

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Eric Poch (arrived at 7:22 pm), Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Michael Ferrari, Hank Sorett, and Colin Wang.

ABSENT

Sonny Parente

ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE

Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer

ITEM 1: Open the Meeting

- **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the roll of FinCom members present for the January 23, 2023, virtual meeting. He 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: Finalize submission to 2022 Annual Town Report

Vice-Chair Joachim opened this item for discussion on the Draft 2022 Annual Town Report as prepared by Andrew Bettinelli and edited by Co-Chairs Joachim and Poch. A general discussion followed that included suggestions for edits.

Motion and Vote

Hank Sorett moved and Colin Wang seconded the motion to approve the Finance Committee submission to the 2022 Annual Town Report.

Co-Chair Joachim called the roll of members in favor of this motion:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Mike Ferrari, yes; Colin Wang, yes; Hank Sorett, yes; and Mike Joachim, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous, 6-0.

ITEM 4: FY24 Budget Discussion

Vice-Chair Joachim opened this item for discussion. He noted that the early information that FinCom has received from Cost Centers on the FY24 Budget is in the meeting materials folder on the shared drive.

- Update on SPS FY24 budget discussions
Susan Berry shared that the Select Board and the Sudbury School Committee are meeting this evening to discuss the proposed override based on an approved School Committee budget of \$44,976,163, which exceeds the Town Manager's guidance by \$745,460. She stated that the Sudbury School Committee would hear a report on February 6, 2023, from Don Sawyer, SPS Director of Business and Human Resources, on what would be cut from the FY24 School Operating budget if the override did not pass. She noted that Town Meeting members must vote on a non-override budget and can vote on an override budget. She asked if FinCom were to get the budget book by February 7, would that be enough time to meet on February 15 before the budget hearing. Ms. Berry stated that she had a conversation with Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools, Silvia Nerssessian, School Committee Chair, and Don Sawyer to discuss in detail some of the pieces that will make up the SPS budget request. She added that she is waiting for their information on how the 12 additional FTEs were funded. Susan Berry stated that she understands that SPS will have a complete budget book on February 6, and FinCom should receive it on February 7.

Co-Chair Joachim provided background information for new FinCom members on proceedings leading up to the FinCom Budget Hearings, which includes a review of the SPS Budget Book, which contains more information than FinCom has seen thus far about the SPS budget request. He shared that FinCom has previously generated questions based on the budget book and sent them before the budget hearing to SPS.

Co-Chair Joachim stated that there would be a joint capital meeting on February 13, 2023, with the Select Board and the CIAC. He suggested that FinCom schedule the budget hearing with SPS on February 15, provided FinCom has everything it needs. A discussion about dates for the SPS Budget Hearing and the Town Budget Hearing followed.

Co-Chair Joachim proposed that the LS budget hearing occur on February 6, the capital meeting on February 13, SPS on February 15, and the Town on February 27. There was consensus on the proposed schedule. Members would submit their questions for the Cost Centers to the Co-Chairs.

The conversation turned to discussion of the LS budget and the existing gap with their budget. Michael Ferrari stated that LS might have its budget within guidance before they come to FinCom.

Co-Chair Joachim noted that the Select Board met on January 10 and spent time on the town's financial condition. He stated that he put their slides into the meeting folder on the shared drive. He noted that the Select Board devoted much time discussing SPS's request for an override of \$750,000. He stated that FinCom's focus would be to look closely at the numbers, ask hard questions, and be prepared as a committee to understand the financial piece so that FinCom can explain it at Town Meeting and fulfill its fiduciary obligation to the Town. Co-Chair Joachim added that there was also talk about the levy limit and taxing up to the levy limit.

- Update on the capital budget review process
Co-Chair Joachim stated that he and Co-Chair Poch met recently with representatives from the CIAC and the Select Board to discuss the capital budget review process. He noted that no substantive matters were discussed, but rather the focus was on the process. He stated that the CIAC and FinCom will have the capital items on January 31.
- Discuss other known FY24 Budget and Warrant information (e.g., CPC projects)

Colin Wang provided a brief overview of the function of the CPC and a summary of CPC projects. He provided a summary of FY24 CPC revenue and funds for new projects. He stated that there is a total estimated revenue of \$2,920,000 for FY24. He noted that the FY24 estimated fixed expenses total \$1,105,143. He said that the revenue remaining for new projects totals \$1,814,858. He pointed out that each year the CPC has a self-imposed limit that they want to stay within, and for FY24, that limit is \$1.8M. He stated that the CPC fund had accumulated \$8.7M in its reserves. He noted that this money has been collected but has not been spent over the years. He added that if all of the CPC projects for FY24 are approved, the CPC would go over its self-imposed limit but that there would remain a healthy reserve. A general discussion followed on fixed expenses. Co-Chair Poch noted that debt service is among fixed costs and derives from large capital projects. He added that the CPC could bond against its potential revenue stream. Mr. Wang previewed 12 CPC proposed projects that passed the CPC vote totaling \$2,897,012.

ITEM 5: General Business

- Liaison reports
There was no further discussion on this item.
- Calendar

Co-Chair Joachim stated that the next FinCom meeting would be on February 6, 2023, LS budget hearing. He stated that on February 13 Fincom would meet with the CIAC, and the Select Board in a joint meeting on capital items.

- Approve meeting minutes
There were no meeting minutes to approve.
- Transfers and other business
There were no transfers to report.

ITEM 6: Public Comment
There were no public comments.

ITEM 7: Adjournment
Motion and Vote

Eric Poch moved and was seconded by Susan Berry to adjourn January 23, 2023, FinCom meeting at approximately 8:46 PM.

Co-Chair Joachim called the roll of members in favor of this motion:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Mike Ferrari, yes; Colin Wang, yes; Hank Sorett, yes; Eric Poch, yes; and Mike Joachim, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous, 7-0.

Minutes Prepared by
Cheryl Gosmon