

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
and Select Board  
Virtual Joint Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Joint Meeting were Co-Chair Eric Poch, Co-Chair Jean Nam, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Ronald Brumback, Blair Caple, and Michael Joachim.

**ABSENT:** Sonny Parente and Scott Smigler

**ALSO ATTENDING the MEETING**

Select Board Members: Chair Jennifer Roberts, Vice-Chair Charles Russo, Daniel Carty, William Schineller, Janie Dretler; Finance Director Dennis Keohane

**ITEM 1: Call to Order**

The Select Board voted to open the joint meeting with the Finance Committee at 7:45 p.m. FinCom Co-Chair Poch called to order the meeting of FinCom and roll-called members of the FinCom present.

**ITEM 2:**

• **Finance Committee FY23 Budget Report**

Co-Chair Poch presented the Finance Committee FY23 Budget Report. He summarized that FinCom recommended approval of 28 Annual Town Meeting Articles, did not recommend approval of 4 articles, and had not yet voted on 9 articles. He noted that general areas of FinCom concern included: unfunded Town departmental requests for additional personnel; future funding for SPS SMILE and Mental Health, funded for two years with ARPA funds, were they to become permanent; LSRHS budget use of the Transportation Revolving fund to mitigate large increase in busing, expecting that increased reimbursement would be available in the future.

The following articles FinCom is not recommending be approved:

Article 32 - ADA Transition Plan Recommendations (2-4-3)

Article 34 - On-call Architectural & Engineering "House Doctor" Services (1-8)

Article 49 - CPA Historic Districts Commission Design Guidelines (1-7)

Article 58 - Creation of Sustainability Director (1-7)

Mr. Poch confirmed that nine Town Meeting Warrant Articles dealing with Sewataro/Liberty Ledge, Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment Funding, Fairbank Community Center Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment Funding, and Bruce Freeman Rail Trail articles had not been voted to date.

- **Hear Proposals and Discussion on Town Warrant Articles**

- **Article 57 Hire Land Use Consultant for Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Property (Citizen Petition)**

Len Simon, representing the Citizen Petition - Town Meeting Warrant Article 57, reviewed the "Land Use Study for Liberty Ledge" PowerPoint presentation. He detailed that the Article requested funding in the amount of \$200,000, to cover:

- 1) A thorough land use study of Liberty Ledge, a type of mini-Master Plan
- 2) A primary land-use planner in addition to specialized sub-planners
- 3) Environmental experts and research regarding permitting aspects
- 4) A landscape architect's input
- 5) Finance Considerations
- 6) Town Forum, charrette, and surveys, etc.

Mr. Joachim queried about the \$200,000 funding request, and not a request for \$100,000. Mr. Simon responded that research concluded that funding of \$200,000 would result in a more comprehensive study. Mr. Brumback agreed that the \$200,000 request would likely produce a more comprehensive study of the Liberty Ledge/Sewataro property. Board Member Dretler indicated her wish for a more comprehensive survey of the site noting that a funding amount of \$200,000 was more realistic when compared to what \$100,000 would produce.

Vice-Chair Russo confirmed that water quality tests at Sewataro were completed and results were favorable. He added that those results could be viewed on the Town website. Chair Roberts acknowledged that a Notice of Intent (NOI) per guidance of the Conservation Commission would soon be submitted. Scott Brody, Operator of Camp Sewataro, stated the Citizen's Petition reflected personal desires by many petitioners. He stated the NOI will likely be submitted by the end of the week, and there are no associated problems.

- **Article 16 Funding of a Land Use Consultant for Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Property**

Vice-Chair Russo presented Article 16. He stated that a study requesting funding of \$200,000 was likely excessive, and the \$100,000 request for such funding as voted by the Select Board should be more than enough to obtain a complete study.

- **Article 15 Funding of Operations for Passive Recreation of the Sewataro/Liberty Ledge Property**

Town Manager Hayes confirmed that the expense listed within this article reflected numbers pulled from the 2019 studies with some amending. Board Member Carty commented that this listing reflected minimal maintenance. Board Member Schineller affirmed that current property insurance expense was \$60,000 paid by the camp operator.

Co-Chair Nam commented that Town maintenance services are more costly than maintenance services provided by private contractors. Chair Roberts indicated she would be interested in receiving independent estimates during the month of April. Mr. Brumback agreed obtaining such bids/estimates would be a good idea.

Co-Chair Nam stated that Planning indicated that an open space plan should be in place before focusing on Sewataro. Vice-Chair Russo was in agreement. Ms. Dretler agreed with the importance of evaluation of open space planning. Ms. Berry recommended that a recreation plan be considered before expending additional funding for another request. Mr. Simon said for every year the camp is running the residents cannot use the swimming facilities and that residents want to use Sewataro as a grand park. Board Member Carty stressed the importance of considering options with an open mind.

- **Article 4 FY23 Capital Budget**

Town Manager Hayes presented the items included in the Town Manager's Capital Budget totaling \$1,036,274.

- **Fairbank Community Center Articles**

Chair Roberts and Board Member Dretler presented the two Fairbank Community Center articles. Town Manager Hayes mentioned the cost overrun due to increased construction costs and labor costs. He added that the discovery of a

water main placement resulted in considerable budget adjustment.

**Article 22 Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment Funding** (Requested amount: \$300,000)

Chair Roberts stressed that AV-related technology had increased due to COVID-related factors. Chair Roberts mentioned proposed rental of the Center is being considered, and such enhanced audio-visual equipment would be recommended.

**Article 23 Fairbank Community Center Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment Funding (FF&E)** (Requested amount \$200,000)

Board Member Dretler acknowledged direct feedback had been received from User Groups. Related questions were asked by Select Board, CIAC and FinCom Members, and Permanent Building Committee Member Jennifer Pincus joined the discussion.

**ITEM 3: Citizens Comments**

COD (Commission on Disability) Chair Kay Bell asked about the ADA Act Transition Plan article timeline. She also asked if the proposed Fire Station would be totally accessible.

**ITEM 4: Adjourn**

Co-Chair Poch moved, and Co-Chair Nam seconded the motion to adjourn the joint meeting of FinCom at approximately 9:30 pm.

**Roll call vote:**

Susan Berry, aye; Andrew Bettinelli, aye; Ron Brumback, aye; Blair Caple, aye; Michael Joachim, aye; Jean Nam, aye; Eric Poch; aye.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.