

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2025  
7:00PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

There was none.

**ITEM 3: FY26 Budget Discussion**

**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 of at least \$50K and new construction of at least \$100K.

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- The financial benefit to the town as a green community by way of at least \$1M in grant funding.
- Insofar as a number of neighboring communities have already adopted the specialized stretch energy code, the Town needs to remain competitive for new residents.
- Insofar as any bylaw change reflects a policy decision, the FinCom should not take a position.
- Further information is needed in order to make an informed vote.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Co-Chair Joachim will reach out to obtain further information at the next meeting.

*Mr. Poch arrived at 7:33PM.*

**Article 34: Atkinson Pool Renovation Additional Funds**

Town Manager Sheehan reported that, due to ongoing current analysis, he will not have enough information for the FinCom to vote on this article prior to Town Meeting. Since the first bid came in well over the estimate, a second bid is being floated. Additionally, consideration is being given on “whether to remain in the pool business” or indefinitely postpone the project.

**Article 35: DPW Emergency Operations Centre Cost Share**

Co-Chair Joachim stated that a grant has been awarded to the town in the amount of \$500K, and this article appropriates a cost share in the amount \$125K. The grant will be rescinded without a vote to appropriate the cost share.

Mr. Sorett noted the current uncertainty of the federal government's position on grant funding. Town Manager Sheehan stated that, in the event the grant is pulled, the cost share, if appropriated, will be returned to the town as unspent funds.

**Mr. Poch made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Ferrari, to recommend approval of Article 35 in the amount of \$125,000.**

**Mr. Sorett amended the motion to recommend approval contingent on the availability of FEMA funds. There was no second.**

**Roll call vote on the first motion: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Sorett-A, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 8-0-1.**

**Article 36: SPS – School Classroom Instructional Equipment Replacement**

This article is to fund the second year of a five-year program to replace instructional equipment in twenty classrooms with the useful life of equipment being noted as between twelve and fifteen years. The first year of the program was made possible with the use of ARPA funds.

Following discussion on whether this item should be funded from capital or from the operating budget as a recurring item, it was agreed that taking money from the operating budget would jeopardize funding, for instance, of the salary of a mission-critical public safety positions. Also discussed, and dismissed, was the use of circuit breaker prepay funds for this expense.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Mr. Lynch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 36 in the amount of \$100,000. 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 37: SPS – ELA Curriculum Implementation**

Co-Chair Ferrari noted that this need was identified in FY24 as a foreseeable purchase. Discussion ensued on how these foreseeable needs are budgeted. Mr. Garafalo noted that curriculum items are not allowed to be a continuing appropriation over three years and must be paid in the year in which the curriculum is purchased. However, money may be set aside in a special purpose stabilization fund.

It was suggested that a method needs to be developed to “allow cost centers to acknowledge expenses and keep them on the back burner for funding.” This would give the School Committee the authority and responsibility to recognize all expenses that it anticipates occurring. If expenses are outpacing revenues and 2.5% is no longer feasible, a method needs to be developed to include financial needs in the forecast and recognize what is feasible under 2.5% and what is not. If an override is required, it must be done in a structurally mature and realistic schedule every three years.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Fries and seconded by Mr. Bettinelli, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 37 in the amount of \$250,720 using free cash. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-**

**Y, Mr. Poch-N, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-N, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 6-3.**

**Article 38: SPS – HVAC Capital Improvement Engineering Study 152 fc**

This article proposes an HVAC capital improvement engineering study. Concern was expressed that if the new specialized energy stretch code was voted in at Town Meeting, the new code would apply to this project at a higher cost. Mr. Garofalo confirmed that it would in fact not apply to this project but would be based on the original stretch code.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Mr. Bettinelli, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 38 in the amount of \$152,000 from free cash. 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 8-1.**

**Article 39: SPS – Fire Alarm, Emergency Lighting and Bi-Directional Amplification System Design**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Mr. Poch, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 39 in the amount of \$190,000 from free cash. 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 40: SPS - Haynes Elementary Roof Replacement and Repair**

**Article 41: SPS - Nixon Elementary Roof Replacement and Repair**

Mr. Garofalo stated there are not firm numbers but only estimates for the projects at this time. This article seeks a specified amount of money to be proposed. Following a vote at Town Meeting in the affirmative, a special Town election would be held ninety days thereafter for approval of a debt exclusion.

**Mr. Poch moved to recommend approval of Article 40 in the amount of \$3,530,000 and Article 41 in the amount of \$2,755,000 for Haynes and Nixon roofs respectively. Co-Chair Ferrari seconded.**

Discussion ensued. It was agreed to vote on these articles as “earmarked” votes based on preliminary design estimates by Russo/Barr, with the understanding of voting again if further more concrete information is known and the numbers change substantially.

**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 42: Sudbury 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Funds**

Hold on vote until final number is known after Select Board meeting.

**Article 43: MBTA Buildings – Funding for Acquisition**

Hold on vote until final number is known based on MBTA response to Town Manager proposal.

**Article 44: Community Preservation Act Fund – Fairbank Community Center and Haskell Field Landscape Master Plan**

This article proposes a design plan with respect to Haskell Field and the Fairbank Community Center. Funds in addition to the design plan are for the installation of a second multi-sport court and pavilion to replace the pavilion used for summer camp. Discussion ensued on the broad framework and long-term development instead of more calendar-driven with specific dates and measurable outcomes.

**Mr. Sorett made a motion to recommend approval of a portion of the article as will pay for the multi-sport court and pavilion in the amount of \$350,000. There was no second.**

**Mr. Fries moved to recommend approval of Article 44, and Mr. Bettinelli seconded. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-N, Mr. Lynch-N, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-N, Mr. Sousa-N, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-N. Motion fails 4-5.**

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

Vote already taken.

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

Hold on vote for further information.

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

This article seeks to distribute the annual allowable allocation of funds from the CPA fund to the Housing Trust to allow the Trust to purchase properties when available. The funds are held in an interest-bearing account until needed. The current balance is \$893,000.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sorett expressed concern that the proposed specialized stretch energy code, if passed, would significantly increase the costs of repair/renovation to any properties purchased by the Trust.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Mr. Bettinelli, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 47 in the amount of \$690,000. 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 48: Community Preservation Act Fund – Hosmer House Collection**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Poch and seconded by Mr. Bettinelli, it was unanimously voted to recommend approval of Article 48 – Hosmer House Collection in the amount of \$119,500.**

Discussion ensued. This allocation is an allowable use of CPC funds for historic preservation. The current fund balance is \$631,000.

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

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

These two articles seek to renovate the Hosmer House for a total of close to \$1,000,000. Discussion ensued on the expense in light of other unmet pressing budgetary needs. These funds, however, are coming from the historic preservation reserve, and could not be spent for other Town expenses. Discussion also ensued with regard to the ownership responsibility of the Town to maintain this 1793 historic property.

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Bettinelli and seconded by Co-Chair Ferrari, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 48: Hosmer House Envelope and HVAC in the amount of \$640,000, and Article 49: Hosmer House Roof in the amount of \$386,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair**

**Joachim-Y, Mr. Poch-N, Mr. Lynch-N, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Sorett-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-N. Motion carries 6-3.**

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

Vote already taken.

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**

Co-Chair Ferrari reviewed the latest draft of the budget report and asked members to forward their suggestions for further edits to him.

**ITEM 4: General Business**

- **Transfers and other business**  
There were none.
- **Liaison reports**  
There were none.
- **Calendar**  
March 25 - meet with Select Board on Sudbury Housing Authority article.
- **Approval of Minutes**  
There were none.

**ITEM 5: Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**ITEM 6: Adjournment**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Baranowsky and seconded by Co-Chair Joachim, 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 10:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford  
Recording Secretary