

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
April 27, 2026  
7:00PM**

**1. Open the Meeting**

Chair Mike Joachim called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and confirmed a quorum.

Members of the Committee present: Mike Joachim (Co-Chair), Mike Ferrari (Co-Chair), Ryan Lynch, Andrew Bettinelli, Andrew Sousa, John Baranowsky

Arrived Later: Henry Sorett, Eric Poch, Karl Fries

Also in attendance: Victor Garofalo (Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director) and Andy Sheehan (Town Manager)

The Co-Chair read the municipal remote meeting disclaimer and outlined procedures for public comment.

**2. Public Comment**

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair of the Select Board (speaking in her individual capacity), requested that the Committee reconsider its prior vote on Article 13 (Vocational Education Stabilization Fund). She noted the following in her remarks:

- The importance of proactive financial planning
- The flexibility of the proposed fund if unused
- The value of demonstrating commitment to vocational education partnerships

**3. Town FY27 Budget and Warrant Discussion**

**Article 8 – Snow and Ice Deficit**

Proposal: Fund an approximate \$900,000 deficit using \$750,000 from Free Cash, with the remaining balance funded through the FY2027 tax levy.

Discussion: The Committee discussed the severity of the winter and the resulting deficit. Members considered the balance between using Free Cash and applying a portion to the levy. Key considerations included maintaining Free Cash reserves for future flexibility, the one-time nature of the levy impact, and the possibility of state reimbursement. Administration noted that the levy portion would not create a structural increase.

Motion: Mike Joachim moved to recommend approval of Article 8. Seconded by Mike Ferrari.

Member	Vote
Eric Poch	Yes

Andrew Bettinelli	Yes
Mike Ferrari	Yes
Henry Sorett	Yes
Ryan Lynch	Yes
Andrew Sousa	Yes
John Baranowsky	Yes
Mike Joachim	Yes

Result: 8-0, motion carried. Action: Recommend approval.

## Articles 2 and 9

Both articles will be indefinitely postponed. No vote required.

## Article 13 – Vocational Education Stabilization Fund

Proposal: Establish a stabilization fund and appropriate \$200,000 from Free Cash.

Discussion: The Committee revisited its prior vote following public comment. Discussion focused on whether it was appropriate to set aside funds in advance of a defined proposal. Some members supported the concept as a proactive step toward future vocational partnerships. Others expressed concern that the timing, cost, and potential partner district remain uncertain, and preferred maintaining flexibility by keeping funds in Free Cash. Members emphasized that their position was financial rather than a reflection on the value of vocational education.

Motion: Henry Sorett moved to reconsider (rescind) the Committee’s prior vote. Seconded by Mike Joachim (for purposes of vote).

Member	Vote
Eric Poch	No
Andrew Bettinelli	No
Mike Ferrari	No
Henry Sorett	Yes
Ryan Lynch	No
Andrew Sousa	No
John Baranowsky	No
Mike Joachim	No
Karl Fries	Did not vote

Result: 1-7, motion failed. Action: Prior recommendation against approval stands.

## Article 19 – Liberty Ledge / Camp Sewataro Consultant Services

Proposal: Appropriate \$20,000 from Free Cash for consultant services to support public engagement and planning.

Discussion: Administration explained the funding would support a structured public process and preliminary concept development, not final decisions. The Committee discussed the scope of work, adequacy of funding, limited internal staff capacity in the

planning department, and the value of using an independent consultant. Some members raised concerns about ensuring financial analysis is included and questioned the long-term value of the property. Others supported the need for a facilitated and transparent planning process.

Motion: Mike Ferrari moved to recommend approval. Seconded by Andrew Bettinelli.

Member	Vote
Eric Poch	No
Andrew Bettinelli	Yes
Mike Ferrari	Yes
Henry Sorett	Yes
Ryan Lynch	Yes
Andrew Sousa	Abstain
John Baranowsky	Yes
Karl Fries	Yes
Mike Joachim	Abstain

Result: 6-1-2, motion carried. Action: Recommend approval.

### **Article 20 - CIAC Bylaw Amendment**

Proposal: Amend the Capital Planning bylaw to establish a single \$250,000 threshold for CIAC review and clarify applicable project categories.

Discussion: Town Manager Sheehan and Assistant Town Manager Garofalo reviewed revised language and discussed the goal of simplifying the review process while maintaining appropriate oversight. Members considered whether the changes would reduce review of mid-sized projects and discussed clarifying language related to funding sources and project types.

Motion: Mike Joachim moved to recommend approval. Seconded by Mike Ferrari.

Member	Vote
Eric Poch	Yes
Andrew Bettinelli	Yes
Mike Ferrari	Yes
Henry Sorett	No
Ryan Lynch	Yes
Andrew Sousa	Yes
John Baranowsky	Yes
Karl Fries	Yes
Mike Joachim	Yes

Result: 8-1, motion carried. Action: Recommend approval.

### **Article 18 - Transportation Programs**

Proposal: Appropriate \$100,000 from Free Cash to support the Town's transportation program.

Discussion: Select Board Member Dan Carty presented on the program, including ridership trends and service expansion. The Committee discussed the program’s value, cost structure, partial state subsidy, and long-term sustainability. Members noted that while the service is beneficial, ongoing reliance on Free Cash for operating expenses warrants continued evaluation.

Motion: Mike Joachim moved to recommend approval. Seconded by Mike Ferrari.

Member	Vote
Eric Poch	Yes
Andrew Bettinelli	Yes
Mike Ferrari	Yes
Henry Sorett	No
Ryan Lynch	Yes
Andrew Sousa	Yes
John Baranowsky	Yes
Karl Fries	Yes
Mike Joachim	Yes

Result: 8-1, motion carried. Action: Recommend approval.

**Article 38 – Walkways (Citizen Petition)**

The petitioner was not present after advising the Assistant Town Manager he would not be coming to the meeting. The Committee agreed to take no action and address the article at Town Meeting if necessary.

**Special Town Meeting Discussion**

The Committee discussed the upcoming Special Town Meeting scheduled for May 20. Mr. Garofalo estimated costs between \$15,000 and \$25,000 due to facility rental and audiovisual requirements. The Committee discussed potential financial impacts and anticipated the need for a future Reserve Fund transfer once final costs are known.

**Town Meeting Preparation**

The Committee discussed preparation for Annual Town Meeting, including assigning members to present Finance Committee positions on warrant articles. Members agreed to provide concise explanations supporting each recommendation.

**4. Town Finance Discussion**

Assistant Town Manager Garafolo advised that there were no outstanding items for discussion.

**5. General Business**

There were no transfers or liaison reports. No meeting minutes were approved.

## 6. Public Comment

Kay Bell addressed the Committee in support of vocational education funding. She emphasized the importance of access to career technical education and encouraged the Committee to consider broader community impacts. Members reiterated that their position on Article 13 reflected financial timing and flexibility considerations, not opposition to vocational education.

## 7. Adjourn

Motion: Henry Sorett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Eric Poch.

Member	Vote
All Members Present	Yes

Result: 9-0, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:41 PM.