

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were: Co-Chair, Eric Poch (arrived late), Co-Chair Scott Smigler, Susan Berry, Ronald Brumback, Blair Caple, Howard Feng, Michael Joachim, Jean Nam, and Sonny Parente

Other Attendees: Dennis Keohane, Finance Director

ITEM 1: Open Meeting and Remarks

Co-Chair Smigler opened the meeting at 7:00 with a roll call.

Roll call:

Howard Feng, present; Michael Joachim, present; Ronald Brumback, present; Jean Nam, present; Susan Berry, present; Sonny Parente, present; Blair Caple, present; and Scott Smigler, present

Co-Chair Smigler read the statement about public meetings and information about being recognized to speak.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Updates from Town Staff and Liaison Reports

No updates from Dennis Keohane. He is working on the FinCom Warrant materials that were sent to him by Ron Bromback. Co-Chair Smigler shared Town Manager Hayes' answers to FinCom's questions.

Ron Bromback reported that the LS MultiYear Data Comparison and Reconciliation spreadsheets should be available next week. He also believes the question about the FTEs has been resolved but Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance & Operations will work on a report to show the FTE count.

Susan Berry reported that the Board of Health has a chance to submit a proposal for a state grant for regional partnerships and they are exploring possibilities with other towns.

ITEM 4: Deliberate and take positions on Town Meeting articles**Article 14: Fund Eversource Litigation Fund**

In answer to a question from Michael Joachim, Dennis Keohane confirmed that the Town might need to stop the litigation if funding ran out, and if all the funds were not needed, Town Meeting could vote to allocate remaining funds for a different use.

Motion and Vote:

Susan Berry moved to recommend approval of **Article 14: Fund Eversource Litigation Fund**. Ron Bromback seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Blair Caple, yes; Howard Feng, yes; Jean Nam, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Susan Berry, yes; and Scott Smigler, yes

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Article 15: Repurpose Melone Stabilization Fund

There was discussion about the fact that the money would be available for something other than capital if it were not moved at this time. (Eric Poch joined the meeting during this discussion.) The committee also discussed recommending that this repurpose wait for policies by the Select Board and/or until more is known about what mitigation might be needed with the Cold Brook Crossing development on the former Melone property.

Motion and Vote:

Michael Joachim moved to recommend approval of **Article 15: Repurpose Melone Stabilization Fund**. Sonny Parente seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Jean Nam, no; Ron Brumback, no; Susan Berry, no; Blair Caple, no; Sonny Parente, no; Howard Feng, no; Michael Joachim, no; Scott Smigler, no; and Eric Poch, no

The motion failed. The vote was 0 in favor, 9 opposed.

Article 16: Construction of Fire House Stage 1

Co-Chair Smigler said the first question is whether the FinCom is ready to take a position on this article and if not what do members still need. There was a general discussion about how

members ideally would like to see this project go forward or not. The committee agreed to wait for the final decision about how the project would be funded before voting on this article.

The committee then went over the commentary on the articles they have taken a vote on, followed by review of the positives and concerns that the committee had generated as it discussed the budget hearings with the three cost centers. This information will inform the FinCom's report in the Warrant and to the Select Board.

ITEM 5: General Business

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Scott Smigler moved, and Mike Joachim seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021 as amended.

Roll call vote:

Jean Nam, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, abstain; Susan Berry, yes; Sonny Parente, Yes; Howard Feng, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Eric Poch, yes
The motion carried. The vote was 8 in favor, 1 abstention.

- **Membership** - no updates

- **Transfers and Other Business**

There were no transfers.

- **Calendar and budget process**

Co-Chair Smigler reviewed the calendar and potential meetings that the committee might be able to cancel.

- **Future agenda items** - no updates

ITEM 6: FinCom Report to Warrant and Select Board

The Co-Chairs introduced this discussion. The members reviewed a draft of the FinCom report for the Warrant, making suggestions on structure and high-level thoughts on content so that Howard Feng can update the draft for another review. The committee will spend most of the March 22nd meeting doing a final edit of the updated draft.

Co-Chair Smigler suggested, and there was general agreement, that the report to the Select Board tomorrow night be a

walkthrough of the narrative tables that the committee created during the discussion on the warrant report.

ITEM 7: Public Comment

Jen Roberts, Select Board member, mentioned that she and Bill Schneller would meet virtually Thursday night to continue their work on drafting revised policies and welcomed anyone to observe that meeting. She also mentioned that the funding source(s) for the Fire Station project would be discussed at the Select Board meeting the following evening and that it would be helpful to hear from FinCom members their views of funding sources.

ITEM 8: Adjourn

Susan Berry moved, and Blair Caple seconded the motion to adjourn the March 8th meeting at approximately 11:10.

Roll call vote:

Jean Nam, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Susan Berry, yes; Sonny Parente, Yes; Howard Feng, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; and Eric Poch, yes

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.