

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

Finance Committee Members Present: Bryan Semple, Chairman  
Jeff Barker, Vice Chairman, Susan Berry, Joan Carlton, Adrian  
Davies (Mr. Davies arrived after the vote on the May 1 meeting minutes), Tammie  
Dufault (Ms. Dufault arrived after the vote on meeting minutes), Jose Garcia-  
Meitin, Eric Poch

**Absent:** Jeff Atwater

**Also Present:** Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer  
Collector

**CONVENE:**

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

**ITEM 1: Public Comment**

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

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 2: General Business**

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion to  
approve the minutes of May 1, 2017, meeting as submitted.  
**The motion carried. The vote was 4 in favor, 2 abstentions.**

**Motion and Vote**

Jeff Barker moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion to  
approve the minutes of June 19, 2017, meeting as amended.  
**The motion carried. The vote was 6 in favor, 1 abstention.**

- **Transfers**

There were no transfers to approve.

- **Liaison Reports**

Eric Poch stated that he has reached out to Peter Abair on questions from the Finance Committee on the Master Plan. Mr. Poch also stated that he has not heard back from him yet.

**ITEM 3: Review funding sources for town meeting articles - free cash, debt (continued discussion from the prior meeting)**

Chairman Semple led the discussion on this item and continued the conversation on funding sources for Town Meeting articles. He spoke about the format the Finance Committee would use to present the money articles to Town Meeting. He presented a diagram that would explain to Town Meeting members the funding source for each article. A lengthy discussion followed on funding sources, (Tax Levy, Free Cash, Stabilization Fund, Debt Exclusion, CPA Fund, CPA Debt, and Mitigation Payments) and what impact the funding sources have on the taxpayers. The conversation veered to a brief discussion on the Town's Five Year Plan, which is \$73 million in potential projects, and \$20 million in potential rolling stock replacement and other smaller projects. Chairman Semple stated that the Finance Committee would need to discuss, and resolve, the committee's recommendation on how to fund the Town's OPEB obligation. Dennis Keohane confirmed that the Town's OPEB liability as of June 13, 2017, is \$57 million.

**ITEM 4: Discuss and vote town meeting warrant articles. Order we discuss the articles in will vary based on speaker availability (continued discussion from prior meeting).**

During this portion of the meeting, the Finance Committee began a review of FinCom positions on Warrant Articles 1-7. The articles were approved by unanimous vote at the October 5, 2017, meeting. The Finance Committee did not take a position on Article 3 and Article 6.

The review of Warrant Articles continued with a discussion on Article 8 - Construction of New Fire Station (\$7.1 Million). Chairman Semple recapped the vote on this article from the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting: a split vote, 4 yes/4 no. Chairman Semple noted that the impact to the taxpayers regarding this article would be \$81/per year, over twenty years. Chairman Semple also noted that there would be approximately \$700,000 of debt retiring over the next three years, which is currently costing the taxpayer approximately \$50/per year. He stated that if this article is approved the net increase to the taxpayer would be approximately \$30/per year.

Chairman Semple reviewed comments from the previous meeting regarding this article. The Finance Committee discussed and

reviewed their commentary on this article for their presentation to Town Meeting. An extensive deliberation continued regarding the merits of this article.

The Finance Committee continued with a review of Article 9 - Fund Eversource Litigation (\$300,000), and Article 10 - Fund Sudbury Station Litigation (\$55,000). Chairman Semple recapped the vote on these articles from the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting: both votes were unanimous. Chairman Semple stated that there is no cost to the taxpayer regarding these articles. The articles are being funded through Free Cash. The Finance Committee reviewed their commentary on this article for their presentation to Town Meeting on October 16, 2017. A general discussion followed on using Free Cash versus using the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee continued with a review of Article 11 - Sudbury Public Schools Admin Offices (\$150,000). Chairman Semple recapped the vote on this article from the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The vote was eight opposed and one abstention. Chairman Semple reviewed the reason for the opposition to this article. The Finance Committee reviewed their commentary on this article for their presentation to Town Meeting. A general discussion followed. Susan Berry suggested that the Finance Committee's comments to Town Meeting include a statement that there should be a suitable plan for office space for the SPS Administration.

The Finance Committee continued with a review of Article 12 -SPS Playground Modernization. Chairman Semple recapped the vote on this article from the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting: a unanimous vote. There is no commentary to Town Meeting on this article.

The Finance Committee continued with a review of Article 14 - Update Master Plan (\$75,000). The Finance Committee deferred taking a position on this article at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chairman Semple noted that the Finance Committee does not have any additional information on this article. The Finance Committee discussed their issues with this article. Chairman Semple asked if the Finance Committee were okay with supporting Article 14 even if it did not include town-wide space planning. A lengthy discussion followed on the 2001 Master Plan, but because the Finance Committee did not have enough information on this article they were not able to draft commentary for Town Meeting. Eric Poch will contact the Planning Board for more information on this article. Chairman Semple suggested that the Finance Committee convene before the Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to prepare their commentary for this article.

Chairman Semple stated that the Finance Committee will need additional information on Article 15 - Replace Gym Floor -LSRHS

(\$50,000), and Article 16 - Cooling Tower Reconstruction (\$100,000) from LS.

Chairman Semple noted that the Finance Committee takes no position on Article 17 - Bottle Ban Repeal.

Chairman Semple noted that the Finance Committee takes no position on Article 18 - Adopt Sudbury Welcoming Town Policies.

**ITEM 5: Time Permitting:**

- Budget Guidance Letter  
There was no discussion on this article.

**ITEM 6: Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**ITEM 7: Future Agenda Topics**

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

**Motion and Vote:**

Eric Poch moved, and Adrian Davies seconded the motion that the October 10, 2017, Finance Committee meeting adjourns at approximately 9:35 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

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*Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Tuesday, October 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary*