

**Town of Sudbury
Finance Committee
2013 Town Warrant Positions
Minutes of Meeting Thursday,
March 14, 2013
7:30 p.m.**

The Town of Sudbury's Finance Committee Meeting, held in the Flynn Building, was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairman Jim Rao. Present for this meeting were Jamie Gossels, Bill Kneeland, Mark Minassian and Chuck Woodard. Robert Stein arrived at 7:47 p.m. Joan Carlton, Doug Kohen and Bob Jacobson were absent.

Item# 1: Review Articles #40 through #43

Jim welcomed Dan DePompei, the petitioner for Articles 40 through 43, to provide of overview of each article. Mr. DePompei described the intent behind article #41 first, an article which creates a semi-annual town forum. This article is similar in form and wording to the resolution that was passed at town meeting several years ago. Chuck Woodard questioned whether having a town forum in addition to an annual town meeting would be too much of a burden. Mr. DePompei mentioned that this is open for discussion and might change. The next article discussed was article #40, an article which deals with a by-law change limit the number of years during a consecutive 3-year period that a committee member can serve as chair. Chuck Woodard expressed his concerns with the limitations being imposed on committee chairs in article #42 and does not believe a one size fits all approach makes sense. For example, he believes that it takes several years to become an effective chair for the finance committee and limiting someone from being chair to a single year does not make sense. Mr. DePompei understood the concerns and suggested that he will make some changes because that was not his intent.

The next article discussed was article #43, an article which deals with a by-law change that describes data that town departments should be required to disclose to the Finance Committee and appear in the warrant. Jim commented that he understood the request, but cautioned that much if not all of the information discussed is published on the town's website. Moreover, we need to be cognizant of how much information is put in the warrant as it can be overwhelming. Chuck agreed and mentioned that the FinCom has always been open to including additional information but is not sure that a by-law change is needed nor the appropriate vehicle. The last article discussed was article #40, an article which requires that Article 4, the main budget article reviewed at Town Meeting, be pushed out to the next scheduled session of Town Meeting if any expense line item increases by more than 2 percent. Jim supported the concept of deferring the discussion of the main budget and it was more a question of whether this was the right vehicle to do so. In addition, perhaps the threshold needs to be revisited to make sure that it is material. Chuck suggested the greater of 2 percent or \$200,000 as a threshold.

Item# 2&3: Review Articles and Take Positions for 2013 Town Warrant

Members were asked to refer to the package of warrant article materials provided at a previous meeting. Whereas some articles are not financial in nature the Committee will not take a

position on all items for the warrant nor will they be asked to report further at Town Meeting. Such articles addressed here in will be so noted as “no position required or taken”. Chairman Rao led a discussion of each article by referring to each by number and subject, as submitted by the Board of Selectmen in the materials dated February 21, 2013. [All of Chairman Jim Rao’s comments herein are referred to by “Chairman” and Finance Committee referred to as “Committee”]

Chairman - Article 1: Hear Reports (Selectmen). No position required or taken.

Chairman - Article 2: FY13 Budget Adjustments (Selectmen). No further information is available at this time. There may be one or more budget adjustments for the current year. If so, that information will be presented at Town Meeting. If necessary, the Committee will report at Town Meeting.

Chairman - Article 3: Stabilization (Selectmen). No request to spend or add to the Stabilization Fund in FY13 has been requested at this time. No position required or taken.

Chairman - Article 4: FY14 Budget (Finance Committee). Everyone was given a copy of the latest budget summary containing information for consideration under column labeled “FY14 No Override Budget”. The Chairman provided an overview of the current status of the FY14 No Override budget for the three principal cost centers as well as the current assumptions regarding the use of Excess & Deficiency Funds by Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to supplement their FY14 budget. The Chairman indicated a total of \$82,705,801 for consolidated operating expenditures, capital and debt service was under for consideration for a No Override vote. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 4 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the FY14 No Override Budget as noted on tonight’s handout reflecting operating expenditures and debt services only for article 4 in total of \$ 82,705,801. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion was seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 5: FY14 Capital Budget (Capital Improvement Planning Committee). Again reference was made to the latest budget summary containing information for the “No Override Budget”. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 5 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the FY14 Capital Budget as noted on tonight’s handout reflecting an operating capital line item of \$284,062. The motion was so moved by Mark Minassian. Motion was seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

The total of the next 3 articles was also contained in the FY14 No Override Budget summary handout as “Enterprise Fund Expenditures (Direct)” totaling \$1,217,954.

Chairman - Article 6: FY14 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget (Finance Committee). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 6 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the FY14 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget in the amount of \$447,924. The motion was so moved by Chuck Woodard. Motion was seconded by Bill Kneeland. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 7: FY14 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget (Finance Committee). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 7 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the FY14 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget in the amount of \$539,539. The motion was so moved by Mark Minassian. Motion was seconded by Bill Kneeland. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 8: FY14 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund Budget (Finance Committee). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 8 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the FY14 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund Budget in the amount of \$230,222. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion was seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 9: Unpaid Bills (Accountant). No unpaid bills at this time. If there are any unpaid bills that information will be presented at Town Meeting. If necessary, the Committee will report at Town Meeting.

Chairman - Article 10: Special Act – Dedication of Local Meals Tax Revenue to Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB). Jim mentioned that he supports the concept of funding OPEB, however he was not sure this was the most appropriate vehicle. He would rather see a more comprehensive discussion and review of funding mechanisms as opposed to allocating an unrelated revenue source to fund the OPEB reserve. Bill Kneeland mentioned that this is a small amount as compared to the total unfunded liability. Chuck would also like to see a discussion at Town Meeting on this topic as opposed to diverting a small revenue source to fund the OPEB reserve. More specifically, he would like to see a line item in the budget called OPEB the Town Meeting needs to vote to appropriate each year. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 10 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Special Act. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion was seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 0 - 6 not in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 11: Chapter 90 Highway Funding (Director of Public Works). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 10 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the authorization to accept and enter into contract for the expenditures of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth in Chapter 90 funding for FY14. The motion was so moved by Mark Minassian. Motion was seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 12: Real Estate Exemption (Board of Assessors). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 11 the Chairman asked for a motion to allow for an increase of up to 100% of the current exemption amounts under Clauses 17D(E), 22, 37A and 41C(D) of Chapter 59 Section 5, for the fiscal year 2013. The motion was so moved by Mark Minassian. Motion was seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 13: Veterans' Property Tax Work Off Abatement (Board of Selectmen). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 11 the Chairman asked for a motion

to allow the town to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59 Section 5N added by Chapter 108 Section 8A of the Acts of 2012, for the fiscal year 2014, providing for reduction in tax obligations of veterans in exchange for volunteer services to the town, or any act on anything relative thereto. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion was seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 14: Town/School Revolving Funds (Several). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 12 the Chairman asked for a motion to authorize for FY14 the use of revolving funds under MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ by the departments in the amounts and as described in the article submitted. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 15: Fire Department Ambulance Purchase (Fire Chief). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 15 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Fire Department Ambulance Purchase in the amount of \$220,000. The motion was so moved by Bob Stein. Motion seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 16: Construct Police Headquarters. Jim Kelly, Facilities Director, mentioned that there have been some changes for storm water and other items that the team is evaluating and as a result, they have decided to increase the amount of the article to an amount not to exceed \$7.5 million. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 16 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Construct Police Headquarters article in an amount not to exceed \$7,500,000. The motion was so moved by Chuck Woodard. Motion seconded by Bill Kneeland. No further discussion. VOTE: 5 in favor of motion, 0 against, and 1 abstained (Bob Stein). Motion carried by vote of 5 to 0. Bob Stein commented that he abstained from voting because he supports the construction of a new police headquarters but does not agree with the proposed site.

Chairman - Articles 17 and 18: Fairbank Community Center Projects. More information is needed including total project costs. VOTE: Postponed. The Committee will report at Town Meeting.

Chairman - Article 19: Town Center Traffic Improvements. Jim started the discussion by voicing support for the project but stating that he has concerns with the proposed funding mechanism, specifically taking 70 percent of the Chapter 90 Highway Funding for two straight years and redirecting it to this project. Jamie expressed an opinion that there is a sense that we may not miss much in terms of road paving as it is only for two years. Bill Kneeland was supportive of the article as proposed. Chuck is supportive of the project but has questions as to other funding options besides devoting so much Chapter 90 funds. The committee agreed that more discussion was needed to understand the currently proposed funding decision. VOTE: Postponed. The Committee will report at Town Meeting.

Chairman - Article 20: PILOT Agreement – Solar Project at Landfill. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 20 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the

PILOT Agreement – Solar Project at Landfill article. The motion was so moved by Jamie Gossels. Motion seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 21: PILOT Agreement – Solar Project at LSRHS. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 21 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the PILOT Agreement – Solar Project at LSRHS article. The motion was so moved by Mark Minassian. Motion seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Articles 22: Amend Town of Sudbury Bylaws, Capital Planning Bylaw Amendment. More information is needed including total project costs. VOTE: Postponed. The Committee will report at Town Meeting.

Chairman - Articles 23: Amend Town of Sudbury Bylaws, Capital Planning Bylaw Amendment to include LSRHS. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 20 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Capital Planning Bylaw Amendment to include LSRHS article. The motion was so moved by Chuck Woodard. Motion seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Articles 24: Energy Improvement Program - ESCO. More information is needed including total project costs. VOTE: Postponed. The Committee will report at Town Meeting.

Chairman - Articles 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30: Various Bylaw Articles. No position required or taken.

The Chairman made reference to the materials provided by the CPA during their budget hearing. With no further discussion, comments or questions on the exhibits the Committee went on to consider articles 31 through 38.

Chairman - Article 31: CPF-Amend Art. 38 of the 2006 ATM – Carding Mill Pond/Stearns Mill Pond Invasive Weed Removal (CPC). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 31 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve CPF-Amend Article 38 of the 2006 ATM. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 32: CPF-Town-wide Walkways (CPC). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 27 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of constructing new walkways within the Town. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: 5 in favor of motion and 1 against (Bob Stein). Motion carried by vote of 5 to 1.

Chairman - Article 33: CPF-Amend Art. 27 of the 2004 ATM – Revolutionary War Cemetery. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 31 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve CPF-Amend Article 27 of the 2004 ATM. The motion was so moved by Bill

Kneeland. Motion seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 34: CPF-Housing Trust 10% Allocation (CPC). With no further discussion, comments or questions specifically on article 34 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$202,500 for the purpose of providing the Sudbury Housing Trust in support of its effort to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in Sudbury. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: 4 in favor of motion and 2 against (Mark Minassian and Bob Stein). Motion carried by vote of 4 to 2.

Chairman - Article 35: CPF-Historic Projects (CPC). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 35 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$52,300 for the purpose of completing various projects as described in the article. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion .

Chairman - Article 36: CPF-Town Center Landscaping (CPC). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 35 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of completing various projects as described in the article. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Mark Minassian. No further discussion. VOTE: 5 in favor of motion and 1 against (Bob Stein). Motion carried by vote of 5 to 1.

Chairman - Article 37: CPF-LSRHS Softball Field and Davis/Featherland Field Design (CPC). With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 35 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$336,000 for the purpose of completing various projects as described in the article. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland. Motion seconded by Jamie Gossels. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Chairman - Article 38: CPF-FY13 General Budget and Appropriations (CPC). The article provided contained a listing of expenditures including debt service, administration costs and requisite reserves. With no further discussion, comments or questions on article 38 the Chairman asked for a motion to approve appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$2,012,785 for the FY14 CPF's general operating. The motion was so moved by Mark Minassian. Motion seconded by Bill Kneeland. No further discussion. VOTE: (Unanimous) 6 - 0 in favor of the motion.

Item# 4: CAC/Sewer Steering Committee Update

Mark Minassian then provided the Committee with an update on discussions by the joint Citizens Advisory Committee/Sewer Steering Committee. There are three alternatives being evaluated for this project. Progress is starting to be made as it is much more organized than a year ago and the joint-goal is to have an article for Town Meeting in 2014.

There were no comments from the public.

The next regularly scheduled Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, April 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.in the Flynn Building.

Bill Kneeland made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mark Minassian. All were in favor. **There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:36 p.m.**