

**Town of Sudbury
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2016**

ATTENDENCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair, Fred Floru, Vice Chair, Jeff Atwater, Jeff Barker, Joan Carlton Adrian Davies, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian, Bryan Semple

Also Present:

Andrew Vanni, Finance Director/Treasurer Collector

CONVENE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., by Chairman, Susan Berry in the L/S Regional High School: Conference Room B, 390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

ITEM 1: Joint Meeting with Lincoln Finance Committee

Update on Sudbury FY '17 budget process
Update on Lincoln FY '17 budget process
Discussion: out of district tuition & transportation
OPEB approach of both towns: an update
Adjournment of Joint Meeting

Call to order continuation of Sudbury Finance Committee Meeting

ITEM 2: General business

Approve Minutes

Motion and Vote:

Jose Garcia-Meitin moved and Jeff Atwater seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2015 meeting as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was 7 yes, 1 abstention.

Transfers

There were no Transfers to approve.

Other Business

In preparation for the joint Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, February 23, Chairman Berry asked whether FinCom members are in favor of continuing the Budget Strategies Task Force meetings. A brief discussion followed. Members determined that this item would be discussed further at a future meeting.

Chairman Berry encouraged members to arrive early for the Tuesday night joint Board of Selectmen meeting.

ITEM 3: Budget Deliberations and Vote

Mr. Vanni handed out an updated budget summary worksheet with the new information based on the discussion from the previous meeting.

Chairman Berry briefly summarized the updated information, which included proposed FY17 expenditures for L/S, SPS, the Town and the Minuteman Regional Vocational High School. A brief discussion followed.

Motion and Vote

Joan Carlton moved and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to recommend the FY17 no override budget as detailed on the expenditure spreadsheet for a total operating budget, not including the capital or enterprise fund, of \$90,943,226. With the stipulation that the Finance Committee would review the Sudbury Public Schools out-of-district cost at its April 11 meeting to determine if additional Free Cash of no more than \$100,000 might be needed to add to the SPS FY17 budget.

Discussion - Mr. Semple spoke about the challenges he has concerning the proposed FY17 Operating budget. He expressed that the process had not changed and the hard issues have not been addressed. Ms. Carlton noted that the Finance Committee has addressed the layoff issue one cost center was facing by adding additional funds. She also noted the collaborative efforts among the cost centers. Mr. Minassian expressed concern for L/S in FY2018 in that savings in 2017 will not follow into FY2018. Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee has made some progress in terms of moving away from across the board percentage increase, which has encouraged a healthy conversation.

The motion carried. The vote was 6 yes, 2 no.

ITEM 4: Enterprise Funds Presentation and Possible Vote

Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee would consider a recommendation for the following three Articles, which are the Enterprise Fund Budgets:

Article 5: FY17 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget,

Article 6: FY17 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget and

Article 7: FY17 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund Budget.

Mr. Vanni presented an overview for each budget. Mr. Vanni stated that the Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund has a deficit. He explained that the Retained Earnings balance would be used to offset the deficit. Mr. Vanni responded to Ms. Carlton's question on the balance in Retained Earnings and stated it is \$125,523 certified as of July 1. Mr. Vanni pointed out that there has not been a rate increase in the user fees for many years. He also stated that he and Melissa Rodrigues, Town

Manager would meet with the various departments to discuss raising fees. Mr. Vanni stated that money is coming from the General Fund to cover deficits in the Enterprise Fund budgets. A lengthy discussion followed on expenses, and retained earnings as well as measures that would foster a more sustainable budget.

Motion and Vote:

Adrian Davies moved and Jeff Barker seconded the motion to approved the recommended **FY17 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund Budget** with a recommendation that the Park and Recreation Commission consider raising the user fees to allow for a more sustainable budget.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Vanni explained that the Town is helping out the Pool Enterprise Fund by absorbing the indirect costs. A general discussion followed on receipts and retained earnings. Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee will need more detailed information on how this fund will grow its revenue from \$496,000 to \$574,279.

The Finance Committee engaged in a brief discussion on the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget.

Motion and Vote:

Adrian Davies moved and Jeff Barker seconded the motion to approve the recommended **FY17 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget**.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM 5: Warrant Articles Review

Chairman Berry led the discussion on this item. Chairman Berry pointed out that the Finance Committee had before them a list of Warrant Articles that still needed to be heard. She added that some of the Warrant Articles would be heard on February 23, some on March 7 and some on April 11. The Finance Committee spoke briefly about Warrant Articles that would most likely be withdrawn. Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee should also consider compiling questions for the presenters to be sent to them ahead of time. A lengthy discussion followed.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There were no comments.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Jeff Barker moved and Adrian Davies seconded the motion that the February 22, 2016 Finance Committee meeting

adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 in Town Hall held jointly with the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary