

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of 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**

Henry Hayes, Town Manager, Jennifer Roberts, Vice-Chair of the Select Board, and William Schineller, Select Board

**CONVENE:**

Co-Chair Eric Poch called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**ITEM 1: Open the Meeting**

- **Welcome** - Co-Chair Smigler stated that the March 29, 2021, meeting is being recorded and shared live for the public via [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org). He also stated that there should be no expected right to privacy as this is a public forum. He reminded participants to mute their devices to reduce interruptions and unexpected distractions. He stated that citizen 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.
  
- **Member Roll Call** - Co-Chair Poch roll called members present for the virtual FinCom meeting.

**ITEM 2: Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3: Updates from Town Staff and Liaison Reports**

There were no updates from Town staff and there were no Liaison Reports.

**ITEM 4: Deliberate and Take Positions on Town Meeting Articles**

Co-Chair Smigler opened this item for discussion. He stated that there are four remaining articles that FinCom will need to take a position on. Co-Chair Smigler stated that Article 3 would set the cap on what the levy could be raised to in support of the budget.

Co-Chair Poch provided background information from the Select Board meeting he attended regarding the Fire Station. He stated that Dennis Keohane advocated that the majority of funding would

be debt, as well as a combination of \$500K from Free Cash, \$500K from the Police Station, and a sum of money from the Melone land swap. He stated that the Select Board was in favor of containing a large portion of funding within the levy and there was a mix of opinions on considering how much from the Melone land swap. Co-Chair Poch stated that he would like to get consensus from FinCom on recommendations on using funding from the Melone land swap. A general discussion followed.

Town Manager Henry Hayes joined the conversation. Co-Chair Smigler asked the Town Manager to confirmed that the project cost is \$4.3M with \$2.8M coming from debt and the levy, \$500K coming from Free Cash, \$500K coming from the sale of real estate fund and \$500K from the Melone land swap. Michael Joachim noted that the confirmed numbers are based on a straw poll by the Select Board and that they are looking for FinCom input on how to finance this. After a general discussion FinCom did a straw poll and seven members supported the article and 2 did not. It was the consensus of FinCom that funding would be within the levy (\$3.3M), with \$500K from the sale of Real Estate Fund and \$500K from Free Cash. Members did not like the idea of taking 500K from the Melone land Swap. A discussion also took place on the structural integrity and safety of the building, which is intact per Town Manager.

#### **Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Scott Smigler seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 16 Construction of Housing/Living Addition - Fire Station No. 2, contingent on \$3.3M coming from debt within the levy, \$500K from Free Cash, \$500K from sale of Real Estate Fund.

#### **Roll call vote:**

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

**The motion carried. The vote was 7 yes and 2 no.**

**An additional recommendation by the majority of FinCom was that debt funding be a 30-year bond. The FinCom agreed to include the following language in its Comments for the Warrant: "The Finance Committee's support is contingent on the following funding sources: Debt (in the levy): \$3,300,000. Free Cash: \$500,000. Sale of Real Estate Funds (Police Station): \$500,000. The second contingency is delay of Phase 2 of the project until no earlier than May of 2027. The Finance Committee has been advised the building structure should not require significant additional maintenance or replacement expenditure."**

#### **ITEM 5: FinCom Report to Warrant and Town Meeting**

- Vote to Approve Finance Section of Warrant

Co-Chair Smigler opened this item for discussion. He led the Committee in a review of the current draft of the FinCom Report to Warrant. A discussion followed on suggestions for edits.

**Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Sonny Parente seconded the motion to rescind the prior vote on the Finance Section of the Warrant.

Roll call vote:

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

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

**Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Sonny Parente seconded the motion to approve the Finance Section of the Warrant as amended.

Roll call vote:

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

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

- Discuss Town Meeting Presentation  
Co-Chair Smigler led the discussion on the structure of the FinCom presentation to Town Meeting. The Committee engaged in a general discussion and recommendations. FinCom will continue its discussion on this item at the April 12, 2021, meeting.

**ITEM 6: General Business**

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Motion and Vote**

Sonny Parente moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2021, January 11, 2021, and January 12, 2021, as amended.

Roll call vote:

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

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

- **Liaison Appointments**

Co-Chair Smigler stated that there is a vacancy for the Permanent Building Committee Liaison. Blair Caple stated that he would be interested in serving as Liaison to one of the Liaison Appointments. He will review the list and comment on this at the next FinCom meeting.

- **Membership**

There was no discussion on this item.

- **Budget Transfers and Other Business**

There were no Budget Transfers.

- **Calendar Review**

Co-Chair Smigler led the discussion on the calendar review. He confirmed that FinCom will meet on April 12 and April 26, 2021. He suggested that members meet on May 22, which is the Annual Town Meeting.

- **Future Agenda Items**

Co-Chair Smigler opened this item for discussion. The Committee engaged in a discussion of a list of Future Agenda Items.

**ITEM 7: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

**Motion and Vote:**

Sonny Parente moved, and Scott Smigler seconded the motion that the March 29, 2021, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

*The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.*

*Submitted by Cheryl Gosmon*