

BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

Present: Chairman Charles C. Woodard, Selectman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Selectman Robert C. Haarde, Selectman Leonard A. Simon, Vice-Chairman Patricia A. Brown and Town Manager Maureen G. Valente

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

At 6:30 p.m., Chairman Woodard opened the meeting.

Discuss the report of the Vocational Education Options Committee (VEOC)

Vice-Chairman Brown asked the Board of Selectmen to approve this report, adding that the recommendations are based on analysis at this time. She summarized the work of the VEOC as follows.

First Question: Whether to approve proposed changes to the Minuteman Regional Agreement?

The VEOC recommends to the Board of Selectmen that they support the revised agreement. The new agreement will allow Minuteman to proceed with plans for a new facility, and retain, for Sudbury, the option to withdraw from the district at any time, if future developments make that advisable.

Second Question: Which available vocational school(s) will best meet Sudbury's academic and budgetary needs?

The VEOC created three subcommittees to gather information and make recommendations in these areas: a Site-Visit Committee, a Financial Committee, and Educational Committee. The consensus was that if the Town was to choose a single school as an alternative to Minuteman, it would be Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School.

Third Question: Whether Sudbury should participate in the vocational school(s) as a member or on some other basis?

The VEOC committee is unable to answer this question but offered some useful information.

Selectman Simon stated that he has questions, but needs more materials to help with his understanding. First, only one set of minutes (out of the six meetings the committee has held) has been posted on the Town's website. Secondly not all of the appendices were included in today's agenda materials related to this item. Finally, in regards to leaving Minuteman there are several issues that need to be discussed. Selectman Brown replied that she asked Town staff not to include appendices because of the size of the document.

Selectman Woodard indicated that at this meeting the Board of Selectmen is only accepting the report and not making a final decision.

Selectman O'Brien suggested the Board should accept the report, add information to the website, and also if possible, list the titles of all members of the committee.

Selectman Haarde stated that we should start as tuition students first.

It was on motion, Selectman Leonard Simon abstained from the vote.

VOTED: To accept the report from the Vocational Education Options Committee with the suggested addition of the appendices and table of contents posted to the Town website. Also, the co-chairs of the committee, working with the chair of the Board of Selectmen and Town staff, will arrange with the appropriate people to set a date and time for a meeting to be held to continue a discussion about the possibility of joining the Assabet District and, submit all three articles to be part of the warrant for Town Meeting, as we work on our position for Town Meeting in May.

Mass Central Rail Trail-CPC Funding Request – Discussion and Vote to Amend Proposal

The Board reviewed a memo from Jody Kablack, Director of Planning and Community Development, dated January 7, 2015, suggesting the Board reduce the CPC request to just engineering funding at this time.

Selectman Haarde did not support this change and expressed that the Town should “stick” to their original article, and not make changes which would take longer and be more expensive.

Selectman O’Brien pointed out that the Town has the capacity to have a rail trail paid for by NSTAR.

Jody Kablack, Director of Planning & Community Development, approached the microphone and shared that NSTAR will be surveying the area and that the Town hopes to use their survey.

Selectman Simon stated that the price for Mass Central Rail Trail has gone up and we have not had a design or bid. Let’s spend a little money to see how that will go.

Selectman Haarde stated that if we get tied up with NSTAR it will take years.

Selectman Woodard agrees that is not a good idea to wait for NSTAR.

It was on motion

VOTED: To amend the Selectmen’s CPC proposal to reduce the funding request to \$110,000 for the design/bid phase of the project.

Selectman Simon and Selectman O’Brien in favor; Selectman Haarde, Brown and Woodard opposed.

The motion did not pass. The Selectmen’s original article to the CPC for \$300,000 for design/bid for phase I of the MCRT remains.

Consideration of 2015 Annual Town Meeting Articles to be submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Town Manager Valente listed the articles submitted for 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

Articles A –L:

There was some discussion in regard to Article D, Means tested Senior tax exemption. Selectman Woodard asked if this Article is to extend this program for another three years. Ms. Valente replied, yes it is.

Selectman O’Brien stated that it sounds like the program was working fine and, that it has not disrupted the Town’s budget. He would like to see this become a permanent program and make it a model legislation so other communities can follow it.

Town Manager Valente mentioned that the Assessor’s office is working on is how to verify assets.

Some questions arose about how to better write this article. Town Manager Valente suggested that Town Counsel will be asked to work on the words of this article.

In addition to the minor modification that might be suggested by the Assessor's office, we also asked Town Counsel to structure the four corners or the Town Meeting article to allow a final decision to be made for permanent vs. continuation, to maintain maximum flexibility.

It was on motion unanimously.

Motion: To include article "K" in the list.

VOTE: To submit Articles denoted as A-K as discuss this evening for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Discuss and Vote on three year forward budget guidance

Chairman Woodard presented a memo regarding draft budget guidance for FY16, FY17 and FY18, and asked the Board of Selectmen to contact him with suggestions and/or changes to this memo so it could be presented coming from the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Brown excused herself from the meeting at 7:40 pm to attend a CPC meeting.

This item will be discussed again at the February 10th meeting. The Selectmen will send in their suggestions to make it a memo that they all agree upon, before it is presented.

Selectman O'Brien stated that this memo needs to be unanimous.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To adopt established guidelines, with additional language from the Board of Selectmen still to be discussed.

Vote to approve/accept the final Capital Funding Committee Report

Selectman O'Brien just clarified that the question of appropriating the cell tower revenue and depositing it into the DPW Rolling Stock Stabilization Fund will be an Annual Town Meeting vote.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the final report of the Financial Planning Committee for Capital Funding 2015.

Vote to prioritize Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects as recommended by the Director of Public Works and Director of Planning and Community Development in a memo dated January 22, 2015

Town Manager Valente shared a memo to prioritize Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects as recommended by the Director of Public Works and Director of Planning and Community Development in a memo dated January 22, 2015.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To adopt revised TIP list as submitted and recommended by the Director of Planning & Community Development Jody Kablack and the Director of Public Works Bill Place in a memo dated January 22, 2015 known as project numbered 1-5.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Attest: _____

Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk