

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Eric Poch, Co-Chair Jean Nam, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Ronald Brumback, Blair Caple (left the meeting at 9:07 pm), Michael Joachim, and Sonny Parente (left the meeting at 8:23 pm)

ABSENT: Scott Smigler

ALSO ATTENDING the MEETING

Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer; Adam Dushesneau, Director of Planning & Community Development; Mara Huston, Chair Park and Recreation Commission

ITEM 1: Open the Meeting

• **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Poch called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and roll-called members of the FinCom present for the March 21, 2022, Virtual Meeting. Co-Chair Nam stated that the FinCom meeting of March 21 is being broadcast live and recorded for viewing by the public via www.sudburytv.org. She read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

• **Opening Remarks (Co-Chairs)**

Co-Chair Poch mentioned that Jean Nam sent the committee a copy of an email that came from the Town Manager shortly before last week's FinCom meeting. Since it didn't contain much of the information about Fairbank that was requested, Co-Chair Poch sent a follow up message.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: FinCom Budget Year FY23

• **CPC Article - Fields Assessment**

Co-Chair Nam turned the meeting over to Adam Duchesneau and Mara Huston. Mr. Duchesneau began by going over answers to outstanding questions from FinCom. On the order, he suggested doing the Open Space and Recreation Plan first and that will inform the athletic fields assessment. In terms of whether to use the same consultant, it is still TBD. There might be synergy with the same, but also might be benefits to separate consultants with specific expertise. The Planning Office will support but look to the Park & Recreation Department to manage the athletic field assessment to determine the current needs and possible future needs.

Mara Huston added that the plans will help the Commission in making decisions about the use of Broadacres, for example.

The breakdown on the \$100K is about \$40K for the Open Space and Recreation Plan, \$40K for the Athletic Field Assessment and \$20K for ADA assessment.

There was a question about the Field Stabilization Fund and whether the plans will look at expanding the use of this fund beyond Cutting. Mr. Duchesneau answered that there may be recommendations about funding coming out of these studies.

- **Discuss Proposed Budgets**

- **Continue voting on articles**

Co-Chair Poch asked for a motion to recommend approval of Article 51 Community Preservation Act Fund - Open Space & Recreation Plan and Athletic Fields Needs Assessment & Master Plan in the amount of \$100,000.

Motion and Vote:

Susan Berry moved, and Michael Joachim seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Co-Chair Poch asked for a motion to rescind the FinCom vote on Article 3 since the total has changed with the change in Sudbury's LS assessment due to the final required minimum contribution calculation.

Motion and Vote:

Susan Berry moved, and Blair Caple seconded the motion to rescind the vote on Article 3 FY23 Budget.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Motion and Vote:

Michael Joachim moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 3 FY23 Budget in the amount of \$109,966,439.

Ron Brumback brought up the possibility of using some of the \$500K that is estimated the budget will be below the maximum that could be raised for some of the unmet needs that were part of the Town budget presentation. Dennis Keohane pointed

out that much of the \$500K is based on a larger than usual estimate of Chapter 70 money for LS and would not recommend increasing the budget.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The committee discussed Article 22 Fairbank Community Center Audio Visual Equipment Funding but several members felt we should wait to see if we get more information. The committee also briefly discussed Article 19 Brice Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2D - Acquisition of Land and decided to wait on this one also.

As the committee began to consider Article 42 Townwide Drainage and Roadway Reconstruction, Dennis Keohane reported that the Town administrators determined that this is an important project and will be asking that the debt be paid inside the levy limit as opposed to excluded. Susan Berry asked once this is part of the in-levy debt about how much the in-levy debt will be. Mr. Keohane answered it is likely to be about \$700K and also is likely to mean that Free Cash will be needed for some of the capital that is currently being paid within the budget.

Motion and Vote:

Susan Berry moved, and Ron Brumback seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 42 Townwide Drainage and Roadway Reconstruction for \$3.5 million.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Motion and Vote:

Susan Berry moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion to rescind the vote on Article 46 Old Framingham Road/Nobscot Road Walkway Extension Project.

Susan Berry said her original vote on Article 46 was taken as a way to allow for the possibility of lowering amount of excluded debt on the drainage project. Now that is no longer an issue and, if rescinded, she will vote in favor of this article. There was additional discussion of whether this article could be deferred.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, no; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, no; Jean Nam, abstain; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was 5 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention.

Motion and Vote:

Ron Brumback moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 46 Old Framingham Road/Nobscot Road Walkway Extension Project in the amount of \$700K.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Blair Caple, no; Michael Joachim, yes; Sonny Parente, no; Jean Nam, abstain; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was 5 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention.

The committee discussed whether to revote Article 32 ADA Transition Plan Recommendations and decided to wait to see if additional information will be forthcoming.

- **Discuss FinCom Budget Report**

Co-Chair Nam led this discussion. The committee went over the most recent version and committee members made suggestions for edits. Once updates to the charts and some dollar figures are made by Dennis Keohane, the committee will have a chance to review the report again.

- **Other items relevant to budget preparations, review, or informing the Finance Committee budget deliberations**

Co-Chairs Nam and Poch went over what will be covered at the joint meeting with the Select Board on Tuesday, March 22.

ITEM 4: General Business

- **Liaison reports**

There were no liaison reports.

- **Calendar and Budget Process**

Co-Chair Poch suggested that the committee meet on Tuesday the 29th to finalize the FinCom Report for the Warrant and to wrap up any votes on articles that we get information about at the joint meeting with the Select Board.

- **Review Goals/Future Agenda Topics**

There was no discussion on this item.

- **Transfers and Other Business**

There were no transfers or other business.

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Edits to the draft minutes of the February 7th meeting were reviewed.

Motion and Vote:

Michael Joachim moved, and Ron Brumback seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 7 as amended and February 14 as distributed.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM 5: Updates from Town Staff

There were no updates.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Ron Brumback moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that the March 21, 2022, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 9:42 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Ron Brumback, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is a joint meeting with the Select Board Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 7:45 p.m.