

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 20, 2006
7:00pm – Lower Town Hall

Present: Co-Chairs Bob Jacobson & Marty Ragonas, Bill Kneeland, Sheila Stewart, Ralph Verni and Debbie Zurka. Also present: Suzanne Petersen, Finance Director, and Robin Porcella, Recording Secretary.

Opening Remarks:

The meeting was opened at 7:00pm

Item 1: Reserve Fund & Salary Contingency Transfers:

#06-07: is a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$3,900 and is being requested by the Board of Appeals. The funds will be used to cover the salary cost of additional hours which are anticipated through the end of the fiscal year.

#06-09: is being requested by the Personnel Department to transfer \$51,858.66 from the Salary Contingency Account. The funds will be used to cover three areas: 1) \$22,282.26 for collective bargaining with the Supervisory Association, 2) \$9,576.40 for reclassification of various Staff positions, and 3) \$20,000 for short falls in the Fire Department due to several on the job injuries.

Maureen Valente, Town Manager, explained that about five years ago a salary survey was completed on all of the department heads. Most were reclassified. Some of the secretarial positions have been reclassified as well, to keep up with the work load.

Ralph Verni asked if there is insurance to cover for an injured fire fighter. Ken Maclean, Fire Chief, said yes but there is a grace period, or a deductible. Maureen Valente informed the committee that the funds from the insurance claim go back into the General Fund, and not back into the Fire Department's budget. The Town still suffers a loss, because you have to take into consideration the deductible that has to be paid and overtime shifts have to be covered.

VOTE: On motion, to approve Reserve Fund Transfer #06-07 in the amount of \$3,900, and to approve the Salary Contingency Transfer #06-09 in the amount of \$51,858.66. Motion made by Ralph Verni, and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 6 in support, 0 opposed, and 3 absent (Billig, Grosberg, Rowe).

Item 2: CPC – LS Stadium Field:

Chris Morely, CPC Co-Chair, introduce Jack Ryan, LSRHS School Committee Co-Chair, and explained that Jack would be making the brief presentation. Jack Ryan stated that the new bleachers were part of the existing building project, but did not include work on the fields or track.

They are looking at using CPC funds and private donations to complete this project. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.5 million. The following is the contribution from each group: \$960,000 from the CPC, \$190,000 from the LS, and \$350,000 from public/private donations. The total cost could change depending on how the actual bleachers and track are completed. It is questionable whether or not the press box at the top of the bleachers needs to be handicap accessible. Another issue is dealing with the hill that is where the bleachers are to go.

Jack Ryan stated some of the advantages of the turf fields. After 12 to 14 hours of usage in a day, the field will not get as run down as a grass field. Will be able to permanently mark off three fields, and use temporary markings for a fourth field. The current field is only good for football. None of the other sports can use it for games, because of the size. As for the current track, the Weston Track Coach will not allow her team members to run on the LS track. The LS track team will have no home meets this year, strictly because of the condition of the track. The track will definitely need to be replaced in a couple of years, so the advantage is to replace it now with the fields so that CPC funds may be used.

Mark Collins, LS School Committee, stated that the conservation commission also prefers the turf fields. There should be less drainage issues and less pesticides used in the area.

The LS school district would be responsible for the maintenance of the track and field. The Town would have access to both the track and field for recreation programs.

Paul Griffin, Park & Recreation Commission chair, reminded the committee that the CPC funds will only be made available if the other groups have raised enough funds to cover the differential. The CPC would also want to have a sign contract with a stated amount before releasing any funds as well.

Ralph Verni asked why the Town of Lincoln was not providing any funds to this project. Mark Collins informed the committee that Lincoln does have a Community Preservation Committee, and they did not think it was appropriate to spend funds on a facility in an another town, where the community of Lincoln would not the usage of the facility.

Paul Griffin reminded everyone that the Town of Sudbury and the Park & Rec. Department approached LS regarding this group project first. This will be very beneficial to the Town since it will not be required to purchase more land to build new fields.

Item 3: Article 25 – DPW Mining Revolving Fund:

Bob Jacobson stated the questions regarding Article 25, seemed to arise because of miscommunication. There were questions regarding the money being saved, and how it can be spent. He stated the Town has to receive approval at Town Meeting before any of the funds can be spent. In answer to Mr. Jacobson's question, Town Manager Maureen Valente confirmed that for the most part the funds are set aside for reclamation of the property when the mining operation has ended.

Ralph Verni asked how the amount of \$100,000 that is transferred to the general fund was arrived at. Maureen Valente stated the figure was their best and safe estimated guess.

Maureen Valente did inform the committee that some of the property is located within the Town of Concord. Our Town will need to get in touch and come to an agreement with Concord before we continue mining the property.

Ralph Verni asked if it was possible to be given the figures for the last couple of years. Sue Petersen provided the figures: For 2004 the figure was \$145,639.75, and for 2005 the figure was \$416,425.00. These are net figures after the \$100,000 was transferred to the general fund.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 7:30pm to participate in the FY07 Budget Public Forum.