

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024
7:00PM**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee present: Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Michael Ferrari, Andrew Bettinelli, John Baranowsky, Andrew Sousa, Karl Fries, Ryan Lynch, Henry Sorett and Eric Poch (arrived late)

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Finance Director Victor Garofalo

ITEM 1: Opening Remarks and Member Roll Call

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM, roll-called the members, and declared a quorum present. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Budget Pressures Meeting with Sudbury Public Schools

Co-Chair Joachim welcomed Superintendent Brad Crozier, Business and Human Services Director Don Sawyer, Chair of the School Committee Nicole Barnard, and Vice-Chair of the School Committee Meredith Gerson. Mr. Lynch asked Superintendent Crozier to review the written answers to the FinCom's questions on various aspects of the FY25 budget and impact on FY26 budget.

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- Additional non-operating ARPA and building facilities use funds of \$219K was spent on addenda to the original HVAC project; bids have been awarded, contracts signed and equipment ordered; general funds attached to the project expire on June 30, 2024.
- Preventative maintenance program will be used over life cycle of equipment.
- Asset management system is proposed for tracking maintenance.
- School Committee voted to increase preschool tuition for FY26.
- Shared facilities management being incorporated into budget.
- Federal grant funding of \$700K is not part of the operating budget, and the impact of the absence of such funding is uncertain.
- Threshold minimum that MSBA covers for roof project is 31%; full funding of project approved at town meeting is expected within one year of MSBA approval.
- Increase in overall enrollment is projected without substantial increase in staffing.
- Out-of-district placements have exceeded projections.
- General consistency of circuit breaker funds year over year and availability of funds to handle additional costs, including transportation, coverage for leaves of absences, etc. through transfers among line items.
- Collective bargaining negotiations will soon begin.

Co-Chair Joachim thanked the school delegation for its presentation.

ITEM 4: Other Budget Discussion

Discuss SPS Budget Pressures Meeting

Co-Chair Ferrari led the discussion on various aspects of the SPS presentation including a) clarity of transfers within special education budget accounts/circuit breaker funds including monies for the HVAC project; b) absorption of approximately \$500K for out-of-district costs into the operating budget; and c) uncertain impact of collective bargaining decisions on the budget.

Prepare for LS Budget Pressures Meeting

Co-Chair Joachim reported that the LS budget pressures meeting is scheduled for next Monday and he is awaiting answers to Exhibit 1.

Consider FY26 Revenue Estimates

Co-Chair Joachim and Mr. Garafolo reviewed the FY26 revenue estimates in light of FY24 and FY25 actual numbers. Discussion ensued on various aspects of the report including conservative estimates for new growth following the prior years' housing developments.

Consider Budget Guidance for FY26

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the budget guidance for FY26 for SPS at 4+%, LS at 3.5% and Town at 3% inclusive of cost of benefits. Discussion ensued on the justification for the disparities in the percentages.

ITEM 5: General Topics

Discuss Preparation of Annual Report Submission

Co-Chair Joachim began the discussion on the Committee's responsibility for the annual report submission and reviewed last year's report. Mr. Baranowsky volunteered to draft the report for 2024 and bring it to the Committee for further discussion at the next meeting.

ITEM 6: General Business

- **Transfers and other business**
There were none.
- **Liaison reports**
The following reports were made:
Mr. Fries – Parks and Recreation
Mr. Baranowsky – Permanent Building Committee
Co-Chairs Joachim and Ferrari – Select Board
- **Calendar**
Next meeting: December 16
Annual Town Forum – December 11 – Topic is municipal finance
- **Approval of Minutes – September 30, 2024**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Baranowski and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of September 30, 2024. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y,

Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Sorett and seconded by Mr. Barnowsky, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary