

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2025  
7:00PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Also in attendance: Finance Director Victor Garofalo and Town Manager Andrew Sheehan

**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**

Anne Garciametin of Willis Lake Drive. She urged the FinCom to ask SHA to share detailed costs of the Pine Lakes project and consider the costs of an alternative project like building two larger duplexes on larger lots.

C. J. Davis of Oakwood Drive. Opposing this article does not indicate lack of support for affordable housing in the town and state. Article 46 is fiscally irresponsible. The SHA has provided insufficient financial information as the price for the project is currently \$4.2M, while a few months ago it was \$3.4M. The project has been increased by \$800K without completion of the architectural drawings. As another indication of its irresponsibility, the SHA was informed by several members of the community at its December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting that deed restrictions at Fairbanks Court had expired a few years ago, of which they were unaware.

Candace Obratzsov of Lakewood Drive. She was in support of her neighbors' comments above.

**ITEM 3: FY26 Budget Discussion**

**Article 22 – Adopt Hero Act Clause 22I**

Cynthia Gerry, Director of Assessing, appeared before the FinCom and provided information on Article 22 as follows:

- Clause 22I proposes a cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' real property tax exemption.
- Additional cost to the town for FY26 would be \$1,600.
- Other two provisions of Clause 22I do not apply to Sudbury.

**Following discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 22. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y, and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 8-0, unanimous.**

**Article 1: Hear Reports**

No position

### **Article 2 – FY25 Budget Adjustments**

No position.

*Co-Chair Ferrari joined the meeting at 7:30PM.*

### **Article 3 – FY26 Budget**

Victor Garofalo, Finance Director and Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the FY26 budget.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sorett stated that the budget as presented “is not sufficiently granular” to allow the taxpayer to know what costs are in the budget in order to move to eliminate positions. He referred to the Sustainability Coordinator position that was initially voted at Town Meeting on the basis of being supported by federal grants, and now the position is being incorporated into the general budget. He suggested that the FinCom vote to reject the current budget as not sufficiently detailed by line item.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the FinCom that detail on the budget is readily available in the budget books, and that any resident has the right to make an amendment at Town Meeting to amend the budget. There was general consensus that all three cost centers fulfilled their responsibilities in accordance with guidance, and the FinCom is in support of the balanced budget to maintain services within the tax levy.

Town Manager Sheehan thanked the FinCom for fulfilling its role to fully analyze the budget for recommendation to Town Meeting.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Mr. Fries, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 3 in the amount of \$126,040,721. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 8-1.**

### **Article 4: FY26 Capital Budget**

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- Concern for the number of articles requesting funds for building or design plans and keeping pace with ability to fund projects in the future.
- Consideration can be given in the future for some non-recurring purchases like DPW vehicles to be absorbed in the operating budget.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Mr. Baranowsky, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 4 in the amount of \$1,219,400. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.**

### **Article 5: FY26 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget**

### **Article 6: FY26 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget**

### **Article 7: FY26 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund Budget**

Discussion ensued on retained earnings being used to fund expenses, i.e. 10% for the transfer station, 10% for the pool and 40% for field maintenance. The use of retained earnings is a temporary situation which will be rectified in the future.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 5: Transfer Station Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$346,870; Article 6 Pool Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$547,034; and Article 7 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$252,577. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

**Article 8: Snow and Ice Transfer**

Hold until final number is known.

**Article 9: Unpaid Bills from prior Fiscal Years**

Article is being removed.

**Article 10: Chapter 90 Highway Funding**

Vote already taken.

**Article 11: FY26 Revolving Fund Spending Limits**

While there was general support of the article, concern was expressed that maintenance of the bus revolving fund involved allocating costs at the end of the fiscal year and not throughout the year.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Co-Chair Joachim, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 11: FY26 Revolving Fund Spending Limits. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

**Article 12: FY26 Transfer into Stabilization Fund**

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Joachim and seconded by Mr. Sousa, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 12: Transfer into the Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$400,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

**Article 13: FY26 Transfer into Capital Stabilization Fund**

Insofar as financial policies provide for use of the Capital Stabilization Fund when it reaches 2% of the prior year General Fund budget, discussion ensued on increasing the current recommended transfer from \$650K to \$725K in order to reach the 2% threshold for FY26.

Mr. Garofalo stated that anticipated interest earned on the account would help meet the 2% target. Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend a transfer to \$700K, which, along with earned interest, was anticipated to result in the 2% threshold being met in FY26.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Co-Chair Ferrari, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 13: Transfer into the Capital Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$700,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

**Article 14: FY25 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget Adjustment**

Hold until final number is known.

**Article 15: Create Pension Stabilization Fund**

Concern was expressed that, insofar as financial policies provide guidance and direction on use of stabilization funds, this article “puts the cart before the horse” without a plan in mind for use of resources. Further, there is uncertainty around details with respect to payment of pension obligation by original deadline of 2036 and its possible extension.

**Co-Chair Joachim moved to recommend approval of Article 15, and Mr. Baranowsky seconded. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-N, Mr. Poch-N, Mr. Lynch-N, Mr. Bettinelli-N, Co-Chair Ferrari-N, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-N and Mr. Baranowsky-N. Motion fails 1-8.**

**Article 16: Create Accrued Leave Fund**

Insofar as the budget funds full employment, it was the consensus that the budget can easily absorb paying out accrued leave and adds a financial complexity to the town that is not necessary.

**Co-Chair Joachim moved to recommend approval of Article 16, and Mr. Poch seconded. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-N, Mr. Poch-N, Mr. Lynch-N, Mr. Bettinelli-N, Co-Chair Ferrari-N, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-N and Mr. Baranowsky-N. Motion fails 1-8.**

**Article 17: Establishment of a Fairbank Community Center Revolving Fund****Article 18: Establishment of a Public Health Revolving Fund****Article 19: Establishment of an EV Charging Station Revolving Fund**

Article 17 proposes the establishment of a revolving account to accept fees for rental of the facility. Fees collected for recreation programs including basketball, pickleball, etc. are collected in the recreation and field maintenance revolving fund.

Article 18 proposes the establishment of a revolving account to accept fees from participating communities in a regional grant program to the town as the administrative head of the program. Town meeting voted last year to create a fund to accept opioid settlement funds not connected with the purpose of this account.

Article 19 proposes the establishment of a revolving account to accept fees for residents’ use of EV charging stations. These fees will be used to offset the direct costs of electricity in addition to an overhead percentage to pay for contractual costs related to maintenance.

**Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Ferrari and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 17: Establishment of a Fairbank Community Center Revolving Fund with a limit of \$75,000; Article 18: Establishment of a Public Health Revolving Fund with a limit of \$50,000; and Article 19: Establishment of an EV Charging Station Revolving Fund with a limit of \$150,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.**

**Article 20: Trailside Circle and Bridle Path – Release of Easement**

No position.

**Article 21: Accept M.G.L. Chapter 200A – Disposition of Unclaimed Property; Section 9A – Disposition of Abandoned Fund by City or Town**

This article proposes to accept M.G.L. Chapter 200A with regard to uncashed checks issued by the Town. This would allow the Town to follow the same process of doing its due diligence to notify the individual by letter and posting online on the Town website for one year from the date of issue. If unclaimed, this change would allow the Town to retain the funds and not have to return them to the state. At the present time there is \$120K in unclaimed checks. This does not apply to payroll checks.

Discussion ensued on the disadvantage to the consumer on changing the policy. Insofar as the state advertises its unclaimed property website, the consumer does not readily know that the process has changed and a search of Town websites needs to be done to claim these funds.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 21. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.**

**Article 22: Adoption of M.G.L Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 221: Cost of Living Adjustment for Veteran's Real Property Tax Abatement**

Vote already taken.

**Article 23: Amend C.5 Art. II – Finance Committee**

Article 23 proposes to clarify language in the bylaw that, in order to avoid conflict of interest, members of the FinCom are precluded from membership on any other Town board or committee unless specifically allowed by Town by-laws.

Discussed ensued on not restricting a FinCom member from joining a “non mission-critical” board like the historic commission, etc. If passed by Town meeting, the change in bylaw will be submitted to the Attorney General for final approval.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Mr. Fries, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 23: Amend C.5 Art II – Finance Committee. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-A, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 7-1-1.**

**Article 24: Amend General Bylaw C.11 - Capital Planning**

Discussion ensued on increasing the threshold to \$500K. It was noted that the increase would be well above the percentage of inflation rate since 2019. Also discussed was the need for a five-ten year capital plan policy, and the general role of the FinCom in review of capital items with the CIAC.

**Mr. Poch moved to recommend approval of Article 24, and Co-Chair Joachim seconded. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-N, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-N, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-N, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-N, Mr. Fries-N and Mr. Baranowsky-A. Motion fails 2-6-1.**

**Article 25: Amend General Bylaw Chapter 68: Amend Town Meetings, Dates, Times, Notice**

No position.

**Article 26: Amend General Bylaw Chapter 170: Weights and Measures**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 26: Amend General Bylaw Chapter 170: Weights and Measures. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

**Article 27: Bylaw amendment/vote – Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code**

Mr. Sorett expressed opposition to this warrant article as the specialized stretch energy code would have a substantial direct financial impact to the Town as well as residents as it would add an additional cost to renovations and new construction.

Co-Chair Joachim will invite the Sustainability Committee Chair to make a presentation on the warrant article at the next meeting.

**Article 28: Modification of Zoning Bylaw Section 5500 Accessory Dwelling Units in Residential Districts and Section 7110 Definition and Word Usage**

No position.

**Article 29: Purchase of Fire Engine****Article 30: Ambulance Replacement**

Votes previously taken.

**Article 31: Roads, Culvert, Drainage, Consultant and Construction**

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Ferrari and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 31: Roads, Culvert, Drainage, Consultant and Construction in the amount of \$950,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

**Article 32: Dump Truck with Plow and Spreader****Article 33: Six-Wheel Dump Truck with Slide-in Sander**

Votes previously taken.

No vote on the following warrant articles:

**Article 34: Atkinson Pool Renovation Additional Funds****Article 35: DPW Emergency Operations Centre Cost Share****Article 36: SPS – School Classroom Instructional Equipment Replacement****Article 37: SPS – ELA Curriculum Implementation****Article 38: SPS – HVAC Capital Improvement Engineering Study****Article 39: SPS – Fire Alarm, Emergency Lighting and Bi-Directional Amplification System Design Fees****Article 40: SPS – Haynes Elementary Roof Replacement and Repair****Article 41: SPS-Nixon Elementary Roof Replacement and Repair****Article 42: Sudbury 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Funds****Article 43: MBTA Buildings – Funding for Acquisition****Article 44: Community Preservation Act Fund – Fairbank Community Center and Haskell Field Landscape Master Plan**

**Article 45: Community Preservation Act Fund – Hop Brook**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Mr. Baranowsky, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 45: Community Preservation Act Fund – Hop Brook in the amount of \$90,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-A, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 8-0-1, unanimous.

No vote on the following warrant articles:

**Article 46: Community Preservation Act Fund – Sudbury Housing Authority Allocation**

**Article 47: Community Preservation Act Fund – Sudbury Housing Trust Allocation**

**Article 48: Community Preservation Act Fund – Hosmer House Collection**

**Article 49: Community Preservation Act Fund – Hosmer House Envelope and HVAC**

**Article 50: Community Preservation Act Fund – Hosmer House Roof**

**Article 51: Community Preservation Act Fund - Regional Housing Services Office (RHSIO)****Membership Fee**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Co-Chair Ferrari, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 51: CPA Fund Regional Services Office Membership Fee in the amount of \$43, 010. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.

No vote on the following warrant articles:

**Article 52: Community Preservation Act Fund – Return of Unspent Funds**

**Article 53: Community Preservation Act Fund – General Budget and Appropriations**

**Article 54: Decrease CPA Surcharge**

**Article 55: Means Tested Tax Exemption**

**Article 56: Walkway Funding and Taking**

**Discuss FinCom budget report**

First draft of the budget report will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**ITEM 4: General Business**

- **Transfers and other business**  
There were none.
- **Liaison reports**  
Mr. Baranowsky – CIAC.
- **Calendar**  
Next meeting – March 24.  
Attend Select Board meeting on March 25 – Sudbury Housing Authority presentation.
- **Approval of Minutes - November 18, 2024**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Baranowsky and seconded by Mr. Poch it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of November 18, 2024. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr.

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

**ITEM 5: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM 6: Adjournment**

**Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Joachim and seconded by Co-Chair Ferrari, 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. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 9-0, unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford  
Recording Secretary