

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2023
7:00PM**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee present were: Co-Chair Eric Poch, Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Colin Wang, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Ryan Lynch, Henry Sorett, Michael Ferrari and Maura Carty.

ABSENT

None

ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING

Finance Director Dennis Keohane and Select Board Liaison Jennifer Roberts

Open the Meeting

ITEM 1: Welcome and Member Roll Call

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06PM, 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 by Co-Chairs**

- Co-Chair Joachim noted that the Committee will discuss warrant articles at this meeting.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Fall Town Meeting – Deliberate on Warrant Articles

- **Meet with Cost Center Heads as available**

- Co-Chair Joachim began the discussion on the town meeting warrant articles. Following explanation of the “what” and “why” of each warrant article, in-depth discussion ensued.

DPW Director Dan Nason presented Article 10: Traffic Lights at the Intersection at Mossman and Powder Mill.

Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran presented Article 6: Atkinson Pool Funds and Article 7: Fairbank Community Center Supplemental Funds.

Superintendent of Schools Brad Crozier was accompanied by Director of Business and Human Resources Don Sawyer, School Committee Chair Silvia Nersessian and Vice Chair Meredith Gerson to present Article 11: Nixon Elementary School Roof Schematic Design Fees.

Article 12: Increase to FY2024 Sudbury Public Schools General Fund Appropriation for Additional Chapter 70 State Aid, and

Article 13: Funding of State Approved Special Education Out-of-District Tuition Cost Increase.

Co-Chair Joachim then reviewed the remaining articles pending presentation by the Town Manager.

Discussion ensued on Articles 12 and 13 and the impact on the overall budgeting process. Finance Director Keohane explained the difference between the two articles. He clarified that LS also received increased Chapter 70 funds, and that as a result, the assessment to Sudbury will decrease, that is, the budget will not increase.

Discussion ensued on the long-term capital plan and obtaining the perspective of the Town Manager at the October 16th meeting. Free cash of approximately \$4.3 million has been certified and will further be discussed in detail with the Town Manager. Mr. Ferrari suggested, for the purpose of obtaining as much information on projects as possible, developing a standardized pre-questionnaire for department heads to address prior to their presentations. The Town Manager will be asked to provide a copy of the traffic study done with regard to Article 11.

Mr. Sorett expressed concern that Articles 1-4 shift the responsibility for setting permit fees to an administrative agency rather than the legislative body of town meeting, and that this would in his opinion violate the Town Manager Act and Home Rule Amendment; he informed the Committee that he has made a written request to the Town Moderator to strike the articles from the warrant.

ITEM 5: General Business

- **Transfers and other business**

There were none.

- **Liaison reports**

Mr. Ferrari provided the following update:

- LS had reported a positive end-of-year balance due to increase in circuit breaker funding. Excess and deficiency paperwork is in the process as well as FY25 capital requests.

Ms. Carty provided the following update:

- Fire Station scheduled to be occupied by the end of October.
- Fairbank change of scope reflected in submitted spreadsheets.

- **Calendar**

Next regular meetings:

October 16 at 7:00PM

October 19 at 7:30PM

LS available to meet on December 18th; Ms. Berry to check for availability of SPS

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 13, June 5, June 26**

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Co-Chair Poch, it was unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, June 5, and June 26, 2023 all as amended. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Poch-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Ferrari-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Ms. Carty-Y and Mr. Sorett-Y. Motion carried 9-0, unanimous.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 30**
Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Mr. Ferrari, it was unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of August 30 as amended. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Poch-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Ferrari-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y and Mr. Sorett-Y. Motion carried 9-0, unanimous.
- **Town Forum**
Co-Chair Joachim asked members to email him and Co-Chair Poch if they plan to attend the Town Forum next week.

ITEM 6: Public comment

Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Liaison to the FinCom, thanked the Committee for their contributions to prepare for Town Meeting.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Ms. Carty, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Poch-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Ferrari-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y and Mr. Sorett-Y. Motion carried 9-0, unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary