

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015
LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
CONFERENCE ROOM "A", 290 LINCOLN ROAD, SUDBURY, MA
6:30 PM – 7:25 PM

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

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Articles

No discussion on this item. Chairman Woodard moved to the next item.

Discuss and vote positions on suggested changes to Annual Town Meeting Articles 3, 4 and 15

Earlier this evening the Board of Selectmen met with the Finance Committee to discuss new information on Articles 3 and 4 (Stabilization Fund). Article 4 was already discussed with FinCom about the \$210,000 increase to the operating budget to be \$88,086,995.

After a brief discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To support a revised article 3 for a transfer of \$141,600 from free cash to stabilization fund, which is \$210,000 lower than the original amount of \$351,600.

Article 4

Chairman Woodard noted that the Finance Committee previously voted to support the operating budget of \$88,711,995.

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau shared that the bottom line budget should increase by \$210,000; the limiting motion is \$87,876,995.

Chairman Woodard asked for motion to vote to support, and it was seconded by Selectman O'Brien. However, Vice-Chairman Brown had many questions and needed clarification on the numbers. A lengthy discussion followed.

The motion was to support revised operating budget to \$88,086,995. The original amount of the operating budget was \$88,711,995, then transfer \$625,000 from the ambulance receipts appropriation.

Suzanne Marchand, Interim Finance Director, joined the meeting to offer assistance. She said that FinCom just voted to approve \$88,711,995. However, they need to revote to back out the \$625,000. They took \$87,876,995 and added \$625,000. Discussion followed regarding the ambulance reserve appropriation. Normally the vote is on the entire budget. FinCom needed to revote \$88,086,995. Suzanne apologized, and will ask them to revote this amount. Suzanne left the meeting, and the Board thanked her for her assistance.

Town Counsel Barbara Saint Andre had a question. Is this raising and appropriating \$88,086,995? If you take out transferred money – \$625,000 from ambulance, and \$410,000 from free cash, this would be considered taxation.

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau responded that this isn't the same as taking money from public safety budget.

Chairman Woodard asked is the amount \$88,086,995 or the limiting motion? Total spent? \$88,711,995.

Do we need to revise the motion?

Selectman O'Brien said the not to exceed budget is \$88,711,995. The limiting motion is total spent.

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau said that the bottom line budget should increase by \$210,000.

Selectman Haarde said we're voting the budget not taxation. He also asked, regarding the transfer of ambulance fees and free cash, can this be done differently going forward to make things clearer?

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau answered that there is another way to explain this in the future if necessary.

The bottom line budget increases by \$210,000. Was \$87,876,995, then add \$625,000. Transfer \$625,000 from ambulance receipts into budget, and \$410,000 from free cash.

After much discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: Voted to approve the limiting motion as not to exceed amount **\$88,711,995**, for the total operating budget.

Article 41

Chairman Woodard would like to revisit this vote to withdraw. Suggested should we IP this? Lots of discussion. Selectman Haarde spoke to this. The VEOC doesn't have the authority to pull out of Minuteman. He feels there isn't enough due diligence to have a vote now.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Selectman Haarde - if we voted tonight to withdraw, a letter would go to Minuteman to request withdrawal. Amendment would apply to all 16 towns, and it would be a preliminary vote. On the down side, if we wait another year, MMS will be closer to new school, our backs could be against the wall.

Selectman O'Brien: How much would a new district cost? Myriad of formulas? If we move to withdraw, what would be conditions?

Selectman Haarde: A new district would be less than MMS. He agrees with Chuck, not enough outreach, and knowledge to ATM voters lacking. Budget is \$700,000 for FY16. MMS wrote new agreement, we have 1/16 of a vote. The formula of cost per student would go up. Revised agreement makes it easier for towns to withdraw. Are our backs to the wall if we put this off another year?

Vice-Chairman Brown: The revised agreement is 'dead.' Summer 2016 is their deadline.

Larry O'Brien: another option: if we IP, then we can work closely with communities that have thought about withdrawing. Get hard numbers on building costs, etc.

The Board agreed to continue discussing article #41 tomorrow night.

There was discussion about possibly voting on this tomorrow evening @6:30 pm.

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau shared that regarding Article #15, the energy fund is also impacted by stabilization which about \$13K each.

Chairman Woodard moved to discuss articles #53 and #55 tomorrow evening.

Motion to adjourn 7:25 pm.

Attest: _____
Maryanne Bilodeau
Interim Town Manager-Clerk