

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017**

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Jeff Atwater

Also Present: Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer
Collector

CONVENE:

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. The meeting convened at the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Chairman Berry noted that the meeting is being televised and recorded.

ITEM 1: Public Comment

Chairman Berry recognized Elizabeth Richter, Literacy Specialist, Peter Noyes Elementary School.

Ms. Richter stated that she is speaking on behalf of the Literacy Program in the Sudbury Public Schools (SPS). She stated that she is one of nine professionals (four literacy specialist and five reading tutors) who serves 13-19% of the district's K-2 students in reading and writing. Ms. Richter expressed concern over the possible reduction of 1.5 FTEs, which would result in 44 students not being supported with learning to read. Ms. Richter asked that the Finance Committee stand with them and support funding of the entire SPS Literacy Program.

Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee does not typically address public comment. Chairman Berry made an exception and stated that the Finance Committee does not make decisions on staff reductions. These decisions are made by the SPS School Committee and School Administration. A brief discussion followed.

ITEM 2: General Business

Chairman Berry stated that there are no meeting minutes to approve but that she would like the Committee to consider

rescinding the previous vote on the December 12, 2016, minutes as there were additional edits for the minutes.

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Motion and Vote:

Adrian Davis moved, and Jeff Barker seconded the motion to rescind the vote on the December 12, 2016, meeting minutes. **The motion carried. The vote was six in favor, two abstentions.**

- **Transfers**

Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector submitted a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$35,000 to fund ongoing litigation pertaining to the proposed village at Sudbury Station. Mr. Keohane stated that there would be a Warrant Article for further funding at the May Town Meeting.

Motion and Vote:

Tammie Dufault moved, and Fred Floru seconded the motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer request of \$35,000. **The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

ITEM 3: Budget Deliberations and Possible Vote

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion. She stated that the Town Departments and Sudbury Public Schools would submit a budget request that requires an override. The Finance Committee would consider the request and vote, either up or down on the request. Chairman Berry also stated that the Finance Committee could make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that a portion of the override request be funded through Free Cash. A lengthy discussion followed on the SPS unemployment liability, Fire Department overtime cost, availability of Stabilization Funds, and Free Cash.

Motion and Vote:

Joan Carlton moved, and Bryan Semple seconded the motion that the Finance Committee approve the Town Departments override request.

The motion carried. The vote was five in favor, three opposed.

The Finance Committee continued its deliberations on whether or not to fund a portion of the Town Departments override request with Free Cash.

Motion and Vote

Joan Carlton moved, and Bryan Semple seconded the motion that the Finance Committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen that \$145,963.00 in the override budget be funded through Free Cash. **The motion carried. The vote was five in favor, three opposed.**

The Finance Committee continued its discussion with a conversation on Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund.

ITEM 4: Public Comment

There were no comments.

Item 7: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Jeff Barker moved, and Bryan Semple seconded the motion that the February 15, 2017, Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, February 27, 7:30 in the Flynn Building.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary