

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

Present: Chairman Robert C. Haarde, Vice-Chairman Leonard A. Simon, Selectman Susan N. Iuliano, Selectman Patricia A. Brown, Selectman Daniel E. Carty and Town Manager Melissa Rodrigues.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. in Lower Town Hall.

Opening Remarks

At 7:30 p.m., Chairman Haarde opened the meeting announcing that Real Estate and Personal Tax are due on February 1, 2018, and payments made after February 1 will incur late fees.

Chairman Haarde stated that the influenza is very severe this year and that flu shots are still available and administered by the Board of Health at the DPW Building.

A consultant's design report with recommendations and options regarding the Fairbank Community Center will be presented at the Fairbank Community Center on Thursday, February 1. Selectman Brown added that the presentation will be in the Pines Room at 7:00 p.m. Also, there will also be a tour of Fairbank that same day to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Pines Room.

The Board of Selectmen will have office hours on January 25, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Goodnow Library. Selectmen Brown and Iuliano will be in attendance.

Reports from the Town Manager

Town Manager Melissa Rodrigues announced that she and Chief Nix will have joint office hours at the Police Station from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

She went on to announce that February 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline to file for Town office candidacy as well as the LSRHS School Committee.

There will be babysitting available for the first night of Town Meeting at the Lincoln-Sudbury High School gym, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Availability is for thirty children ages K-8th grade and potty-trained. Registration to hold a spot is made through the Park and Recreation web site.

Reports from the Board of Selectmen

Vice-Chairman Simon gave an update on vocational education in town. He stated that this is the second year of students from Curtis Middle School attending Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School. He added that this year operated more smoothly than last year, and that Minuteman High School enrollment is decreasing, and Assabet has preferred curriculum choices. This year three Sudbury students will be attending Assabet in September 2018. Since the Town's departure from Minuteman High School last year and Sudbury students transitioning to Assabet, transition costs for Sudbury are on the decline. Selectman Simon said he strongly feels that the trend will continue for many years to come.

Selectman Brown again invited and encouraged all to attend the presentation on the Fairbank Center on Thursday, February 1, 2018. Tours of the property will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the consultant's presentation will include operational costs and revenue so we can get a sense for what needs to be done and why.

Selectman Daniel Carty announced that he and Selectman Pat Brown attended the Strategic Financial Planning Committee for Capital Funding, and that now we have a capital item to discuss tonight. He added that this subcommittee was scheduled to meet on January 10, then was cancelled due to snow. The meeting tomorrow will bring the subcommittee back on schedule. He added that no override was approved at last

night's School Committee meeting concerning the School District Administrative and Structural Options Subcommittee.

Selectman Iuliano stated that she and Selectman Carty would like to be on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting and hope to have a report/proposal at that meeting.

Chairman Haarde suggested that they discuss this later tonight.

Citizens Comments on items not on Agenda

There were no citizen's comments.

Consent Calendar

At 7:40 p.m., Chairman Haarde presented the two items for Selectman vote:

Vote to approve award of contract by the Town Manager for the Goodnow Library HVAC system

VOTED: To approve award of contract by the Town Manager for designing, furnishing and installing enhanced and expanded direct digital control system for the Goodnow Library HVAC systems to reduce energy consumption

Discussion and vote to approve the regular session minutes of 12/19/17

Selectman Brown made a request to amend page 3 of the 12/19/17 Board of Selectmen regular session minutes.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular session minutes of 12/19/17 as amended.

Discuss Upcoming Agenda Items

At 7:40 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues informed the Board there is a resident interested in donating property to the Town. She has not yet heard from the Conservation Commission, but further stated that this might be ready to be addressed at the February 6th meeting. She said that the Board will also have Mike Webster of GeoInsight coming on February 6th to present the concerns/questions he has received about the Melone Property.

Chairman Haarde stated that Mr. Webster was not able to come to tonight's meeting.

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the Board has requested a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and that she was waiting to hear back from that committee regarding the date. She added that capital articles would be presented at that meeting.

Selectman Iuliano said that there was some discussion at the Finance Committee meeting regarding how much overlap we might have from capital items presented. The Finance Committee Chairman suggested that some presentations might be combined. Selectman Brown added that it would be good if people could give their presentation once and not have to repeat it before different Town Boards. This approach might also make it easier for the applicant. Town Manager Rodrigues replied that she would reach out to the Finance Committee Chairman.

Selectman Carty said that the Selectmen just got an e-mail today from Senator Eldridge saying he would like to come to a future meeting. Chairman Haarde added that Senator Barrett and Representative Gentile should also be invited to attend the March 20th meeting.

Vice-Chairman Simon reminded everyone that the Town Forum is scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd, 10:00 a.m. at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Among those presenting at the Forum will be Town Counsel, Police Chief Nix, and Dr. Anne Evins (expert on addictive medicine from Mass General Hospital). He continued by encouraging adults and students to be part of this Forum and find out about new marijuana rules and how it will impact the Town, and serves to form a basis for discussion among parents and students. This may also help decide how to vote at Town Meeting in May.

Selectman Brown asked if anyone was invited to the Town Forum who is an expert in Massachusetts law. Vice-Chairman Simon responded that Town Counsel will be making a presentation and that the wrinkle is whether the US Attorney will be enforcing the new marijuana law and how it conflicts with Massachusetts law. He added that he was sure that Town Counsel plans to address the conflict in the law at the Forum.

Continuation of Dog Hearing re: Boomer the dog

At 7:50 p.m. Vice-Chairman Simon made a motion to open this public hearing regarding Boomer the dog. Vice-Chairman Simon summarized the original order.

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that on January 18, 2018 the owner sent notice stipulating that the dog Boomer has been moved out of Town and is residing in the neighboring community of Framingham. She is waiting for a response from the Framingham animal control officer.

Police Chief Scott Nix stated that he requested the dog's owner, Ms. Burke, or her legal representative, attend tonight's hearing, however, Ms. Burke was not present at this evening's meeting.

Vice-Chairman Simon expressed concern about where the dog currently is residing, and is not reassured that Sudbury residents are fully protected. He asked if Boomer the dog has been registered in Framingham yet.

Chief Nix responded by saying that he did not know that, but the Framingham Police Dept. is taking this issue very seriously and the Sudbury Police will continue to do drive-bys around the dog's previous Sudbury residence. He understands that the Framingham dog officer is also driving by the Framingham residence.

Selectman Brown asked when the dog goes to yet another community – out of Framingham perhaps - will the current owners be responsible for conveying this information to that town's officials. Selectman Brown was happy to hear that the order in Sudbury follows the dog.

Selectman Carty commented that this incident with Boomer might repeat itself with another dog in town and hopefully, if there is a next time, we should have a procedure in place so that any similar case will not take so long to rectify.

Chief Nix acknowledged that procedures are now in place with definite specifications and requirements.

Chairman Haarde made the comment that the Town had gone for seven years without any dog issues. In the last two years there were two such incidents, one of which was involved Boomer.

Selectman Iuliano suggested that our current bylaw regarding this topic may need to be revisited and adjusted. She opined that this might happen at the fall Town Meeting. Selectman Carty added that with such a change, expedience might be addressed. Chairman Haarde suggested that the Board look for a similar bylaw from a neighboring town and follow that model.

Resident Kathleen McLean Rocca, 129 Horse Pond Road, mother of the boy bitten by Boomer, said that there is no real proof that Boomer has moved to Framingham.

Chairman Haarde explained that Sudbury town officials went to Boomer's new address in Framingham. Officials rapped at the door and heard the dog barking, though no one answered the door. He added that we

turned the order over to Framingham. If we find the dog still living in Sudbury, then we must enforce the order. The dog's owners have until the end of March to register the dog in Framingham.

Ms. Rocca maintained that she found this to be inconsistent. Chairman Haarde said that we are closely monitoring this situation.

Vice-Chairman Simon added that his concern would be if the dog came back to Sudbury then could the existing order be added to, such as increased fencing and training. Currently he feels that there is not an absolute assurance of safety.

Ms. Rocca reiterated that the order does not prevent the dog from visiting the property in Sudbury, and it has been almost a year since her son was bit. Vice-Chairman Simon stated that this is a difficult issue, but we are trying to adjust it.

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that we cannot prohibit the dog from visiting Sudbury and we cannot amend the conditions because he does not live in Sudbury.

Ms. Rocca shared that the dog's owner is irresponsible and insulting towards the Board. She shared that her son was the second victim bitten by this dog.

Chairman Haarde stated that if the dog lives in Framingham, we cannot enforce action there; but should the dog visit or be seen in Sudbury, we can enforce that he must be muzzled and leashed and within the fence area when outside.

Town Manager Rodrigues suggested to Ms. Rocca that she call the dog officer in Framingham since the order follows the dog. Ms. Rocca said that she would call Framingham, but that she would like evidence that the dog is really living in Framingham.

Chairman Haarde repeated that Sudbury officials went to the Framingham residence of the dog, and we did not just take the owner's word that the dog was living in Framingham. He assured Ms. Rocca that Sudbury officials will continue to follow-up and monitor the situation.

Chief Nix also reinforced to Ms. Rocca that monitoring the area of Boomer's former Sudbury home will be continued. Ms. Rocca thanked the Board and Chief Nix.

A motion was made to close the Public Hearing.

Discussion and vote authorizing chairman to sign a letter endorsing the Coolidge at Sudbury Phase 2 project

At 8:16 p.m., Chairman Haarde opened the discussion and welcomed Ms. Holly Grace, Senior Project Manager of B'nai B'rith Housing, to the meeting.

Ms. Grace gave a summary of progress of proposed project and stated the proposed Coolidge at Sudbury Phase 2 project would mean an additional 56 units of affordable senior housing. She went over the importance of the funding application letter and signature of the Chairman of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen. Ms. Grace stated that permits, refinancing, and the contractor are all in place. She assured the Board that she will provide updates. Massachusetts Housing and Development requires that this letter of support is included with the application.

Selectman Iuliano asked when the state would inform Ms. Grace with their decision. Ms. Grace said that the letter is due with the application by February 15, 2018. She added that the award announcement for funding is made at the end of the summer (between August and Labor Day), and if that did not happen she would have

to apply for funding again next year. She stressed to the Board that the pre-application process has cleared and continued by saying that determination is a good sign.

Selectman Iuliano expressed her enthusiasm with that fact.

Selectman Carty asked about the amount being requested to fund the project. Ms. Grace answered \$18 million; with approximately \$10 million in low income housing tax credits, and over \$2 million in other subsidies.

Selectman Brown asked if Ms. Grace had heard from the West Metro HOME Consortium. Ms. Grace replied not.

Selectman Iuliano added that the Sudbury Housing Trust is supportive of the plan. Vice-Chairman Simon asked if the process was the same in Phase I. Ms. Grace provided further details about the program.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Chairman to sign a letter addressed to Mass. Dept. of Housing & Community Development to support the funding application requirements for the Coolidge at Sudbury Phase 2 project, located at 187 Boston Post Road, Sudbury.

Town Manager Budget Presentation

At 8:22 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues began the Town Budget Presentation for Fiscal Year 2019. She explained that the GFOA (Government Finance Officers' Association) Budget depicts the how and why of our budget goals. Town Manager Rodrigues said that the budget is increasing by 3.6 % accounting for both new growth and proposition 2 ½. When addressing the change in LS Assessment, Town Manager Rodrigues said that their budget increased by 4.49% due to a change in assessment. She presented the chart displaying Town Budget Breakdown, with Public Safety being the biggest piece of the pie, and the school budget is separate. When examining the chart, Chairman Haarde said that the Employee Benefits piece is not salary, it is benefits. The Town Manager concurred that it is everything but salary. When addressing the budget by cluster, the Town Manager said there are the same number of people throughout the budget. When examining the general government section and information systems, Selectman Brown asked about the increase in the software area.

Town Manager Rodrigues answered that the \$25,000 increase in the software budget reflected cyber security expense; the Town has done much to mitigate this. Town Manager Rodrigues also added that the big expense is the cost and maintenance of IT.

When looking at the Public Safety piece of the budget, Ms. Rodrigues explained that the Fire Department's expenses are level funded, but the personal services section accounts for three years of a negotiated contract settlement. With Public Works, Town Manager Rodrigues elaborated that there was a \$3,000 increase for a tree contract. Ms. Rodrigues that explained the \$21,000 increase in the Human Services – Board of Health area is due to the bi-annual inspections of some 70 new food establishments, as well as the new bag and bottle bylaws.

Vice-Chairman Simon asked if it would be worth it to have a part-time employee for food inspections. Town Manager Rodrigues answered it's better to have this as a contracted position.

Ms. Rodrigues addressed the \$4,000 increase in Human Services COA Budget was due to the fact that last year the budget was cut. In the area of Veteran's Affairs a \$20,000 increase was listed. The Town Manager here stated that the level need changes every year, and that the Town of Sudbury has not had enough funds in this area in the last two years. She added that \$15,000 will be received from the State.

At 8:38 p.m. Town Manager Rodrigues continued her presentation with a discussion regarding ARC (Annual Required Contribution) for OPEB.

Selectman Carty made a comment regarding ARC. With the Town's intent to increase this \$70,000 annually, (until the Annual Required Contribution has been achieved) it would translate to a 1% increase every year for approximately 11 years.

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that in the area of employee benefits there would be a probable 4.5% increase factoring FICA Medicare, Medical Insurance, Retiree Medical, and County Retirement; and that there could be changes by GIC.

Enterprise Funds including field maintenance, transfer station and pool budgets were covered by Town Manager Rodrigues, and she added that field maintenance and transfer station budgets are operating very well and likely will incur little or no rate increase. She said that she is still calculating the increase in the pool budget and will be meeting with Park and Recreation to determine why membership is down at the pool.

Town Manager Rodrigues addressed the last budget topic of vocational education in Town. She stated that the budget in this area is decreasing by 10%.

Selectman Carty inquired as to where vocational education is going in the next three to five years. Town Manager Rodrigues shared there are only four students this year, down from six students in past years. She added that there are less students at Assabet and transportation cost is most important.

Selectman Iuliano stated that 10% would probably not repeat. The vocational school transportation topic continued.

In closing her budget presentation, Town Manager Rodrigues gave thanks to the department heads and their contributions in the project presented. She also thanked her budget team, Maryanne Bilodeau and Dennis Keohane.

Discuss Town Meeting article on Loring Parsonage lease

At 8:49 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues mentioned the fact that starting a public construction project is costly and the Historical Society is starting this project and appreciating that fact. She continued by suggesting that perhaps using a longer lease for this construction might be a possibility to consider, and some towns are using a 99-year lease. Town Manager Rodrigues said that Town Counsel is further exploring construction options here and the Board might want submit to Town Meeting a warrant article like the draft she submitted. The suggested draft language read: "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to let or lease the Loring Parsonage for a term of up to 99 years for the purpose of building a Sudbury Historical Museum on such terms as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate, or take any other action relative thereto."

Selectman Iuliano supports this idea and feels that it would be a great thing for residents, and the fundraisers held thus far have been successful.

Selectman Brown inquired about the difference between a 30-year lease and a 99-year lease.

Town Manager Rodrigues replied that a 99-year lease is a property right - almost like a sale - and requires Town Meeting action as does anything over a 30-year lease.

Chairman Haarde said he would like the Board to put a placeholder on the Loring Parsonage to add this article to the Town Warrant. He added that more legal research is needed.

Selectman Iuliano stated that the Historical Society is working closely with the Town and the PBC (Permanent Building Committee).

Selectman Carty stated that it would be helpful to know the financial significance.

Town Manager Rodrigues stated that it's the same cost of running the parsonage; we pay for insurance, snow removal and sharing of other expenses. She added that this has been the arrangement for almost a year.

Selectman Brown offered that it might be useful to see if other communities have done a similar project.

Discuss ATM Warrant Articles

At 8:54 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues shared with the Board that the following itemized articles were outlined for discussion and have been submitted: hear reports, stabilization fund, fund litigation – Sudbury Station, Fund litigation – Eversource, FY18 budget adjustments, Fairbank, Loring Parsonage Lease, October Town Meeting.

Chairman Haarde said that the article authorizing the Board of Selectmen to convey the Melone property should be put on as a placeholder as well.

Selectman Iuliano said there is no decision about selling property and would we want a placeholder?

Vice-Chairman Simon said it's four months before Town Meeting, and he feels that the Melone property should not consider a placeholder due to more important issues at this time. He reviewed the land at the former Police station site on Route 20 several years ago, and continued that there was no in-depth study of what the Town might do with this land. He added that residents must be involved in the possible selling of the Melone land, and that he strongly feels that this area should not be taken up for further action at this time.

Selectman Iuliano said that she was fine with a placeholder and that the Board could discuss it between now and May. Selectman Iuliano stated that both Chairman Haarde and Vice-Chairman Simon were right, and that tonight the vote was just for an option.

Vice-Chairman Simon stated that in the past, this has not been a transparent area, and further maintained that the Board does not have the final GeoInsight report yet.

Chairman Haarde disagreed and said the discussions have been robust and transparent; discussed many times, and that all discussions have been open to the public.

Resident Janie Dretler, 286 Goodman's Hill Road, told the Board that she attended the Melone Charrette which highlighted housing, commercial revenue and possible recreation at the Melone site. She continued by stating that since the Charrette, an RFP for ball fields had been done. She said that she wants to know what the process should be and wants to understand the environmental aspect.

Chairman Haarde said that he is unsure if passive recreation is the favored choice for the site. There is a need for organized recreation, and there is a likelihood that commercial, housing and recreation could co-exist here. Selectman Iuliano reinforced that all ideas should be considered.

Ms. Dretler said that she would prefer to see housing at the site, but agreed that all three uses should be explored further. Chairman Haarde added that more information will be forthcoming.

Resident Steve Swanger, 14 Bent Brook Road, shared that the Melone Charrette felt like an open meeting. He then stated that an RFP was presented for recreation use only.

Chairman Haarde responded and said that this was an open process.

Mr. Swanger maintained that he felt that recreation is being forced on the Town for this property, and he really wants an open process to prevail.

Chairman Haarde reiterated that open and transparent discussions are continuing.

Vice-Chairman Simon added that he felt that Mr. Swanger has not been given proper attention.

At 9:14 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues announced that the Fire Department was coming to the building shortly to investigate a burning smell.

Chairman Haarde resumed the Melone property discussion, stating that we are all in favor of mixed use and have said so.

Selectman Iuliano said she was the one who told Mr. Swanger that there would be a resource table at the Melone Charrette, and that materials from the Sudbury Housing Authority could be placed there. She opined that the Charrette process was great.

Town Manager Rodrigues reminded the Board that they are just addressing articles tonight and need to focus on what will be printed in the Town Meeting Warrant.

Vice-Chairman Simon reiterated that he still feels that the Melone discussion and a warrant article are premature at this time. Selectman Brown stated that she would support putting Melone on a placeholder, as it does provide options. Selectman Carty agreed.

Selectman Brown inquired about the Community Preservation article for Broadacres, She requested that a warrant article for Broadacres funding be submitted. Her second inquiry was about vaping and she reminded the Board that they still have this topic as an article.

Town Manager Rodrigues said that she would review Broadacres tomorrow along with the Senior Tax Exemption topic.

At 9:22 p.m., resident Kirsten Roopenian, 45 Harness Lane, commented on the Melone property. She understands what's going on and has followed all events associated with this property. She feels that the GeoInsight Report hasn't been given enough attention or time. The Town must have a process regarding the Melone property and she thinks that the process part is somewhat lacking. She just finished reading the GeoInsight Report this evening and, after reading it, felt the issue was important enough to come before the Board tonight. She also would like to ask questions at the next meeting when the GeoInsight engineer will be present to answer questions about the report. She feels that going forward with the property at this time is premature because more discussion is needed, and also stressed that the Board must discuss this report in a respectful manner. She urged the Board to go ahead with the process and have discussions and invite the public.

Chairman Haarde thanked Ms. Roopenian for her comments this evening. The Board will use the GeoInsight Report to start more public discussions in order to establish options.

Ms. Roopenian said that it most important that the Board respect what Sudbury citizens have to say, including Mr. Swanger's comments this evening.

Proposed 2018 Board of Selectmen Newsletter Schedule of Deadlines

At 9:34 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues stated that Leila Frank would like to know about the deadlines for the Selectmen's Newsletter schedule.

Vice-Chairman Simon thanked Leila for her work and suggested that the Board assign the topics on February 6th with materials due on February 19 and approved submission on February 27, 2018.

Selectman Brown continued the newsletter topics stating that she would submit OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) on February 6. She would like to submit Fairbank on that date as well.

Town Manager Rodrigues said that no formal vote was needed here.

Capital Planning Discussion

At 9:37 p.m., Selectman Carty said that he and Selectman Brown have been meeting weekly on this topic, but the snowstorm caused cancellation of last week's meeting. He informed the Board that there will be a meeting tomorrow. He wants everyone to take time with strategy and stressed the importance of the process. He also stated that this topic will not be ready for May Annual Town Meeting, but maybe something would be ready for the fall Town Meeting. At this time, Selectman Carty went over The Capital Improvement Guide and suggested that the Board review it. He continued by saying that he and Vice-Chairman Simon spoke about redundant committees, and will keep everyone posted.

Selectman Iuliano said that no decision has been made. Selectman Carty replied that would like to see a brainstorming approach and discussion between members. At this point members discussed the topic.

Town Manager Rodrigues added that the Capital Program is not the problem; the problem is funding it.

Chairman Haarde said that the Capital Stabilization Fund is most interesting; Town Manager Rodrigues stated that the Town does not have that fund.

Chairman Haarde then suggested that discussion with Selectman Carty might include considering such a Capital Stabilization Fund. He also suggested a placeholder for a Capital Stabilization Fund.

Selectman Iuliano added that for smaller town projects this might work well without having debt exclusions.

Chairman Haarde maintained that the public has indicated that they want such a mechanism and to not have to go the route of debt exclusion all the time. This would be most helpful for smaller projects and general maintenance.

Selectmen Carty said that we could do better with monitoring projects, and see how long they might have taken and further evaluate outcomes.

Budget Discussion with LSRHS Superintendent Bella Wong

At 9:50 p.m., LSRHS School Superintendent Bella Wong was introduced to present the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School proposed FY 2019 Budget.

Superintendent Wong started by itemizing the budget supports: LS Core values – fostering cooperative and caring relationships, respecting human differences, pursuing academic excellence and cultivating community. The budget also supports goals for improvement – what students should be able to do when they graduate, access to equity and excellence for all students, ensuring socio-emotional supports for students and staff. Capacity to recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff was the third budget support that Superintendent Wong described. The last support she described was an educational program that fosters student growth for post-graduate success. Superintendent Wong emphasized that the most important part of the program is what is happening in the classroom, which is namely the importance of the teachers.

Superintendent Wong outlined factors affecting budget. Among them she pointed to the decrease in federal aid, as well as trying to provide academic and emotional support to all students. Maintaining small class size also affects budget. There was a 10% increase in rising health insurance costs, and that luckily Eversource did not enact an increase.

When presenting the FY19 Budget Overview, Superintendent Wong itemized that this budget incorporates new teacher compensation agreement, maintains current educational program with no new incentives. Another aspect of importance that she stressed was making financial assumptions on best data available – full utilization of computer/technology assistance.

Selectman Brown noted that the 0.5% COLA adjustment on July 1, 2018 in the new contract was in addition to the 1.0% COLA adjustment on June 30, 2018, negotiated under the previous contract.

A discussion followed with the Selectmen and Town Manager Rodrigues regarding financial assumptions, such as the 6.8% increase to non-MTRS (MA Teacher's Retirement System), pension funding, increase in regular education transportation and the partial refund of funding for instructional capital. Also discussed was the possible \$60,000 increase to fund OPEB accrued liability, and the fact that there would be no adjustment to current student fee structure for activity fees.

Selectman Carty and Superintendent Wong further discussed the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School In-District Enrollment and projected class sizes. When discussing proposed adjustments, reductions, and progression of adjusted budget numbers to FY19, Selectman Iuliano asked for clarification. Superintendent Wong stated that progress is being made and continues to be made with OPEB funding. She maintained that when she came to Sudbury there was no OPEB funding and now there is \$734,984 in an interest earning account for OPEB funding. Superintendent Wong acknowledged great progress with incremental increase and help from the Town Manager. Ms. Wong did stress that if funds are not received from E & D (Excess and Deficiency Fund), then class size will go up due to combining of classes. Without funding distribution, the classes that would have more students would be English, AP US History and 20th Century as well as 11th and 12th grade History; perhaps eliminating AP Chemistry and Mandarin. Before she addressed the Selectmen's inquiry, Ms. Wong said that insurance is the largest increase to budget with slight decrease in tuition.

Selectmen Brown brought up the recent Finance Committee meeting dealing with the insurance contract. Superintendent Wong said the contract was still in discussion and that she would try to control that cost and look at what other towns are doing in this regard - adding that Lincoln was successful in negotiating lower rates. When Superintendent Wong presented the pie charts depicting FY18 Allocation and the FY19 Allocation, the percentage part of the pie again demonstrated that the two-year budgets were similar with the difference being insurance. We have to do something about bringing that insurance number down, and 10% of the budget in Special Education is out of district.

Both Selectmen Brown and Iuliano reiterated the "out of district" element, which encouraged a group discussion.

Selectman Iuliano asked Ms. Wong as to what the Board was expected to do this evening. Superintendent Wong responded by stating that the choices were to decide to bring a Town Meeting warrant article forward asking for the needed funds; or not to take action and wait. It might be worthwhile to protect the option with a warrant article and the submission deadline is January 31, 2018.

Selectman Brown asked about accommodating the large number of out-of-district placements in Curtis over the next three years.

Selectman Brown stressed that if a warrant article is voted on, it must be decided tonight and using E & D funds for an operating shortfall might negatively affect the 2020 budget. Superintendent Wong replied that this would be a way to protect some of our reserves.

Selectmen Iuliano agreed that this a difficult decision and that the challenge is timing; especially now that the Board is discussing school processes. It's difficult to use E & D funds for this shortage since it's not the normal practice.

Selectman Carty said that we do not want to do this as a general practice, but if we can put off an override for at least one year, it might be worth doing. Selectman Iuliano agreed.

Superintendent Wong would like to see what other insurance options may be available and modify the plan, and much depends on the state.

Chairman Haarde articulated that the proposal would be to use \$250,000 from E & D funding to close the gap. This has been done before, but we don't want to repeat this next year.

Mr. Radha Gargeya, LS School Committee member, said that there was an increase in Special Education budget in 2013-2014 and the funding gap was satisfied the same way that we are proposing now, except that the gap was a much greater. Efforts will be made next year to avoid any shortfall.

Chairman Iuliano proposed that the Board not put a placeholder for the issue on the warrant and let the time lapse. Selectman Carty and Vice-Chairman Simon agreed with this approach. However, Selectman Brown did endorse a placeholder.

At 11:10 p.m., Town Manager Rodrigues made a public service announcement stating that road conditions were getting icy. At midnight Town workers will be sanding the parking lots and throughout the night.

Discussion regarding GeoInsight report on environmental conditions (cont. from 1/9 meeting)

At 11:11 p.m., Chairman Haarde opened the discussion offering that the Board could begin discussing tonight or wait for Mike Webster, GeoInsight engineer, who was unable to be here tonight.

Chairman Haarde stated that the GeoInsight Report is now public and that Mike Webster might make a few alterations.

Town Manager Rodrigues introduced resident William M. Wagner, Jr., 36 North Road, abutter to the Melone property. Mr. Wagner said that both sides of the Melone property have had scrubbers since 1990. He went on to ask the Board if the scrubbers are still in use and that he would like more information on this, with related figures as well.

Chairman Haarde told Mr. Wagner that he brings up a good point and that the Board will go to the Sudbury Water District to get more information on this matter. He thanked Mr. Wagner for coming to the meeting.

Selectman Iuliano stated that engineering might also have relevant information.

Vice-Chairman Simon said that in two weeks the Board may have more information and can get into more detail.

Discuss budget comparison options (cont. from 1/9 meeting)

At 11:14 p.m., Chairman Haarde opened the continued discussion from 1/9/18 meeting, comparing the budget to other towns.

Selectman Iuliano stated that she, Selectman Brown and resident Sara Liberman met. She proceeded to distribute related documents to the Board members, and stressed that these documents will not be discussed this evening. Selectman Iuliano stated that the documents that she distributed involved comparisons of 10 other town budgets. This comparative was rather difficult to read, but worthy for us to see how DESE reports. DESE starts with three ways of reporting enrollment. Examples of budget items not included in school department budgets include insurance, Medicare, Workmen's Comp, etc. She explained the differences are hard to compare, because in fact, they are often in Town line items. She added that this document needs to be updated.

Vice-Chairman Simon wanted to know the purpose of examining this comparative document. Selectman Iuliano replied that school structure analysis helps us, as does budget analysis.

Vice-Chairman Simon stressed it's difficult to compare very different things, i.e., apples to oranges. He could not see the practical benefit of this exercise, and found it rather confusing. He added it might be better to analyze this internally with Lincoln and Sudbury. Selectman Iuliano commented that some areas are solely in the purview of the school committees, but some are not.

Selectman Carty stated that the Board did assign a subcommittee to look at options regarding school structure, and we must look at these other peer towns in comparison. He suggested that perhaps they could talk more about this subject in subcommittee tomorrow and include DESE numbers. Selectman Iuliano affirmed that they would lay out comparable factors at the next meeting. Selectman Carty said that we need to agree on the data, and it's important to get on common ground and be fully informed.

Vice-Chairman Simon asked where does this lead us. Selectman Carty responded that it leads us to determine if our structure is as efficient as it can be, and to ask questions.

Vice-Chairman Simon again stressed that it was an unrealistic comparison – as in Sudbury there are two different moving parts, and he didn't see the end point within a reasonable period of time. He suggested that maybe an independent party could get involved.

Vice-Chairman Simon suggested that Selectmen Carty and Iuliano choose some direction for the subcommittee and then share that with the Board.

Chairman Haarde suggested that looking at comparisons is necessary to try and increase productivity and asked if the Board would want a placeholder to move some funds (perhaps \$10,000) to get the Collins Center in for direction.

Selectman Iuliano replied that this suggestion might be premature. She added that we must first understand what we are doing with Lincoln, and Selectmen Simon Agreed. Selectman Brown asked if inviting Lincoln officials to discuss might help.

Selectman Iuliano stated that the Subcommittee will have a report at the next meeting, and then the Board can decide next steps in this process.

Citizen's Comments (cont.)

There were no Citizen's Comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

Attest: _____

Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues
Town Manager-Clerk