

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2017**

ATTENDENCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair, Joan Carlton, Vice Chair, Jeff Barker, Adrian Davies, Tammie Dufault, Fred Floru, Bryan Semple

Absent: Jeff Atwater, Jose Garcia-Meitin

Also Present: Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Dennis Keohane; Town Manager, Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues; Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools (SPS), Anne Wilson; SPS School Committee Chair, Lucie St. George; Sudbury Fire Chief, William Miles; Sudbury Police Chief, Scott Nix

CONVENE:

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The meeting convened in Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Chairman Berry noted that the meeting is being televised and recorded.

ITEM 1: Public Comment

There were no comments.

ITEM 2: General Business - Action on this item was moved to the end of the meeting.

- **Approve Meeting Minutes
Motion and Vote**

Bryan Semple moved, and Tammie Dufault seconded the motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2016, meeting as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was 4 yes, 3 abstentions.

- **Transfers**

There were no transfers.

- **Other Business**

Chairman Berry stated that she would like the Finance Committee to convene on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, to make decisions on the Town Department override request.

**ITEM 3: Continuation of Budget Hearing on Town Departments
Override Request, Discussion, and Possible Vote**

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion and welcomed Town Manager, Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Fire Chief, William Miles, and Police Chief, Scott Nix and invited them to present specific information on the override request and the need for additional staffing.

A general conversation ensued regarding overtime calculations for the Sudbury Fire Department. Chief Miles explained the methodology he uses to forecast overtime cost. He explained how staffing works and described different scenarios that merit the need for overtime. A brief discussion followed on the cost structure and the impact of new development on public safety. Chief Miles explained the need for additional staffing, which would bring staffing to 36 or 9 per shift. Chief Nix explained the need for an additional police officer.

**ITEM 4: Continuation of Budget Hearings on Sudbury
Public Schools Presentation of Budget Scenarios**

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion and welcomed Lucie St. George, and Anne Wilson, and invited them to present additional information on the FY18 SPS budget request.

Dr. Wilson referred to the SPS FY18 Budget Reconciliation Sheet in which four budget scenarios were outlined: SPS Proposed Budget Request, Town Manager Proposed Budget Request (non-override budget), \$675,078.00 Override Request (1/3 of proposed budget for override), and \$1,350,155.00 (2/3 of proposed budget for override).

Dr. Wilson presented a detailed description of FTE reductions from the proposed FY18 SPS Operating Budget. Dr. Wilson also outlined unemployment cost, mandated items, new additions and critical needs. Dr. Wilson also described reductions to miscellaneous cost, which include maintenance, math curriculum adoptions, and special education transportation. A discussion followed on clarity and impact of reductions.

Dr. Wilson described reductions that would be added back to the 1/3 override scenario and the 2/3 override scenario. Dr. Wilson said that the data from test scores, the implementation of programming, and the intervention programs point to the progress children are making in the SPS District. Dr. Wilson suggested that these successes warrant the need for additional staffing and programming.

ITEM 5: Budget Deliberations and Possible Vote

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion. Members of the Finance Committee deliberated the Town Department override

request. A general conversation ensued on using property tax revenue versus using Free Cash to support the override request from the Town. Chairman Berry stated that she didn't agree with using the Free Cash option because the need is not a one time expense. Mr. Semple noted that there is consensus on supporting an override to support public safety needs, but there is not consensus on the funding mechanism. Ms. Carlton noted the differences in the request from the Town and suggested funding strategies to fund the overtime request. A general discussion followed on using Free Cash as an option. Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee would review the list of items earmarked for Free Cash at the Wednesday meeting.

The Finance Committee discussed the four budget scenarios as presented by SPS. There was a consensus among members to vote on two budget scenarios that would not be considered.

Motion and Vote:

Tammie Dufault moved, and Bryan Semple seconded the motion that the Sudbury Finance Committee recommend approval of the proposed SPS FY18 Operating Budget Request.

The motion failed. The vote was seven opposed.

Motion and Vote:

Tammie Dufault moved, and Bryan Semple seconded the motion that the Sudbury Finance Committee recommend approval of the proposed SPS FY18 2/3 override request. **The motion failed. The vote was seven opposed.**

Motion and Vote

A motion was made to recommend approval of the 1/3 override scenario presented if this override amount is proposed by SPS. The motion passed four in favor, three opposed

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There were no comments.

Item 7: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Tammie Dufault moved, and Fred Floru seconded the motion that the February 13, 2017, Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 9:48 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Wednesday, February 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the Flynn Building.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary