

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017**

ATTENDENCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair, Joan Carlton, Vice Chair, Jeff Atwater, Adrian Davies, Tammie Dufault, Fred Floru, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Bryan Semple (arrived after vote on Minutes and Budget)

Absent: Jeff Barker

Also Present: Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Susan Iuliano, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

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.

ITEM 1: Public Comment

There were no comments

ITEM 2: General Business

• **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Motion and Vote

Joan Carlton moved, and Adrian Davies seconded the motion to approve the Sudbury Finance Committee meeting minutes of December 12, 2016, as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was 6 yes, 1 abstention.

Motion and Vote

Jose Garcia-Meitin moved, and Jeff Atwater seconded the motion to approve the Sudbury Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 9, 2017, as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was 6 yes, 1 abstention.

Motion and Vote

Fred Floru moved, and Jeff Atwater seconded the motion to approve the Sudbury Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 12, 2017, as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was 5 yes, 2 abstentions.

Motion and Vote

Jeff Atwater Jose Garcia-Meitin moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to approve the Sudbury Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 17, 2017, as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was 5 yes, 2 abstentions.

- **Transfers**

There were no transfers.

- **Other Business**

No other business.

ITEM 3: SPS Budget Request and Discussion

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion. Chairman Berry stated that the SPS School Committee voted to approve the 1/3 SPS Operating Budget Override, of \$675,078.00 at their meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017. Chairman Berry stated that the Free Cash needed to cover the unemployment liability for this budget is \$282,359.00. Chairman Berry outline reductions in the non-override SPS budget and the 1/3 SPS override budget. A brief discussion followed on the available Free Cash. Chairman Berry noted that the increase in the total override amount for the taxpayer is a 3.5% increase.

ITEM 4: Free Cash Policy Interpretation - Finance Committee Members

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion. Chairman Berry stated that a Committee member had questions on the interpretation of the Free Cash Policy. Chairman Berry stated the Free Cash Policy is reviewed every year. Finance Committee members would have an opportunity at that time to make changes. Finance Committee members engaged in a brief commentary period on their understanding of the Free Cash Policy.

ITEM 5: Budget Deliberations and Votes

Chairman Berry opened this item for discussion. Chairman Berry recapped the Finance Committee's previous vote on the FY18 non-override Operating Budgets for the Cost Centers. Chairman Berry explained that the Finance Committee would need to vote the total General Fund Non-override Budget of \$94,810,895.00, which will include the FY18 Vocational Education Budget and the FY18 Capital Expenditure Budget that had not been previously voted on by the Finance Committee. Chairman Berry stated that the Operating Budget increases by 3.68%, the Capital Expenditure increases by 2.27%, and other amounts to be raised is down by 47%. The total budget increase is 2.78%, the increase to the taxpayer is 2%, with an increased cost to the average taxpayer of \$254.00.

Motion and Vote

Joan Carlton moved, and Tammie Dufault seconded the motion that the Finance Committee recommend approval of the total General Fund Operating Article of \$94,810,895.00.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The Finance Committee continued its discussion on the total override budget. Chairman Berry recapped the override request for SPS and Public Safety as well as the reduced unemployment liability. Chairman Berry stated that the operating budget increase for the override request is 4.87% and the increase to the taxpayer is estimated at 3.5%, with a \$438.00 increase on an average home.

Mr. Floru expressed reservation with voting the total budget, which doesn't delineate the override vote for SPS and Public Safety. Chairman Berry responded that the Finance Committee, as a Committee, voted to support both overrides. She added that the details of the vote would be presented to the Board of Selectmen and in the Finance Committee Report. A lengthy discussion followed on recording the voting on two independent override votes not a combined override vote. Mr. Semple suggested that the Budget Worksheet reflect the separate overrides.

ITEM 6: Prep for Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen

Chairman Berry led the discussion on this item. She referred to the draft copy of the Finance Committee Budget Recommendations. Discussion followed on a review of the document, suggestions, and changes were made where appropriate. Chairman Berry encouraged members who might not be able to attend the Joint Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen meeting to send their specific questions to her ahead of time.

ITEM 7: Public Comment

Chairman Berry recognized, Susan Iuliano, Board of Selectmen. Ms. Iuliano offered suggestions in preparation for their joint meeting. Ms. Iuliano also offered suggestions on data gathering of comparable school districts regarding teacher salaries in determining sustainability.

Chairman Berry recognized Sudbury Resident Johan Baranowsky. Mr. Baranowsky shared some history of contract deliberation for the SPS and comparable towns.

Item 8: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Fred Floru moved, and Tammie Dufault seconded the motion that the February 27, 2017, Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 9:32 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 in the Lower Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary