

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Joint Meeting with Select Board and CIAC
Virtual Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

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

OTHER ATTENDEES: (See Select Board Minutes)

ITEM 1: Open Meeting

Motion and Vote:

Co-chair Poch asked for roll call of FinCom members.

Roll call:

Scott Smigler, present; Susan Berry, present; Ronald Brumback, present; Michael Joachim, present; Sonny Parente, present; Howard Feng, present; Jean Nam, present; and Eric Poch, present.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM 2: Town Manger to present Town's capital budget and Town Manager's capital budget. Also, article sponsors from Town staff, SPS, LSRHS to present Town Meeting articles

Public Works FY2022 Capital Requests

Mr. Nason provided project updates regarding Articles approved at previous Town Meetings:

- Underground Fuel Storage and Management System Replacement - has gone smoothly and now awaiting small items to be completed by the contractor
- Dutton Road Bridge - Bids came in less than estimated and project to begin shortly
- Dump Truck with plow - Unit 36 - Delivered and in service
- Concord Road Culvert Design - Completed on schedule and within budget
- Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan - Project pending and progressing
- Featherland Park Multisport Court Reconstruction (CPA) - Completed on schedule and on budget
- Dutton Road Bridge Project - Easements have been recorded and filed

- Roadway Drainage Improvements - Going through permitting process
- Old Sudbury Road Culvert Design - Going through permitting process and public vetting
- Dump Truck with Plow/Unit 37 - Delivery delayed
- 6- Wheel Combo Body Dump Truck w/plow & Spreader - Delivery delayed
- Wayside Inn Road Bridge Reconstruction (CPA) - Filing of Certificate of Appropriateness is pending

Mr. Nason provided detail regarding DPW internal analysis and proposed implementations. Ms. Nam thanked Mr. Nason and his Department for the in-depth review of DPW projects.

Mr. Nason presented DPW ATM 2021 Articles:

- Article 10 - Chapter 90 Highway Funding
Mr. Nason explained the procedural nature of the Article, which allows the Town to accept highway funding from the State.
- Article 17 - Marlboro Road repair after erosion
Mr. Nason explained that severe rains in the last months caused erosion of the roadway. He added DPW stabilized the gabions and presented a replacement plan with a requested amount of \$400,000 to repair the road. Mr. Nason stated that DPW is working with abutter regarding a new retaining wall.
- Article 18 - Front-End Loader with Plow
Mr. Nason affirmed that the front-end loader has been used in every snowstorm and is very rusted. Funding amount is \$230,000.
- Article 19 - Multi-purpose Tractor
Mr. Nason explained that the tractor is primarily used for winter sidewalk treatment; it sweeps/treats sidewalks, and cuts grass in season. The tractor is twelve years old and replacement parts are very difficult to acquire. Funding amount is \$205,000.
- Article 20 - 6-Wheel Combo Body with Plow
Mr. Nason noted that the 2006 machine and is used all through the year. Board member Schineller asked about truck resale value. Mr. Nason indicated that there is not a huge demand for such well-used vehicles, with mechanical/electrical items removed.

Mr. Russo thanked Mr. Nason for the update report and hoped other departments would follow. He asked if multi-purpose trucks are cost effective. Mr. Nason responded that continuous season use is more

efficient. Mr. Brumback asked about extending vehicle life and repair costs. Mr. Nason indicated his desire to adopt a software repair program. Mr. Smigler asked about culvert replacement costs. Mr. Nason indicated that the culvert project would likely not be qualified for a grant and stated that pricing at this time might benefit the Town.

Ms. Asbedian-Ciaffi maintained that CIAC voted unanimously in support of proposed Articles 17, 18, 19 and 20, with the recommendation that the front-end loader be kept out of the elements and in storage when not in use.

Vice-Chair Roberts asked if culvert repair projects were on the increase. Mr. Nason responded that most of the culverts were assessed recently; and most were in that state of different levels of repair. He stated the Town maintains 160 culverts and suggested that they be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Sudbury Fire Station #2

Fire Chief John Whalen presented ATM 2021 Article 16 - Construction of Housing/Living Addition - Fire Station #2 Chief Whalen presented slides of the Station 2 including phasing plans; with phase 1 estimate of \$4,300,000; Phase 2 estimate of \$6,835,000 and a total cost of \$11,135,000.

Board member Schineller asked about square footage cost. Chief Whalen responded \$1,200 per square foot, with consideration of installation of new utilities. Vice-Chair Roberts inquired about timeline for Phase 1. Chief Whalen suggested that project bidding take place third quarter of 2021, with construction to commence in a year. Chair Dretler acknowledged the two-phase approach would result in a cost of \$11,135,000 and asked what the difference was between this plan and the plan proposed in 2018. Chief Whalen responded that the complete project included demolition of the existing building, as well as construction of the new structure, since that time projected cost has escalated considerably. Mr. Brumback asked about cost if the two phases were combined into one project. Chief Whalen replied \$9.5 million. Mr. Travers confirmed that cost estimate as provided by the architect. Ms. Berry asked what the square footage cost if the two phases were combined. Mr. Travers provided the calculation and suggested the architect update that cost. Mr. Poch asked about the timeframe if the project combined the phasing. Chief Whalen responded eighteen months. Ms. Nam asked that a copy of the engineer's report be provided. Chief Whalen agreed to present that latest engineering report. Mr. Howard asked where the Fire Department vehicles would be housed if phasing were combined. Chief Whalen responded the vehicles would be housed to another fire station, with the ambulance at the center station. Mr. Parente asked if COVID had anything to do with cost increases. Chief Whalen thought not. Chair Dretler confirmed the

Select Board supported a phased approach. Ms. Nam commented that the proposed project was too big and could be decreased in size. Board member Carty stated that the unphased approach was previously defeated at Town Meeting, which is why the phased approach was being proposed. Mr. Kunkle suggested peer review regarding the cost estimates, rather than relying solely on the architect's estimates. Chair Dretler stated she needed to review the engineering reports, examine the square footage costs, and understand what the funding sources might be. Chief Whalen stated he would confer with Mr. Barletta to obtain additional information. Ms. Asbedian-Ciaffi commented that both fire stations are the same age and might both need renovation. Chief Whalen responded there were more mechanical failures associated with Station 3. She asked where firefighters would be housed during construction of Station 2. Chair Whalen replied they would be relocated to the station on the other side of Town.

Article 25 - LSRHS Stadium Field - Submitted by LSRHS

Ms. Wong noted the requested amount for field reconstruction was \$337,500. Ms. Wong presented highlights of the "LS Stadium Field History," regarding the field replacement in consideration of the Inter-Municipal Agreement Terms, Park and Recreation user ratio. Chair Dretler commented that CPA funds were previously used to reconstruct LS fields. Board Member Carty opined if the Inter-municipal Agreement actually applied to field reconstruction and suggested that Town Counsel examine this aspect. Vice-Chair Roberts requested proposed funding for the project and questioned the structure of the Inter-Municipal Agreement. She emphasized that student safety should not be compromised. Board member Russo echoed the comments of other members. He indicated his wish to review the related financial records regarding user fees collected. Board member Schineller agreed that replacement of the field was necessary; adding that COVID forced the delay of such replacement. Ms. Wong addressed field maintenance fees. Ms. Nam commented that CPC funds could be used for the project, in part. Chair Dretler asked that Ms. Nam share the names of those communities that have used such CPC funding. Mr. Joachim inquired about possible Park & Recreation funding. Town Manager Hayes confirmed he would consult with the Park & Recreation department regarding this matter. Ms. Asbedian-Ciaffi recommended Park & Recreation create a 5-Year Capital Replacement Plan. She noted that CIAC voted to approve the Stadium field, 6-1 (one abstention).

Mr. Sharma asked about solar panels on the LSRHS building in connection with funding. Ms. Wong responded that a \$70,000 savings from such solar is allocated to utility costs at LSRHS.

Article 23 - Sudbury Public Schools COVID-19 Academic Program

Superintendent Brad Crozier provided detail regarding the five-week summer program for elementary students due to schooling time lost due

to COVID. Mr. Crozier confirmed the requested cost at \$309,540. He explained the student selection process and noted that Park & Recreation would provide a social segment. Also transportation and lunch will be provided for students who require it. Mr. Crozier stated that the COVID-19 Academic Program would run in concert with the Special Education summer program. Vice-Chair Roberts asked if federal funding could contribute to the program. Mr. Crosier stated if financial need was present, the SMILE Program might cover some enrollment fees. Board member Russo asked if the Special Education program was ongoing and wondered if the new program might be considered similarly. Mr. Crozier commented that possible pilot funding might be considered at a later date. Board Member Schineller commented that the enrollment could be regarded as mandatory. Mr. Crozier recognized that eligibility for the program would be determined in part, by spring benchmarking data.

Article 24 - Sudbury Public Schools Noyes School Fire Alarm Replacement

Bill Barletta noted that all existing equipment would be removed in its entirety, with installation beginning in the summer of 2021. Mr. Barletta noted that \$220,000 was being requested. Board member Russo asked about source of funding. Town Manager Hayes responded funding would likely come from free cash, pending availability of such funds. Mr. Sharma inquired about brand of fire alarm system. Mr. Barletta responded that the brand was non-proprietary.

ITEM 3: Adjourn

Mr. Smigler motioned to adjourn the joint meeting with the Select Board and CIAC. Ms. Berry seconded the motion.

VOTE: Joachim aye, Feng-aye, Parente-aye, Brumback-aye, Nam-aye, Smigler-aye, Poch-aye, Berry-aye. The motion passed unanimously.