

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee  
Minutes of Meetings  
Thursday, November 20, 2003  
Fairbanks Senior Center - 7:30pm**

**Present:** Co-Chairs Bob Jacobson & Tracy Billig, Marty Ragonas, Bill Kneeland, Shauna Simmonds, Larry Rowe, Sheila Stewart. Also present: Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary.

**Opening remarks from Co-Chairs:**

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm

**Item 1: Approve Minutes:**

Larry Rowe pointed out a spelling error in the "Other Business" section. Creditability should be credibility.

Marty Ragonas pointed out a spelling error in Item 7. Effecting should be affecting.

**VOTED:** On motion, to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2003 meeting, with the understanding that the above mention changes are made. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On motion, vote carries 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

**Item 2: Update and Discussion of school contracts analysis project:**

Shauna Simmonds informed the committee that there is the possibility that more schools will be added to the analysis. A couple of the towns being added are: Stow, Hudson and Bolton.

Shauna informed the committee that they are still waiting for some information from the other schools. Superintendent John Brackett and Business Director Mary Will are helping to obtain information from the other schools by making phone calls to the other school departments.

Shauna informed everyone that they started analyzing some of the benefits offered to SPS and the other schools. Something different was the percentage that SPS employees pay for health insurance coverage compared to the other schools. SPS pays between 10 to 25% (based on what health plan they choose), while other school districts pay up to 50%. Bill Braun, SPS School Committee, reminded everyone that schools have no control over the health benefits and that the teachers are not complaining about the benefits being offered to them. Bob Jacobson stated that in all fairness, the teachers are not asking or fighting for these health insurance costs.

Bob Jacobson stated he hopes to have a copy to review at the December FinCom meeting. If not, it could be reviewed at the Jan. 15, 2004 meeting. He believes there is no reason to rush this project out.

**Item 3: Update from John Nikula on PTERC and hearing:**

This item was skipped over due to the fact the PTERC was holding a meeting tonight as well.

Tracy Billig informed the committee that a good article was in today's issue of the Town Crier in regards to the PTERC.

**Item 4: Update from Liaisons:**

***Marty Ragonas*** - informed the committee that SPS will be holding their Public Budget Hearings on Wednesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. It is possible that this date might change.

The Capital Improvement Committee met for the first time this past Monday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. The following are possible projects:

- Replace DPW vehicle
- Fix exhaust problem at the Fire Station
- Police Station feasibility. Want to get call center located in 1 place.
- Replace diving boards at the pool. It is considered a safety issue after 5 years if the boards are not replaced.
- Replace DPW Vehicle
- Need a new fire truck. The current truck is over 30 years old. It is hard to find parts and a mechanic that can fix the old truck.

***Bill Kneeland*** - There is nothing new to report on Minuteman high. They are planning on going back to using their special assessment formula. The enrollment pattern is shifting between Lincoln and Sudbury, and Sudbury will most likely be assessed more.

***Bob Jacobson*** - LSRHS should be finished at the end of April. They are still looking at coming in under budget. The playing fields are still a concern.

***Sheila Stewart*** - the CPC is holding a public meeting on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss petitions. Some possible petitions: 2 walkways (100K for 3 years - Recreation), Revolution Cemetery (174K for repairs), and a petition for the Cutting Property is a possibility.

**The being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.**