

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012
EXECUTIVE SESSION (10:11 P.M – 10:22 P.M.)

Present: Chairman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Vice-Chairman Robert C. Haarde, Selectman John C. Drobinski, and Town Manager Maureen Valente

Land Acquisition – 15 Hudson Road - Update

The Board was previously in receipt of copies of a memorandum from Director of Planning and Community Development Jody Kablack dated January 13, 2012, regarding the proposed property purchase of 15 Hudson Road. Town Manager Valente reviewed the memo, wherein Ms. Kablack reported meeting with the property owners to discuss an acceptable purchase price. Ms. Kablack stated the appraised value is \$285,000, and that the Board had authorized her to negotiate as high as \$300,000. The owners have accepted a price of \$275,000, which reduces the cost to the Town for the house demolition. However, Ms. Valente noted Ms. Kablack has been informed that the owners owe real estate taxes for FY10, FY11 and FY12, which will likely total approximately \$14,600, for payments due and penalties by May 2012. The owners have asked if the Town would forgive the tax liability.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To forgive the current tax liability, including interest penalties, for the property located at 15 Hudson Road.

Collective Bargaining – Health Insurance - Town Employee Groups – Chapter 32B – Next Steps Update

Town Manager Valente provided a brief update regarding the steps taken to date to implement the State's Chapter 32B section 21-23 in Sudbury to change employee health insurance. She stated the State has been notified of the Town's intentions and the Public Employee Committee has met. Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau will participate on the panel.

Ms. Valente and Ms. Bilodeau also met with the non-union employees, who are not represented on the Committee, to update them on the decision and implementation process. She stated the Police, Fire, Supervisory and School unions have hired a health insurance advisory company to consult with them. Ms. Valente stated the Town may consider also hiring this company, Boston Benefits Partners, in the future to work with employees to choose the coverage best suited to them.

Town Manager Valente noted the Town has been advised to maintain funds equal to at least six months of claims in its Trust Fund to cover claims until the time the Trust can be dissolved. At the time of dissolution, funds contributed to the Trust by employees will need to be returned to them. However, Ms. Valente explained there will also be a remaining balance for the Town. She is further researching options and recommendations for the Board to consider, including using the monies to fund the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligation. Ms. Valente asked the Board to also begin thinking of suggestions. Given their concessions through the years, she predicts the Town and Sudbury Public Schools will likely feel strongly that they receive back all of these funds and none are apportioned to Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, as the funds came out of their annual budget allotment. Ms. Valente also noted that, when funds are held in reserve, it helps the Town's credit rating; whereas, if these one-time funds are used for a capital project, it is used for that one purpose and then gone.

Selectman Drobinski suggested the Town and SPS consider using a small portion of the funds to establish a charitable account from which to help students and/or citizens in need.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk