

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2026
7:00PM**

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Andrew Bettinelli

Also in attendance: Assistant Town Manager/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 and reviewed the agenda.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Review and Discuss Annual Town Report

Mr. Baranowsky volunteered to write the first draft of the annual town report and forward to the Co-Chairs by the beginning of next week. It will then be distributed to members for discussion at the next meeting.

ITEM 4: Preparation for upcoming FY27 Budget Hearings

Co-Chair Joachim began the discussion on upcoming budget hearings. Members proposed the following ideas for consideration:

- Curtail expansion of headcount for administrative, not direct, services, and when a position is added, remove a position.
- Expand budget efficiencies through technological advances to either reduce headcount or increase bandwidth without increasing headcount.
- SPS anticipating shortfalls relative to budget guidance; examine specific delta numbers.
- Communicate how goals of financial policies are driving budget decisions particularly pertaining to school personnel allocations.
- Understand role of FinCom in voting for the budget or against and proposing an alternative.
- Hear directly from particular departments on specific needs.
- Think holistically on circuit breaker reimbursement in the SPS/LS budget cycle.
- Be mindful of capital expense in light of the larger picture.

ITEM 5: Town Finance Discussion**Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Updates and Discussion**

Mr. Garofalo reported that he is awaiting budget information from LS/SPS in order to finalize the budget by January 31. Mr. Sheehan reported that, while an override is not being pursued for this year, it is likely to be pursued for FY28.

Mr. Garofalo also reported that the year-to-date numbers for FY26 would be available in the next week or two and will be presented at the next FinCom meeting.

A budget transfer is expected for vocational education.

Discuss FY27 Budget Guidance

Mr. Garofalo reported that there are no changes in budget guidance.

Discuss DLS report

Co-Chair Joachim thanked Mr. Garofalo and Mr. Sheehan for taking the proactive steps to request the DLS report. Recommendations within were discussed as follows:

- Charter/bylaw review to better define the role of the FinCom to have a meaningful impact on town government.
- Review financial policies.
- Redefine “free cash” to better clarify its origin and use.
- Kickoff meetings with all committees.
- Improving communication during annual budget process.
- Public communication and education.
- Identify efficiencies for which modern technology allows.

ITEM 4: General Business

- **Transfers and other business**
No transfers.
- **Liaison reports**
No liaison reports.
- **Calendar**
Next regular meeting: January 26
Budget hearing meetings scheduled in February
- **Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2025**

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Mr. Baranowsky and seconded by Co-Chair Ferrari, it was voted to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025. Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y, Mr. Fries-Y, Mr. Baranowsky-Y, Mr. Sorett-A, Mr. Lynch-Y and Mr. Fries-Y.

Motion carries 7-0-1.

ITEM 5: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 6: Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary