

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

Finance Committee Members Present: Bryan Semple, Chairman  
Jeff Barker, Vice Chairman, Jeff Atwater, Susan Berry, Adrian  
Davies, Tammie Dufault (Ms. Dufault arrived at approximately 7:50 p.m.),  
Jose Garcia-Meitin, Eric Poch

**Absent:** Joan Carlton

**Also Present:** Susan Iuliano, Board of Selectmen, Pat Brown,  
Board of Selectmen, Bill Miles, Fire Chief, Jean Nam,  
PlaySudbury Group/Community Member, Richard Tinsley, Vice Chair,  
Sudbury School Committee, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Sudbury School  
Committee,

**CONVENE:**

Chairman Bryan Semple called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The meeting convened at the Silva Room, Flynn Building, on 278  
Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

**ITEM 1: Public Comment**

Chairman Semple opened this portion of the meeting for Public  
Comment. Chairman Semple recognized Susan Iuliano.

Ms. Iuliano, 22 Jason Drive and member of the Sudbury Board of  
Selectmen addressed the Finance Committee on questions that were  
emailed to the Board of Selectmen from Chairman Semple. Ms.  
Iuliano addressed Chairman Semple's question regarding the  
Selectmen's view on the priority for construction of a new fire  
station. Ms. Iuliano referred to a January 2017 memo from the  
Board of Selectmen in which the fire station was listed as a  
high priority project for the fall of 2017. Ms. Iuliano also  
stated that the Board of Selectmen planned for the fire station  
project during the mitigation process in the Meadow Walk  
negotiation package. Ms. Iuliano also addressed questions on the  
tax impact and retiring debt and how the fire station project  
would fit in. She explained that it is important to look at the  
broader picture. She described scenarios impacting the tax levy  
since fiscal 2007. She noted that over the last ten years the  
debt service has been going down.

**ITEM 2: General Business**

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**  
There were no minutes to approve.
- **Transfers**  
There were no transfers to approve.

- **Liaison Reports**

There were no Liaison Reports.

**ITEM 3: Funding Sources for Town Meeting Articles - Free Cash, Debt**

Chairman Semple led the discussion on this item. He stated that at the last Finance Committee meeting there was a conversation on the declining debt service over the next three years. He also stated that it would be useful for Town Meeting to understand where the Capital Warrant Articles will be funded from, and what the tax impact will be. Chairman Semple outlined how funding from the tax levy is disseminated and described the impact to the taxpayer. Chairman Semple outlined a framework that the Finance Committee would use to evaluate each warrant article. The Finance Committee discussed the following criteria:

1. Does the Finance Committee agree with the funding source?
2. Does the Finance Committee agree with the economics of the presentation on the proposed article?
3. Is there a long-term financial impact of the proposed article?
4. Economic Efficiency?
5. Is the priority of the article valid?

**ITEM 4: Discuss and Vote Town Meeting Warrant Articles (The order in which the articles are discussed will vary based on speaker availability.)**

- **Article 1 - FY18 Budget Adjustments**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. The Finance Committee reviewed budget adjustments as proposed by the Town Manager.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Jeff Atwater seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 1 - FY18 Budget Adjustments

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 2 - Conservation Revolving Fund**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He stated that the Conservation Commission seeks to establish a revolving fund for the purpose of placing any money received from the sale of timber as part of forestry operations on conservation land. A brief discussion followed.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Tammie Dufault seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 2 - Conservation Revolving Fund.

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 3 - Transfer Care and Custody of Town-Owned Land**

The Finance Committee takes no position on this article.

- **Article 4 - Land Conveyance to Fish and Wildlife**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud this article. The Finance Committee agreed to take a position on this article.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Atwater moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 4 - Land Conveyance to Fish and Wildlife.

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 5 - Amend Bylaw - Town Property**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud this article. After a brief discussion, the Finance Committee agreed to take a position on this article.

**Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Jeff Barker seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 5 - Amend Bylaw - Town Property

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 6**

The Finance Committee takes no position on this article.

- **Article 7 - Stabilization Fund (\$167,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud this article. The Finance Committee agreed to take a position on this article.

**Motion and Vote**

Jose Garcia-Meitin moved, and Jeff Barker seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 7 - Stabilization Fund (\$167,000)

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 8 - Construction of New Fire Station (\$MM)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He recapped the Finance Committee's previous conversation with Fire Chief Bill Miles on the need for this article.

Chairman Semple stated that this presentation would help the Finance Committee better understand why Fire Station #2 must be built now versus waiting.

Fire Chief Miles addressed the question of why now. He stated that the proposed article is a \$7.1M project and the impact to taxpayers would be \$100.00 in the first year and approximately \$80/year over twenty years. Fire Chief Miles recapped the presentation given at the August 2, 2017, Finance Committee meeting on this proposed warrant article.

He presented a slideshow on existing conditions and what would be needed in the future. Fire Chief Miles' presentation included a design of the fire station and he described the logistics of the new design. Fire Chief Miles stated the \$7.1M is the architect's estimate but the final determination will be made when the project goes out to bid. The discussion veered to a conversation on the Development Agreement with National Development. Fire Chief Miles outlined cost that included a feasibility study, legal work, site plan, schematic design, and utility installation. Fire Chief Miles also outlined cost that would be used to construct a temporary station and purchase additional equipment.

The Finance Committee deliberated at length on the advantages and disadvantages of this article. The conversation included questions on stress to the current firefighting resources, design cost versus plans first, and accommodation issues for female firefighters. Adrian Davies pointed out that \$74M in Capital Funding projects over the next five years has been identified by the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC). The conversation continued on increased operating cost and using mitigation funding to offset construction design cost. There was also a conversation on the tipping point for a new fire station.

Chairman Semple expressed that he has a hard time supporting this article mainly because of the funding sources and significant cost to the taxpayers. He added that the common theme of the Committee is an agreement on the need for a new fire station, but that the Committee is not in agreement in terms of the funding sources.

Fire Chief Miles stated that it is extremely important that this article moves forward, not only for ambulance service but fire service as well. He explained that he needs to add a third ambulance to have two ambulances working all the time. He added that it is not wise to delay this article, it puts personnel in danger, and it puts the public in danger in terms of egress onto Route 20, as well as accommodations for female firefighters.

**Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Jeff Atwater seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 8: Construction of New Fire Station (\$7.1M).

**The motion resulted in a tie vote. The vote was four in favor and four opposed.**

- **Article 9 - Fund Eversource Litigation (\$220,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud the article. Susan Iuliano provided background information on the Board of Selectmen's position. She added that the Board of Selectmen believes that if the MBTA obtains the property for transportation, then they do not have the legal authority to use the property for utility unless the legislature agrees. A brief discussion followed on the preferred options.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 9 - Fund Eversource Litigation (\$220,000).

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

● **Article 10 - Fund Sudbury Station Litigation (\$55,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud the article. A brief conversation followed.

**Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 1 - Fund Sudbury Station Litigation (\$55,000).

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

● **Article 11 - Sudbury Public Schools Admin Offices (\$150,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this article for discussion and recognized Susan Iuliano, Board of Selectmen who presented background information on this article. She stated that the Selectmen have been working with the Sudbury School Committee on long-term plans. She added that this article is a priority of the Selectmen. Ms. Iuliano stated that the Sudbury School Committee has decided not to approve this article. She added that the Selectmen would decide at Town Meeting whether or not to IP (Indefinitely Postponed) this article. Sudbury School Committee members present at the meeting expressed their opinions for and against this article. Susan Berry asked if there was a definitive plan for an emergency evacuation of the school administration. She also asked if there was a definitive plan for temporary housing. Sudbury School Committee member, Lisa Kouchakdjian responded no to both questions. A brief discussion followed on funding sources and the lack of support from the Sudbury School Committee.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 11 - Sudbury Public Schools Admin Offices (\$150,000)

**The motion did not carry. The vote was seven opposed and one abstention.**

- **Article 12 - SPS Playground Modernization (?)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion and recognized Jean Nam, Kendrick Road.

Ms. Nam stated that she is a member of a parent group (PlaySudbury) that is working in conjunction with the Facilities Department and the Sudbury Public Schools Administration. She added that this article is being proposed by Facilities Department Director, Jim Kelly who could not be at the meeting tonight.

A brief discussion followed on clarifying questions regarding safety and compliance. Ms. Nam recapped issues associated with safety and noted that \$25K was appropriated in 2017 at the spring Town Meeting to address the safety issues.

Chairman Semple recognized Richard Tinsley, Meachen Lane. In response to Tammie Dufault's questions on safety, Mr. Tinsley stated that safety issues are the responsibility of the SPS administration and that this article addresses compliance issues. Mr. Tinsley noted that the Sudbury School Committee has voted in support of this article.

Ms. Nam spoke about the design of the playgrounds and community involvement that was a mitigating factor that kept the cost down. A discussion followed on funding sources. The CPC will vote on this proposal on October 12. Ms. Nam spoke about applying for grants and doing annual fundraising to help mitigate maintenance cost of updating the playgrounds again in 10 to 15 years. Mr. Tinsley noted that SPS would be able to reduce their budget for maintenance of the playgrounds by \$20K starting in FY20 after all of the playgrounds are up and running.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 12 - SPS Playground Modernization (\$275K)

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 14 - Update Master Plan (\$75,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud the article. A brief discussion followed on the previous Master Plan of 2001. Eric Poch suggested that the updated Master Plan be broadened to include an assessment of space needs for all three Cost Centers. Susan Berry read some of the goals in the 2001 Master Plan and asked if the goals of the update are the same. Mr. Poch stated that he would ask the Planning Board for more information on this article.

- **Article 15 - Replace Gym4 - LSRHS (\$50,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. Jose Garcia-Meitin stated that he had forwarded the Form A to Chairman Semple. He also stated that he had seen the LS presentation to the CIAC on this article. A discussion followed on Free Cash versus E&D Funds. Mr. Garcia-Meitin read his notes on the presentation from LS to CIAC on this article.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 15 - Replace Gym4 - LSRHS using Free Cash for Sudbury's portion of the \$50,000 cost.

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 16 - Cooling Tower Reconstruction (\$100,000)**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He read aloud the article. Adrian Davies suggested that unless it is an emergency, to put off using Free Cash until the spring Annual Town Meeting. Chairman Semple stated that he would include as a future agenda item the timing on when to use Free Cash.

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 16 - Cooling Tower Reconstruction using Free Cash for Sudbury's portion of the \$100,000 cost.

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Article 17 - Bottle Ban Repeal**

The Finance Committee takes no position on this article.

- **Article 18 - Welcoming Town**

The Finance Committee takes no position on the article.

Chairman Semple outlined next steps in anticipation of the next Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, and anticipation of the fall Special Town Meeting.

**ITEM 5: Time Permitting: Budget Guidance Letter**

There was no discussion on this item.

**ITEM 6: Public Comment**

There were no public comments

**ITEM 7: Future Agenda Topics**

There was no discussion on this item.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

**Motion and Vote:**

**Jeff Barker moved, and Tammie Dufault seconded the motion that the October 5, 2017, Finance Committee meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.**

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

*Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary*