

**Town of Sudbury~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2003
Fairbanks Senior Center - 7:30pm**

Present: Tracy Billig, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, John Nikula, Marty Ragonas, Shauna Simmonds, Larry Rowe, Sheila Stewart. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, Maureen Valente, Town Manager, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary.

Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm.

Item1: Approve minutes:

The committee was asked to review the minutes from the November, 20, 2003 meeting.

VOTED: On motion, to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2003 minutes. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Tracy Billig. On motion, vote carries 8 in favor and 0 opposed.

Item 2: Presentation by Projected FY05 Revenues

Presentation was made by Kerry Speidel, Finance Director.

In September the total operating revenue figures equaled \$54,761,689. As of December the figure equaled \$56,138,678. Three reasons for the increase: increase in free cash, overlay of surplus, and revised State Aid figures.

Total FY05 projected tax levy = \$44,910,508. The new growth projection is \$500,000, and is dependent on new construction in calendar year 2003. There has been a drop in new construction in Sudbury. Most of the building permits that have been issued recently were for renovations.

The Town is projecting a 10% decrease in State Aid. There will be more information on these decreases next month when the Governor submits his budget (House 1).

Local Receipt Projections – The largest receipt the town has is the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. The largest commitment is issued in the month of February.

Enterprise Funds – the Pool is looking to be self-sufficient in FY05. The new director has added programs, raised fees, and has brought in more members. There is no taxation subsidy projected for FY05. The Pool does have a \$8,000 diving board replacement projected listed as a Capital Project for FY05. The Landfill enterprise has a revenue projection of \$229,602. Maureen Valente, Town Manager, informed the committee that the Town is contracting to do a study on curbside pickup. It is expected to save the residents money. There are currently no real numbers to analyze.

Conclusion – These are her best estimates. This is the earliest these figures have been completed. The biggest unknown is State Aid, and nothing new will be available until House 1 is filed.

Item 3: Update from liaisons:

Marty Ragonas – *SPS School Committee* passed a 3% budget increase for FY05. This budget does not allow the schools to restore services/programs eliminated in the past. There is a slide show presentation on the school department's website showing the possible reductions needed in order to reach a level funded budget. -*Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIP)* have decided to postpone the plan for the feasibility study for the call center temporarily. They have also postponed the fire truck replacement.

John Nikula – John informed the committee that Tara Reed (PTERC Co-Chair) made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen last night. There is another PTERC meeting scheduled for January 5th.

Bill Kneeland – The LSRHS school committee voted on their budget at their December 9th meeting. It will be an increase of approximately \$545,000. There were large increases to the cost of SPED and in the athletic users fees.

Item 4: Update and discussion of School Contract Analysis Project:

Shauna Simmonds informed the committee that there is a draft of the analysis ready to be reviewed by the FinCom. She will have copies made and sent out. A lot of the information is not new, and had been discussed at some of the previous meetings.

Some conclusions to the analysis:

- SPS on average start employees at a lower salary than other school districts, but we have more steps so that it averages it self out once the employee has been here for a while.
- LRSHS employees start at an average rate of pay compared to the other schools, the employees end up in mid-range when they are maxed out.
- In regards to health benefits, Sudbury is offered the best rates. This is not a benefit that the teachers are not allowed to negotiate.
- SPS employees are offered the best in regards to tuition reimbursement. Most schools are in the \$400 to \$800 range, there was one school in the \$1,350 range, and SPS is offered \$3,200 with the Superintendent's approval.
- SPS gives the most personal days.
- SPS is the only school system offering a 403B match program. There is a \$200 match in Sudbury.

Claire will be invited to the January 15th meeting to explain more about the analysis. She will be able to explain how she went about obtaining the information and answer any questions the committee might have.

Item 5: Confirmation of Receipt of Cost Centers' Budget by Members:

The committee members received copies of the FY05 Budgets for the Town of Sudbury , LSRHS, and Minuteman High School. The Sudbury Public Schools' Budget will be mailed to members on Monday.

Item 6: Budget Hearings Preparation Review:

The committee members were asked to review the budgets, and be aware of the different impacts. The liaisons will lead the meetings, when the sections are being discussed. The liaisons should be prepared to answer questions, to help speed up the process.

It was asked the budget hearing schedule be published in the Town Crier.

Item 7: Adjourn

Town Manage Maureen Valente asked if the committee would take a vote to deficit spend the Snow & Ice Budget Line. The FinCom's approval is required before this line can be overspent.

VOTED: On motion, to approve the deficit spending of the Snow & Ice Budget line from tonight through January 8, 2004. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by John Nikula. On motion, vote carries 8 in favor and 0 opposed.

The being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.