

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Eric Poch, Co-Chair Jean Nam, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Ron Bromback, Blair Caple (left about 10:00), Michael Joachim, and Scott Smigler (left about 10:00)

**ABSENT:** Sonny Parente

**ALSO ATTENDING the MEETING**

Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer; Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Chair; Leslie Lowe and Alex Vai representing the citizen petition on climate action plan

**ITEM 1: Open the Meeting**

- **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Poch called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and roll-called members of the FinCom present for the March 14, 2022, Virtual Meeting. Co-Chair Nam stated that the FinCom meeting of March 14 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)**

Co-Chair Poch let the committee know that the Town Manager just sent info on Fairbank.

**ITEM 2: Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3: FinCom Budget Year FY23**

- **Citizen Petition - Climate Energy (Article 58)**

Co-Chair Nam introduced Leslie Lowe and Alex Vai to present the citizen petition. Mr. Vai walked the committee through a Power Point with arguments in favor of the petition and information about funding for the first year of a Sustainability Director's salary and benefits.

Questions and concerns brought up by members of the committee included whether the Town Manager agreed that a Sustainability Director is one of his top priorities, how a director would be paid going forward, and that the process for adding personnel should go through the budget process.

- **Discuss Proposed Budgets - SPS/Town**

Mike Joachim went through slides he had prepared to review the SPS FY23 budget. Committee members discussed the positives and concerns about the budget.

The committee discussed the positives and concerns about the Town budget. There was also discussion about the increased Facilities budget to include maintenance for the Town and SPS, moving this out of the Town Manager's Capital Budget. This led to a discussion about possible ways to fund a portion or all of the \$3.5M Article 42 Townwide Drainage and Roadway Reconstruction in some way other than with excluded debt.

- **Continue Voting on Articles**

Mr. Keohane clarified that the original budget number of \$110,291,427 does not include the LS assessment adjustment. The committee decided to go with the original number minus the \$300K LS assessment reduction and will amend the vote, if necessary, after a final check on the assessment number.

**Motion and Vote:**

Eric Poch moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 3 FY23 Budget in the amount of \$109,991,427.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Jean Nam seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 4 FY23 Capital Budget in the amount of \$1,040,653.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

**Motion and Vote:**

Jean Nam moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 26 Sudbury Public Schools HVAC Repairs and Replacements in the amount of \$455,000 from Free Cash.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

**Motion and Vote:**

Jean Nam moved, and Blair Caple seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 27 Noyes Elementary School Classroom Sinks Replacement in the amount of \$130,000 from Free Cash.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

At this point there was a request to tally the amount of Free Cash to be used for the articles the committee has voted to recommend approval.

The committee discussed whether we are ready to vote on Article 58 Creation of Sustainability Director (Citizen Petition) and the pros and cons of the article.

**Motion and Vote:**

Scott Smigler moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 58 Creation of Sustainability Director.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion failed. The vote was 1 in favor and 7 opposed.

Co-Chair Poch called for a motion on Article 13 Capital Stabilization Fund. There was discussion about the amount.

**Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 13 Capital Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$500,000.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

Co-Chair Poch called for a motion on Article 24 Additional Funding: Construction of Fire Station No. 2 Housing/Living/Office Area. There were questions about the modification in the amount requested, from \$1.5M to \$1M, and discussion about the need to address safety issues.

**Motion and Vote:**

Scott Smigler moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 24 Additional

**Funding: Construction of Fire Station No. 2**

Housing/Living/Office Area in the amount of \$1,000,000.

**Roll call vote:**

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

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

Co-Chair Poch called for a motion on Article 46 Old Framingham Road/Nobscot Road Extension Project.

**Motion and Vote:**

Jean Nam moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 46 Old Framingham Road/Nobscot Road Extension Project in the amount of \$700,000.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion failed. The vote was 1 in favor and 7 opposed.

Some of the votes against recommending approval were based on members' request that the money be applied instead to Article 42 Townwide Drainage and Roadway Reconstruction to lower the amount of debt outside the levy being requested.

- **Discuss FinCom Budget Report**

The committee discussed further updates to the FinCom report to be printed in the Warrant.

- **Other items relevant to budget preparation, review, or informing the Finance Committee budget deliberations**

There was no further discussion under this item.

**ITEM 4: General Business**

- **Calendar and budget process**

Jean Nam asked if there were any questions for Park & Rec she could send them before they come to the next FinCom meeting. The committee agreed that we need to add one more meeting.

- **Liaison Reports**

Susan Berry reported that the Board of Health has hired a grant manager for the Public Health Shared Services Grant and Sudbury's part-time nurses who have been doing contact tracing are now being funded by the grant.

- **Review Goals / Future Agenda Topics**

There was no discussion of this item.

- **Transfers and other business**

There were no transfers or other business.

- **Approve meeting minutes**

Approval of minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

**ITEM 5: Updates from Town Staff**

There were no updates.

**ITEM 6: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Bromback seconded the motion that the Finance Committee adjourn at approximately 10:43 pm.

**Roll call vote:**

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

The motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

*The next scheduled virtual meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, March 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.*