

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Minutes
Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen and CIAC
March 5, 2019**

ATTENDANCE

Finance Committee members present: Chairman Bryan Semple, Jeff Barker, Susan Berry, Lisa Gutch, Jean Nam, Glenn Migliozi, and Eric Poch.

ABSENT: Jeffrey Atwater and Adrian Davies

COVENE:

Chair Bryan Semple called the Finance Committee meeting jointly with the Board of Selectmen and the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) at 7:05 p.m..

ITEM 1: Review capital funding articles for town meeting

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the total amount of capital requests totals \$545,000 and the FY20 Town Manager's Capital Operating Budget totals is \$1,370,000 (non-debt).

Town Manager Rodrigues described the smaller (under \$100,000) items:

- Various Building Improvements \$45,000
- Park and Recreation Improvements \$40,000
- Capital Request - Mini Excavator \$85,000
- Capital Request - All Terrain Vehicle \$35,000
- Curtis School HVAC \$30,000
- Curtis School Plumbing \$48,000
- Haynes School Kitchen Equipment \$40,000
- Noyes School Baseboard and Heating Valves (multi-year) \$40,000
- Noyes School Kitchen Dishwasher \$35,000
- Kubota Tractor for the High School \$55,000
- Water Bottle Filling Stations for Parks and Fields \$12,000
- Loring Parsonage - Gas, flooring, fireplace, IT \$84,000

Finance Committee Chairman Semple asked who is running the Loring Parsonage project. Town Manager Rodrigues responded that Facilities Director Bill Barletta and the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) are supervising the project. She added that there were several unexpected expenditures associated with the project.

Resident and Sudbury Historical Society member Keith Funston stated that the Parsonage received \$110,000 for the stabilization of the foundation and basement, and the unexpected items were discovered when the demolition took place.

Ms. Nam suggested implementation of a contingency fund for the next stage of the project. Vice-Chairman Carty stated there has been considerable private fundraising contributions. Mr. Funston stated

that the total of monies put toward the Parsonage project is approximately \$1.7 million, with \$726,000 from Sudbury Historical Society fundraising. Additional funds came from the state, from town trusts and from Community Preservation funds.

A group discussion on Capital funding and tax levies took place.

Ms. Nam asked about funding for Loring Parsonage wiring and phones. Katina Fontes, President of the Sudbury Historical Society, stated that the electrical and IT wiring must be completed at this stage of the renovation.

Article 19 - One Ton Dump Truck

DPW Director Dan Nason presented Article 19 - One-Ton Dump Truck. He detailed that a one-ton dump truck would replace a nineteen-year-old unreliable truck. The new one-ton dump truck would be suitable for multiple uses both at the cemetery and on the highway.

Article 20 - Concord Road Culvert Design

Mr. Nason presented this article and explained that the culvert replacement program can be used to work on multiple culverts and prioritize the replacement of aged and deteriorating drainage conduits. His department has assessed over 162 culverts/crossings townwide and identified those that should be monitored and addressed over the next ten years. The Town owns about 132 of them. Mr. Nason estimated that construction to repair these culverts might cost approximately \$3 million at today's prices, but that emergency repairs following a failure are significantly more expensive than planned repairs.

Mr. Nason stated that the first phase of replacement is design, and the second phase of the project is the construction phase. While developing the design, the headwall of the Concord Road culvert collapsed and DPW has done substantial work to stabilize it. He is requesting design funds now with the construction funding request to come at a future town meeting. Ms. Gutch asked whether the \$125,000 request is only for the design of the Concord Road culvert. Mr. Nason affirmed that this article would only cover the design aspect of the Concord Road culvert.

Mr. Barker asked if this aspect of the project would be reoccurring. Mr. Nason replied that various culverts will need repair and the objective is to avoid complete failure.

Selectman Dretler appreciated the continued efforts of DPW in regards to the work on the culverts.

Mr. Barker asked about the #3 priority status of the culvert project. Town Manager Rodrigues responded that typically a status #3 is a significant department priority. Mr. Barker asked about the mentioned wings and plows on the truck, and Mr. Nason replied that these are included in the price of the truck.

Ms. Nam questioned the flooding of culverts. Mr. Nason explained that the flooding occurs at a separate location and that culvert work and cleaning in that area would have to wait until the spring. CIAC Chairman Gossels stated that the CIAC voted unanimously to support both article 19 and 20.

Article 23 - Funding of CWMP (Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan)

Mr. Nason and Consultant Scott Medeiros from Woodard & Curran presented the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). The plan is a 20-year planning document for the entire town which engages the state regulatory agencies and completes all the wastewater planning done to date. The plan cost is estimated at \$500,000.

Selectman Dretler asked about the related project loan amount and timelines. She asked what the benefits of the plan might be if the Town does not implement the entire plan.

Mr. Medeiros indicated there would be an emergency plan in place if issues of poor soils, high water tables and drinking water become problematic. He added that the plan could be implemented in phases.

Ms. Nam asked about the timeline regarding validity of data. Mr. Medeiros indicated that the data would be valid for a long time.

Selectman Dretler asked for a listing of local towns that have recently gone through the process. Mr. Medeiros responded that the towns of Billerica and Nantucket have recently done such a project.

A discussion regarding potential tax implications and loan rates took place.

FinCom Chairman Semple asked about the protection of water supply. Mr. Medeiros replied that the Rte. 20 - Zone 2 is at its maximum regarding water disposal.

Chairman Semple suggested that the cost might be less if the focus at this time was on the Zone 2 - Rte. 20 area.

Mr. Poch suggested further evaluation of options at today's prices and asked what was the Board's priority.

Chairman Haarde stated that the project information would help determine economic potential on Rte. 20 and establish the risks and the benefits. The suggested loan rates for the project are very good and costs could be spread over time.

Mr. Migliozi inquired about new establishments coming into town. Chairman Haarde replied that many new establishments would likely not be allowed if the Board of Health determines that wastewater capacity is tapped out.

Article 21 - Purchase of Fire Truck

Fire Chief John Whalen presented Article 21. The new fire truck would replace an existing fire truck which is 22 years old, and currently the estimated annual repair cost is \$17,000. Chief Whalen mentioned that the new truck would have more reliable performance, and water carrying capacity would increase and maintenance costs would decrease. CIAC Chairman Gossels stated that the CIAC supports Article 21.

Article 24 - Fairbank Community Center Design and Construction Funds

Town Manager Rodrigues presented Article 24 and stated that the new design plan reflected 47,500 square feet, and the current building encompasses 40,900 square feet. Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the COA rejected the new plan and recommends a 14,000 square foot standalone structure where the basketball courts are located. The stakeholders must provide consensus by March 19. Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the Selectmen will be discussing the Fairbank Community Center at their March 12 meeting.

Ms. Berry inquired about the size of the proposed new gym. Town Manager Rodrigues replied that the size would be comparable to the existing gym.

Mr. Miglioizzi commented that the size of the new COA design looked small and maintained that it is important to retain senior residents in Sudbury.

Selectman Brown stated that there was a sentiment at October Town Meeting that we should not separate design and construction funding but should present the entire package as one item.

Selectman Dretler stated that she participated in a trip to the Marlboro and Hudson COA sites. The Marlboro building is currently being expanded. She maintained that it is important to build something that has potential for expandability in the future.

Article 25 - Camp Sewataro Acquisition

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the Sewataro discussion would not take place at this time.

Article 26 - Amend Article XXV Capital Planning

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the Capital Planning bylaw would be amended to include that all articles over \$100,000 will be reviewed by CIAC.

ITEM 2: Discuss macro trends impact town budget

FinCom Chairman Semple presented the discussion regarding trends that were not included on the meeting agenda to include:

- Cost of Wages driven by Public Employees
- Health Care Benefits - COLA
- OPEB
- Special Education Spending
- New Revenue Sources

- Percentage of School Age Residents
- State Agreements on Funding of Regional School Budgets
- Sudbury and Lincoln School Systems - Inefficiencies

Selectman Brown suggested that identifying which cost center negotiates the generous Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA's) would be beneficial. She pointed out that the school committees approve the COLA's for their cost centers.

Vice-Chairman Carty remarked that it would be best to look at the total school age population in proportion to overall population rather than the percent of households with school age children as that metric does not accurately reflect how many children there actually are.

Selectman Dretler asked if FinCom has met with Lincoln boards or committees. Chairman Semple said not.

Ms. Nam mentioned that the L-SRHS football field would be worked on and suggested that the committees discuss this aspect. Selectman Brown spoke of field rental user fees. A discussion took place.

Chairman Haarde commented that it is an enormous effort to change the state school formula but discussed how some other districts are proceeding to request changes.

ADJOURN:

The joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, CIAC, and Finance Committee was closed at 9:36 on a unanimous vote.