

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2025  
7:00PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Finance Committee present: Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Michael Ferrari, Andrew Bettinelli, John Baranowsky, Ryan Lynch, Karl Fries, Eric Poch, and Henry Sorett (arrived late.)  
Absent: Andrew Sousa  
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: LS FY26 Budget Hearing**

Co-Chair Joachim welcomed Kirsteen Patterson, LS Director of Finance/Operations, Andrew Stephens, Superintendent/Principal, Ravi Simon, LS School Committee Chair and Cathie Bitter, Vice Chair.

Dr. Stephens and Ms. Patterson presented the FY26 revised preliminary budget proposal including the following highlights:

- Guiding principles
- Budget overview
- Enrollment projection
- Financial assumptions and fixed/variable costs
- Revised budget summary
- Out-of-district placements and preliminary figures
- Total budget proposal and cost center breakdown
- Assessment calculations and revenue estimates
- Revised revenue estimates
- Ten-year historical state aid amounts
- Future objective, timeline and capital requests

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- LS is undertaking risk assessment and contingency planning in anticipation of any reduction or elimination of federal funds.
- With respect to replacement of the LSRHS roof, an outside consultant recommended pursuing fluid applied restoration instead of full replacement. Such an investment carries a 20-year warranty and avoids significant cost of debris removal.
- Current infrastructure does not support solar ready roof.

- All options for borrowing will be pursued with municipal borrowing partner; project would not be eligible for MSBA reimbursement.
- Special education circuit breaker funds in the amount of \$3M were received in FY25 and over one-third is carried over to FY26 and must be expended in FY26.
- IDEA grant funds will be shifted to fund nine paraprofessional positions instead of full-time teacher positions.
- Salaries represent 63% of the budget and health insurance 11%, which taken together put pressure on remaining 26% of the budget.
- Departments are mindful of financial climate and are frugal in making requests for only what they need. As a “one-building” district on a smaller scale than SPS, it is easier to identify and winnow wants vs. needs.
- Last year, budget guidance was 3.9%, but LS was able to come under guidance at 3.4% and still meet the identified needs of departments.
- Infusion of pandemic funds were utilized to improve and expand programming without future budget impact.
- Committee reviewed a summary of proposed increases and decreases by budget category.
- Ability to absorb 5% increase in salaries is offset by steep drop in out-of-district special education tuition costs. Impact on FY27 budget is anticipated with reduced reimbursement expected.

Co-Chair Joachim thanked the team for a thorough presentation.

#### **ITEM 4: FY26 Budget Discussion**

##### **Follow-up on LS budget hearing**

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed his PowerPoint presentation on LS budget guidance from FY23 to the present. Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- E&D was certified as of June 2024 at \$1,093,627; a vote of both Sudbury and Lincoln Select Boards is needed to use any funds.
- Stabilization funds are used usually for capital projects. Next big capital project for LS is projected to be roof replacement.

Mr. Poch agreed to prepare a draft of the FinCom recommendation for the LS FY26 budget in the FinCom report to town meeting and present the draft for further discussion at the next meeting.

##### **Review FY26 CPC warrant articles**

Mr. Bettinelli reviewed his PowerPoint presentation on the Community Preservation Committee FY26 warrant articles including the following highlights:

- Community Preservation Act statute.
- CPC membership.
- CPC duties.
- FY26 budget
  - Estimated revenue.
  - Fixed expenses.
  - Funds available to new projects.
- CPC timeline.
- Regional housing services office (RHSSO) membership fee: CPC request: \$43,000.
- Restoring water quality in Hop Brook: CPC request: \$90,000.
- Sudbury housing trust allocation: CPC request: \$690,000.

- Return of unspent funds.
- Fairbank community center and Haskell field landscape master plan: CPC request \$500,000.
- Sudbury housing authority allocation: CPC request \$450,000.
- Hosmer house wooden roof: CPC request \$386,000.
- Hosmer house envelope heating ventilation and air conditioning: CPC request \$640,000.
- Hosmer house collection: CPC request \$119,500.
- General budget and appropriations.
- Additional resources.

The competitive bidding process will be conducted under Chapter 30B once approved at town meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed that members would view the CPC hearings online and advise the Chairs if they would like more information by way of presentations at upcoming FinCom meetings.

**Discussion of schedule for FinCom review of FY26 budget and warrant articles**

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the PowerPoint presentation of the FY26 budget and warrant articles which have financial implications. He indicated to Mr. Garafolo that more information is needed on certain articles on the town budget hearing.

He asked that members review the list and report back to the Chairs if more information is needed on other articles.

**ITEM 5: General Business**

- **Transfers and other business**  
There were none.
- **Liaison reports**  
Mr. Baranowsky – Permanent Building Committee.
- **Calendar**  
Next meeting: January 27  
Dates for budget hearings:  
Feb 24 - CIAC  
March 3 – Town Departments  
TBD – SPS (rescheduled)
- **Approval of Minutes**  
There were none.

**ITEM 6: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Sorett and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Fries-Y, and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 8-0, unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford  
Recording Secretary