

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Eric Poch (left at approximately 9 p.m.), Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Mike Ferrari, Sonny Parente, Hank Sorett, and Colin Wang.

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE**

Andy Sheehan, Town Manager; Dennis Keohane , Finance Director/Treasurer; Maryanne Bilodeau; Assistant Town Manager

**ITEM 1: Open the Meeting**

● **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and called the roll of FinCom members present for the February 27, 2023, virtual meeting. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

● **Opening remarks (Co-Chairs)**

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the purpose of the meeting.

**ITEM 2: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 3: Town FY24 Budget Hearing**

Town Manager Sheehan introduced himself and gave an overview of the Town Budget. He mentioned the request for three new positions and the pressures from previously mentioned unmet needs and went through the Town Budget presentation. There were questions about the addition of positions in Technology and Conservation. In the presentation, the Town Manager reviewed the requests for additional staff that have not been included in the FY24 budget. The Town Manager will be reviewing these requests as he evaluates the needs of the departments.

There were questions about the source of funding of the Sustainability Coordinator and whether the position has to be funded going forward and discussion about the process.

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the questions that were sent to the Town Manager and the answers received to see if there were further questions. There was discussion about why

the decision was made for the source of payment for the pumper fire truck to be a capital exclusion. Dennis Keohane answered a question about the fact that funding for Free Cash articles is greater than the amount of Free Cash by explaining that some may be funded with excess funds from projects that are completed. There were questions about how the capital requests are prioritized and how that relates to the grading.

Co-Chair Joachim asked Hank Sorett to go through his additional questions that were received after questions were sent to the Town Manager. The Town Manager and his staff answered those that they could and will send written responses to those they need to research further.

#### **ITEM 4: Additional FY24 Budget Discussion**

- **Discuss other FY24 Budget and Warrant information**

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the Warrant articles on which FinCom will need to vote . Dennis Keohane explained that any increase in Chapter 70 money would not affect the override but would affect the tax rate. Susan Berry and Mike Ferrari suggested that committee members come to the next meeting with any further questions on articles and/or if there are articles that the committee still needs to hear from the proponents. The committee agreed to the proposal that at the next meeting, we begin voting on the articles that the chairs think are likely to be non-controversial , go over additional information needed, and then start our deliberation on Article 3.

- **Discuss budget detail in Warrant and content of Finance Committee Budget Report**

Co-Chair Joachim suggested committee members review the Finance Committee section of the Warrant and be ready to suggest possible changes for the current edition.

- **Begin votes on Warrant Articles**

There was no discussion under this item.

#### **ITEM 5: General Business**

- Liaison reports

Mike Ferrari agreed that he will request from LS any missing responses to outstanding follow up questions .

Susan Berry reported that she has sent SPS follow up questions and asked that the written answers be made available by Friday.

- Calendar

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the dates of the meetings in March and April and broadly what would be on the agenda.

- Approve meeting minutes

The vote on the edited minutes of the 1/23 meeting minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

- Transfers and other business

There were no transfers or other business to report.

**ITEM 6: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 7: Adjournment**

**Motion and Vote**

Susan Berry moved, and Hank Sorett seconded the motion to adjourn the February 27, 2023, FinCom meeting at approximately 10:00 p.m.

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

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

*The next scheduled virtual meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.*