

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Eric Poch (left the meeting from 7:09 to 7:57), Co-Chair Jean Nam, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Ron Bromback, Michael Joachim, Sonny Parente, and Scott Smigler

**ABSENT:** Blair Caple

**ALSO ATTENDING the MEETING**

Jennifer Pincus and Craig Blake, members of the Permanent Building Committee (PBC); Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer; Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Chair

**ITEM 1: Open the Meeting**

- **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Poch called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and roll-called members of the FinCom present for the April 25, 2022, Virtual Meeting. Co-Chair Nam stated that the FinCom meeting of April 25 is being broadcast live and recorded for viewing by the public via [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org). She read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

- **Opening remarks (Co-Chairs)**

There were no opening remarks.

**ITEM 2: Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3: FinCom Budget Year FY23**

- **Updates**

- o Fairbank

Jennifer Pincus and Craig Blake were recognized to answer questions about the Fairbank Community Center project.

In answer to a question about the timing of the FF&E purchase (if the article passes), Jennifer Pincus responded that RFPs would be developed in the summer of 2022. Procurement is likely to occur no later than January 2023 for AV and furniture. Kitchen procurement, which has longer lead times, could be as early as August 2022. The bulk of the furniture would not be paid for until delivery which would be August 2023 at the earliest. Kitchen purchase delivery could be as early as May 2023. IT and AV components could be as early as June 2023.

Regarding the role PBC played in determining the financial ask for the FF&E warrant article, Ms. Pincus stated that the Select Board asked PBC about putting articles on the Warrant to help with the project shortfalls. PBC suggested the furniture and AV since these items would go out to bid separately and later than the construction bids. Also, the PBC suggested how the total available per the Select Board for these articles be divided between furniture and AV.

Asked the consequence if the FF&E article is not approved, Ms. Pincus responded that the list of items would be reviewed to ensure the most critical are purchased. It could mean opening the building with current furniture that is too big for the rooms, no AV, no kitchen equipment, and/or rooms with many fewer chairs than the program rooms could accommodate as well as future capital requests to complete the furnishing of the center.

Asked if the passage of this warrant article is essential to delivery of the project, the response was "no" the building will be built, but it will not provide the services as originally intended.

Asked if the pool equipment is an emergency need, the response was "yes." It was pulled out of the contract specs when the estimates for construction came in high since it had not been included in the feasibility study.

Jennifer Pincus added, in answer to a question from Scott Smigler, that the PBC's main concern about the adequacy of the contingency are the unknowns due to the pandemic.

- o Permission for Solar  
There was some discussion by FinCom about the need to vote on this article.
- o BFRT  
Co-Chair Nam's update on Article 47 was that \$250K will be for utility work that the state will not fund and for a consultant. The remaining \$250K will be held in reserve in case the contingency that is being provided by the State is not enough given inflation costs. If that \$250K is not needed for increased costs, it would be used for some of the amenities not funded by the State.

BFRT Article 19 has to do with easements on private owned property, and there is some controversy about eminent domain language in the article. Co-Chair Nam suggested FinCom wait to take a vote on Article 19 until the eminent domain question is resolved. Article 20 has to do with easements on Town-owned property.

- **Warrant Articles - Deliberation and Voting**

Sewataro Articles (articles 15 and 57) and Article 19 will be reported on at Town Meeting.

**Article 23 Fairbank Community Center FF&E**

Some members of the committee felt this request should have gone through the normal capital prioritization process. Others felt that this project had already been prioritized and this request is part of completing the project.

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Mike Joachim seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 23 Fairbank Community Center FF&E in the amount of \$200,000.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Sonny Parente, no; Scott Smigler, no; Jean Nam, no; and Eric Poch, no.

The motion failed. The vote was 4 in favor and 4 opposed.

**Article 20 Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2D - Grant of Easment****Motion and Vote:**

Michael Joachim moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 20.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

**Article 47 Community Preservation Act Fund - Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design and Construction North of Mass Central Rail****Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 47 in the amount of \$500,000.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, no; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion passed. The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed.

**Article 48 Community Preservation Act Fund - Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design and Construction South of Mass Central Rail**

Co-Chair Nam stated that this article is a combination of an original article by the Town and a citizen's petition. Co-Chair Poch argued in favor of both parts of the article whether or not the trail ends up being extended into Framingham.

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 48 in the amount of \$300,000.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

Susan Berry requested that the FinCom vote on Article 32 ADA Transition Plan Recommendations be rescinded based on the Commission on Disabilities' (CoD) change in position. Having gotten agreement from the Town Manager on the creation of a working group to consult on priorities for implementing the plan, the CoD voted to support this article. Some members of the committee advocated that an overall plan be put together before money is allocated as well as that each piece of the plan go through the capital prioritization process as it is requested.

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that Finance Committee rescind the prior vote on Article 32.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, no; Scott Smigler, no; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, no.

The motion passed. The vote was 5 in favor, 3 opposed.

Co-Chair Poch called for a motion on Article 32.

**Motion and Vote:**

Ron Bromback moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 32.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, no; Scott Smigler, no; Jean Nam, no; and Eric Poch, no.

The motion failed. The vote was 4 in favor and 4 opposed.

Dennis Keohane was recognized for information on the Snow and Ice deficit which he reported as \$240,641.

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Michael Joachim seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 8 in the amount of \$240,641.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

**The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.**

- **Town Meeting FinCom Presentation**  
Co-Chair Poch went over the updates he had made to the presentation and the areas still needing updating. Members made additional suggests for updates or areas to check.
- **Other items relevant to budget preparation, review, or informing the Finance Committee budget deliberations**  
There was no further discussion on this topic.

#### **ITEM 4: General Business**

- **Calendar and budget process**  
The time for Monday night's meeting prior to the start of Town Meeting will be 6:30 p.m.
- **Liaison Reports**  
Co-Chairs Poch and Nam reported that the Moderator has received a number of applications for 3 positions to be filled.
- **Review Goals / Future Agenda Topics**  
There was no discussion of this item.
- **Transfers and other business**  
There were no transfers
- **Approve meeting minutes**  
The committee reviewed the minutes of February 15, February 28, March 21, March 29, and April 4, 2022 and the edits that were received.

#### **Motion and Vote:**

**Eric Poch moved, and Scott Smigler seconded the motion that Finance Committee approve the minutes of 5 meetings: minutes of 3/21 and 3/29 as reviewed and minutes of 2/15, 2/28, and 4/4 as amended.**

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

**Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.**

**The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.**

#### **ITEM 5: Updates from Town Staff**

There were no updates beyond the earlier Snow and Ice info.

#### **ITEM 6: Public Comment**

Jennifer Roberts gave the committee some updates on logistics and will ask that a more complete update be sent to FinCom.

The three members rolling off (Ron Bromback, Jean Nam, and Scott Smigler) were thanked for their service by members of FinCom and by Jennifer Roberts.

**ITEM 7: Adjournment**

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that the Finance Committee adjourn at 10:03 pm.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Bromback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

*The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, May 2, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., location TBD.*