done good things, but that they have cash in the bank that is drawing interest. She endorses the reduction in the surcharge. It still provides us the opportunity to invest the 1.5% surcharge. It will only slow the progression of the cash reserve.

Robert Stein stated he echoes Tammie's comments. This is a tough time for taxpayers and we can have some a tax break by reducing the surcharge. He reminded the committee that the surcharge could always be increase at a later date. It is not a great deal anymore as we no longer receive the 100% match from the state.

Bill Kneeland stated he has a different view. He believes we should keep the 3% surcharge. Although there is a large reserve, it could be eliminated with one large purchase. He stated that it is not a question of who is right or wrong. It is just a matter of people having different opinions.

Marty Ragonis suggested inviting Rick Johnson to Monday night's meeting to make a 10-minute presentation. Jamie Gossels reminded everyone that this was the second time he was scheduled to present his idea to the committee.

VOTED: Motion to support the approval of Article 36. Motion made by Robert Stein and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 2 in support (Dufault, Stein), 6 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

Article 38-Purchase off Brimstone Lane

Robert Stein state he heard that the petitioner went to the CPC, and that the committee voted down his request. Chris Morley stated that the nothing was presented to the CPC in regards to this article. The subdivision went before Planning. Robert Stein questioned if this is a buildable lot. Jody Kablack responded that that the proposal consists of nine acres that could be developed into three lots. The preliminary plans were denied. She has spoken with the selectmen regarding this matter, and they decided not to have the town pursue this property.

VOTED: Motion to not support the approval of Article 38. Motion made by Marty Ragonas and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and absent (Carlton).

Item 6: Update on Sewer Project Meeting

Jim Rao asked Robert Stein to provide an update on the meeting that was held regarding the Route 20 sewer project.

Robert Stein stated the meeting was attended by members of the FinCom, Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, and some of the major business owners on Route 20. He stated he is in supported of the project, for the reason that it is good for the town and the people located on Route 20. He stated that the property owners are very much for the project, whereas some tenants are against it. It was discussed how the \$1 million price would be spread out, as the property owners are concern about funding the project 100%. The majority of the people would be charged a betterment charge. The passing of the project would allow for larger restaurants to move into town. His biggest concern about the project is trying to sell it to the taxpayers. He believes the project needs to be sold to the taxpayers as opposed to be presenting to the taxpayers.

Chuck Woodard questioned if there is an analysis that will show the additional cost to an average taxpayer. Robert Stein stated that helps if everyone pays into the \$1 million cost, as he feels the project will help increase everyone's property value. Jody Kablack responded that the Board of Selectmen will be deciding if the \$1 million is spread over all taxpayers. If it is, it equates to \$175 over a 5-year period for residential properties and \$300 for the average commercial property.

Chris Morley reminded the committee that one of the main drivers of this project is that the majority of all of our commercial sites sit on our water source. Robert Stein stated that 75% of our water source could be contaminated with the current set-up.

Jim Rao stated that it appears the FinCom supports this project, and once the article is completed they will take a final vote and announce their support at the Annual Town Meeting.

Item 1: Approval of Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2011 ~ Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2011 meeting. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

February 14, 2011 ~ Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting. Motion made by Robert Stein and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

February 28, 2011 ~ Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 7 in support, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Carlton), and 1 abstained (Dufault).

March 1, 2011 ~ Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

March 2, 2011 ~ Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2011 meeting. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Carlton).

March 21, 2011 ~ Voted: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2011 meeting. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Carlton), and 1 abstain (Woodard).

Other Business

Jim Rao reminded the committee that they will need to take final votes on Monday night for the override and non-override budget.

Jim Rao stated that earlier Bob Jacobson had suggested sending a letter to the state legislators in regards to negotiations and health benefits. Jim Rao stated he feels it is a good idea. Bob Jacobson stated he will draft a letter and send it to the FinCom for their review. He will then present it to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee was informed that Marty Ragonas will not be seeking re-appointment when the May 2011 Annual Town Meeting is over, after serving on the committee for nine years. The committee thanked her for her help and contributions over the years.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:17pm.