

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the FinCom present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Scott Smigler, Co-Chair Eric Poch, Blair Caple, Susan Berry, Ronald Brumback, Howard Feng, Michael Joachim, Jean Nam, Sonny Parente

ALSO PRESENT

Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector, Jennifer Roberts, Vice-Chair of the Select Board

CONVENE:

Co-Chair Eric Poch called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., and roll called members of the FinCom present for the April 26, 2021, Virtual Meeting.

ITEM 1: Open the Meeting

- Co-Chair Smigler stated that the FinCom meeting of April 26, 2021, is being recorded and shared live with the public via www.sudburytv.org. He stated that there should be no expected right of privacy as this is a public forum. He reminded participants to mute their devices to reduce interruptions and unexpected distractions. He also stated that if participants desire to be recognized, they should use the raise hand feature or chat functions. Co-Chair Smigler stated that citizens' comments are limited to three minutes per person and when recognized to please state name and address. He asked that Town employees state their name and position.

- **Opening Remarks (Co-Chairs)**
Co-Chair Smigler stated that he was happy to see the Finance Committee Report was printed in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and is available on the Sudbury FinCom website. Co-Chair Smigler thanked Town Manager, Henry Hayes, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector, Dennis Keohane, and FinCom for their hard work. Co-Chair Smigler noted that the FinCom commentary did not make it in the warrant on a per article basis but FinCom will make up for this at Town Meeting.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: Updates from Town Staff and Liaison Reports

Finance Director Dennis stated that the Snow and Ice deficit is still \$348K and there are no other updates. He also stated that there is no new development on the contracts.

Blair Caple provided an update on the Planning Board. He stated that he has spoken with the Chair of the Planning Board, and they are meeting to discuss the Master Plan. He stated that his biggest takeaway was the acknowledgment of an economic/demographic mismatch in Sudbury. He stated that Sudbury residents are typically high earners but that most of the businesses in Town are low wage and that therefore we have a high commuting population of people who come into Sudbury to work. He stated that this presents an economic growth and tax base mismatch. He stated that what he was expecting to see in this analysis is an urban planning recommendation to grow out of this issue or address in any way, and the Master Plan does not include this. He also stated that the Master Plan acknowledges the aging population of Sudbury and 55+ communities.

Susan Berry stated that Sudbury Public Schools has applied for a grant that would be used to support the SMILES Program. She also stated that if SPS is awarded the grant then they would indefinitely postpone the warrant article requesting funds for this program.

Michael Joachim stated that he and Susan Berry will meet with Silvia Nersessian, Chair of Sudbury School Committee, and Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools, to discuss the Circuit Breaker.

ITEM 4: General Business

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Motion and Vote

Scott Smigler moved, and Michael Joachim seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2021, as amended.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion carried. The vote was 8 yes, and 1 abstention.

Motion and Vote

Susan Berry moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2021, as amended.

Roll call vote:

Sonny Parente, yes; Ronald Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Susan Berry, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Jean Nam, yes; Howard Feng, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.
The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Motion and Vote

Sonny Parente moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2021, as amended.

Roll call vote:

Sonny Parente, yes; Ronald Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Susan Berry, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Jean Nam, yes; Howard Feng, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.
The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

- **Liaison Appointments**

Co-Chair Smigler stated that the Permanent Building Liaison spot is still open. He added that the Permanent Building Committee will be involved with the Fairbank Community Center and Town Hall renovations. Co-Chair Smigler asked that members contact him if they are interested in this appointment.

- **Membership**

There was no discussion on this item.

- **Budget Transfers and other Business**

There was no discussion on this item.

- **Calendar and Budget Process**

The next FinCom meeting is Monday, May 10, 2021; followed by Saturday, May 22, 2021, which is the Annual Town Meeting, and Monday, June 7, 2021. A brief discussion followed.

- **Future Agenda Items**

Co-Chair Smigler opened this item for discussion. He stated that now that FinCom's Town Meeting responsibilities are met he would like the Committee to think back towards the goals that were set at the beginning of the fiscal year in terms of capital planning and budget policies. After a general discussion, FinCom decided on the following Agenda Items for the May 10, 2021, meeting: 1) financial policies and capital management; and 2) long-term concerns related to the budget and budget process. Co-Chair Smigler stated that he would take topic number one and circulate questions for discussion and Co-Chair Poch and Ronald Brumback would circulate questions for discussion on number 2.

ITEM 5: Discuss Town Meeting Presentation

Co-Chair Smigler opened this item for discussion. He thanked Jean Nam, Ronald Brumback, and Susan Berry for their thoughtful feedback and hard work on this document. Co-Chair Smigler stated that he and Co-Chair Poch will record the presentation live and it will be posted on the Town's website. He added that the information will also be presented live for Town Meeting. The Committee reviewed the presentation slide by slide and carefully deliberated the context of FinCom's communication to Sudbury's Annual Town Meeting 2021.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

Co-Chair Poch recognized Jennifer Roberts, Vice-Chair of the Select Board.

Ms. Roberts reported that the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee is scheduled to present its report to the Select Board on May 4, 2021, but may need to be rescheduled to May 11, 2021.

ITEM 7: Adjournment**Motion and Vote:**

Scott Smigler moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion that the April 26, 2021, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 9:56 p.m.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, May 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Cheryl Gosmon