

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2019**

**ATTENDANCE**

Finance Committee Members Present: Chairman, Bryan Semple, Jeff Barker, Vice-Chairman, Jeff Atwater (arrived at 7:04 pm), Susan Berry, Jean Nam, Glenn Migliozi (arrived at 7:20 pm), Lisa Guth, Eric Poch (arrived at 7:05 pm)

**ABSENT:** Adrian Davies

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector, Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRH), Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations, LSRH, Radha Gargeya, Chair, LSRH District School Committee, Candace Miller, LSRH District School Committee, Carol Kasper, LSRH District School Committee, Kevin Matthews, LSRH District School Committee, Ellen Joachim, LSRH District School Committee Pat Brown, and Janie Dretler, members of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen

**CONVENE:**

Chairman Bryan Semple called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting convened at Police Station Conference Room, 75 Hudson 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**

Susan Berry moved, and Jean Nam seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2018, meeting as submitted.

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

- **Transfers**

Dennis Keohane presented one transfer request, a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$90,000 for the Loring Parsonage History Museum Project. Mr. Keohane stated that the project encountered structural issues. He added that the \$90,000 will keep the project going until Town Meeting and there will be another request at Town Meeting for

\$80,000. A general discussion followed. Finance Committee member asked, how much is into the project so far?

Chairman Semple recognized Michael Melnick, co-chairman of the Permanent Building Committee who responded to the question and gave the dollar amount for the entire project - \$1,600,095.

After a brief discussion Chairman Semple stated that there are challenges with this project and that he is uncomfortable putting his vote as a committee on this project. Lisa Guth stated that she would like more clarity.

Chairman Semple recognized Contina Fontes, President of the Sudbury Historical Society. Ms. Fontes summarized the funding sources for this. She stated that apart from CPC funds all the money for this project has been privately raised by the Sudbury Historical Society. She also stated that enough money was raised to cover the cost of the contract including a 10% contingency. She added that the structural issues that have come up have put the cost above what has already been accounted for.

Chairman Semple recognized Michael Melnick, co-chairman of the Permanent Building Committee. Mr. Melnick provided additional details on structural issues on the Loring Parsonage History Museum Project. He expressed his concern on delay damages that the contractor will incur of which cost will be passed onto the town.

Chairman Semple recognized Diana Warren, vice-chairman of the Sudbury Historical Commission. Ms. Warren spoke about the historical significance of the Loring Parsonage, which was in place on April 19, 1775, when the Minutemen marched to Concord. She stated it is one of the most historically important structures and asset in the Town of Sudbury. She added that the town is very fortunate that the Sudbury Historical Society has taken on the major task of fundraising for the preservation of Loring Parsonage.

#### **Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Jean Nam seconded the motion to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$90,000 to Account 0199901/597003.

**The motion carried. The vote was 5-1-2.**

- **Liaison Report**

Deferred to the end of the meeting. At 9:00 pm Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. Jean Nam reported

that she is working with SPS on their Budget Reconciliation Worksheet.

- **Review Calendar**

Deferred to the end of the meeting. At 9:02 pm Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion and reviewed upcoming meeting dates with the Committee.

### **ITEM 3: LS Budget Presentation and Discussion**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion and welcomed Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations.

Ms. Wong began with an update on the LS FY2020 Proposed Budget. Ms. Wong noted that the proposed budget reflects changes that are based on the release of the Governor's budget. Ms. Wong stated that LS Academy is out of the FY2020 Proposed Budget. She added that Chapter 70 funding came in higher than projected. She stated that the total funding gap is \$738,798. Ms. Wong summarized proposed reductions that would close the gap. The discussion veered to a conversation on the Circuit Breaker. Ms. Wong stated that \$200,000 would be used from Circuit Breaker to close the gap. This would leave a balance in Circuit Breaker of approximately \$576,000. Ms. Wong responded to Chairman Semple's question about using E&D funds to cover operating cost for LS Academy. She noted that \$350,000 would come from construction cost. Ms. Wong stated that the LSRH District School Committee must vote their budget tomorrow night, Tuesday, February 5 in time to be considered at the March 23 Lincoln Town Meeting.

Chairman Semple directed the conversation to a discussion on the LS FY20 Reconciliation Worksheet. A conversation followed on the FY20 COLA percentages, Steps and Lanes, as well as OPEB normal cost. The Committee discussed LS Academy and funding for this program. The conversation continued with a discussion on regular education transportation and special education transportation. Chairman Semple asked if the LSRH District School Committee is planning costs reductions between the two school districts. Radha Gargeya responded. He stated that the Chairs meet regularly and discuss ways in which cost can be shared among the two districts. Ms. Wong stated that there are efficiencies that are realized across the departments within town government that has supported the schools. Radha Gargeya added that on March 11 there will be a joint School Committee meeting of Lincoln Public Schools, Sudbury Public Schools, and LS.

Chairman Semple stated that the Finance Committee is not ready to vote on the LS Budget. The Finance Committee will need the final reconciliation numbers. The Finance Committee briefly

reviewed additional line item clarifications that will be needed.

Chairman Semple opened public discussion on this item. He recognized Pat Brown, Board of Selectmen member. Ms. Brown referred to the LS budget presentation to the Board of Selectmen last January, which included a plan from LS to make savings by renegotiating health care. Ms. Brown shared what she understood about withdrawing from Minuteman and Nashoba Health Group. She explained that the provisions for withdrawing from Minuteman and Nashoba Health Group changed and that under the new regiment you could never have enough knowledge of what the next fiscal year's cost would be by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Kersey responded that LS has requested to discuss this at the Board of Director's meeting. She added that there is a meeting next week and that she would report back to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Brown stated that last January the Board of Selectmen heard that between the three School Committees, Lincoln, Sudbury and LS there was an agreement that a fourteen-year-old out of district student coming to LS should be capable of performing high school work and that if the student was not they would remain with their district and that LS would accept them when they became capable of doing high school work. Ms. Brown added that this was a cost-containment measure and wondered if LS had any cost containment from doing this. Ms. Wong responded that LS has not picked up any fourteen-year-old students that were still in middle school curriculum. Ms. Wong stated that she did not have a full accounting of students that might have come to LS before the agreement was made.

Ms. Brown asked if LS had a plan to try to move the certification of the Excess and Deficiency (E&D) earlier in the fiscal year so that funds are available sooner. Ms. Wong responded that the deadline for filing is the end of October. She stated that filing doesn't have to wait until the end of October and that LS could try to file it sooner.

#### **ITEM 4: Town Meeting Article Review**

Chairman Semple opened this item for discussion. He stated that he had not seen any Town Meeting Warrant Articles. He asked if the Board of Selectmen have approved the articles. Ms. Brown stated that the Board of Selectmen is approving the order of articles on Tuesday, February 5. A brief discussion followed.

**ITEM 5: Public Comment**

Chairman Semple opened this portion of the meeting for Public Comment. There were no public comments.

**ITEM 6: Possible Future Agenda Topics**

Jean Nam suggested the Finance Committee consider a review of the Munis Financial System as a Future Agenda Topic.

**ITEM 7: Adjournment**

**Motion and Vote:**

**Eric Poch moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that the February 4, 2019, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.**

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

*Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, February 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary*