

**TOWN OF SUDBURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

ATTENDENCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair, Fred Floru, Vice Chair, Jeff Barker, Joan Carlton, Adrian Davies, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian, Bryan Semple

Also Present:

Andrew Vanni, Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Chuck Woodard, Sudbury Board of Selectmen, Radha Gargeya, LS School Committee, Ellen Winer Joachim, SPS School Committee and Susan Iuliano, Selectman

Absent: Jeff Atwater

CONVENE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m., by Chairman, Susan Berry at the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

ITEM 1: General business

Approve Minutes

There were no Minutes to approve.

Transfers

There were no Transfers to approve

ITEM 2: Budget Deliberations and Possible Vote

Chairman Berry led the discussion and review of the updated general budget reconciliation worksheets. A brief discussion followed on the LS Assessment, tax levy, local receipts and state aid. Mr. Vanni provided additional information on certified Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund.

After a general discussion, Chairman Berry noted the reconciliation of the \$350,000 gap between cost center's budgeted expenditures and the expected revenue. The discussion then turned to a comprehensive conversation on closing the \$325,000 Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) budget deficit. Chairman Berry noted that both SPS and Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS) maintain an appropriation of approximately \$400,000 for unexpected out-of-district tuition cost. Chairman Berry suggested that SPS allocate \$100,000 from the out-of-district tuition appropriation to offset its \$325,000 budget deficit. Chairman Berry also suggested OPEB calculation be refigured from 2/3% to 1/2%. She explained that this would increase the town's operating budget by \$125,000, which could

then be used to help SPS. A discussion followed on items that would allow for the appropriation of \$268,000 to SPS. The Finance Committee also discussed using an appropriation from Free Cash to close the deficit. After a lengthy discussion a suggestion was made to consider allocating \$125,000 from Free Cash, and \$12,000 from a reduction in the assessment from Minuteman to the SPS budget.

Motion and Vote:

Joan Carlton moved and Bryan Semple seconded the motion to request that Andrew Vanni prepare an updated budget summary sheet that reflects the addition of \$137,000 to the SPS budget, \$12,000 in savings from Minuteman to the SPS, and \$125,000 from Free Cash offset the \$325,000 SPS deficit. The motion carried. The vote was 7 yes and 1 abstention.

Chairman Berry noted that the Finance Committee is not prepared to vote the FY17 budget at this meeting. The Finance Committee will talk with the cost centers regarding its recommendations to reconcile the SPS \$325,000 deficit. Mr. Vanni will provide the Finance Committee with an up-to-date budget summary in preparation of the February 22 meeting.

ITEM 3: Public Comments

Radha Gargeya, LS School Committee spoke about the budget deficit the LS School Committee was faced with last year. He noted the difficulties with saving FTE's and letting go of much needed services. Mr. Gargeya expressed his appreciation to the School Committee for their work on behalf of the town.

Chuck Woodard, Sudbury Board of Selectmen expressed that the SPS student population has been declining over the last five years, yet SPS has received the largest increase. He expressed disappointment with the Finance Committee's decision to shift the budget to the cost center with the declining mission.

Ellen Winer Joachim, SPS School Committee stated that declining student population doesn't correlate to classrooms because students are spread out across the five schools. Ms. Winer Joachim added that the academic and evaluation standards have changed which require different staffing. Ms. Winer Joachim spoke about a period in which SPS, had very large class sizes inadequate space for various services for students. Ms. Winer Joachim pointed out that this is not something that the town of Sudbury wants to carry forward from year to year. She added that as a town we want the best educational experience for our children.

ITEM 4: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Jeff Barker moved and Fred Floru seconded the motion that the February 11, 2016 Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, February 22, 7:00 in Conference Room B of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary