

Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2023
7:00PM

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present were: Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Susan Berry, Maura Carty, Ryan Lynch and Henry Sorett. Andrew Bettinelli and Co-Chair Eric Poch arrived late following roll call.

ABSENT: Michael Ferrari and Colin Wang

ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING

No other attendees.

ITEM 1: Open the Meeting

- **Welcome and Member Roll Call**

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03PM, declared a quorum present and roll-called members present. He stated that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for viewing by the public. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

- **Opening Remarks (Co-Chairs)**

Co-Chair Poch stated that he and Co-Chair Joachim will schedule meetings with the Town Manager and Select Board in early August for the purpose of discussing financial policies.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Reorganization

- **Review, update and approve FinCom Rules and Operating Procedures for current fiscal year**

Chair Joachim reviewed the current FinCom Rules and Operating Procedures with his suggested changes highlighted in yellow, attached and made part of these minutes.

Discussion ensued with input from members. Also attached is the document with suggested changes made and placemarks for further research. Co-Chair Joachim will collect input and finalize language for subsequent review and vote.

- **Confirm liaison assignments**

Chair Joachim reviewed the attached list of liaison assignments for finalization.

ITEM 4: Consideration of Potential Fall Town Meeting

- **Review potential warrant articles**
- **Discuss and review process and schedule**

Chair Joachim presented the draft of the warrant articles for a potential fall town meeting. The Select Board will meet tomorrow to finalize a date for the meeting. Warrant articles 4 through 11 all have financial implications for the Town and will require the Committee's recommendation.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sorett noted that the firearms zoning bylaw would have liability implications in legal fees for damages, and the traffic signal article would exacerbate traffic problems. Chair Joachim stated that the role of the Committee was to address only the financial impact of warrant articles.

It was agreed that the Committee would need to schedule more meetings in order to adequately prepare for assessment of the warrant articles, deliberation and submission of recommendations. This will be discussed later in the meeting under schedule of calendar.

ITEM 5: Current Year Issues and Goals

- **Continue discussion of issues and goals for current fiscal year**

Chair Joachim reviewed the attached list of goals and issues for the current year.

Discussion ensued and included the following highlights:

- o Meet with Town Manager to discuss budget and additional FinCom involvement in cost center guidance decisions.
 - o Discuss capital process and \$100K limit.
 - o Discuss downsizing and privatization.
- o Improve relations and better communication with SPS by meetings in-person with subgroup or full committee.
 - o Discuss disbursement of circuit breaker funds.
 - o Discuss bus service.
 - o Liaisons to determine best course of action and report back to the Committee.
- o Improve communication by making information accessible and understandable for the average voter.
- o Insofar as the Select Board is the primary body elected and appointed to drive the future of the Town, identify Select Board goals to provide clarity of planning for FinCom initiatives.
- o Co-Chairs to reach out to Town Manager and Select Board Chair for discussion in August/September.

ITEM 6: General Business**• Transfers and other business**

- o There are no transfers or other business.

• Liaison reports

- o SPS – Ms. Berry reported that an assessment of various Curtis systems, their age and life expectancy, has been conducted and reported.
- o Cost estimates of up to \$13M have been obtained on roof replacements, and preliminary consideration of solar panels.
- o Preliminary review of process has begun for applying for funds from MSBA. Funding starts at 31% and added bonuses could increase 18% more for towns with limited finances.

• Calendar

Following discussion, it was agreed to schedule the next meeting for August 30th.

• Approval of minutes – April 10, April 24 and May 1

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Mr. Sorett, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 10th as amended as well as the minutes of April 24th and May 1st. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Poch-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Mr. Sorett-Y. Motion carried 7-0, unanimous.

ITEM 7: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 8: Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Sorett and seconded by Co-Chair Poch, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Poch-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, and Mr. Sorett-Y. Motion carried 5-0, unanimous. (Due to a power outage, Ms. Carty and Mr. Lynch left before the vote.) The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary