

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Wednesday – April 4, 2007
LSRHS Conference Room A302 – 6:30pm

Present: Chair Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Sheila Stewart, Chuck Woodard, and Debbie Zurka

Absent: Larry Rowe, Ralph Verni

Article 2 FY07 Budget Adjustments:

Maureen Valente explained to the committee that when a police officer or fire fighter is out, injured in the line of duty, the town receives funds from the insurance company and that state laws require the funds to go back into the general fund. The town needs Town Meeting approval before this procedure can be changed. The town would like to be able to put the funds back into the department's budget. There is no amount listed in the motion, because this is ongoing depending on the number of injuries.

VOTED: On motion, to approve Article 2 – FY07 Budget Adjustments as presented. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 5 in support, 0 opposed, and 3 absent (Rowe, Stewart, Verni).

Article 3 FY08 Budget Override & Non-Override:

The committee was informed that Minuteman is pretty sure of the figure previously submitted. If anything, the amount will be reduced.

Surplus figure changed from \$450,000 to \$250,000.

It was explained that the Abatement Surplus does not need to be appropriated.

Bob Jacobson asked if the committee needed to re-vote on this article. Maureen Valente stated the committee will need to vote on the new figures being provided.

VOTED: On motion, to approve Article 3: FY08 Budget Override & Non-Override as presented. Motion made by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Debbie Zurka. On vote, motion carries 5 in support, 0 opposed, and 3 absent (Rowe, Stewart, Verni).

Article 4 Construct Police Headquarters:

Maureen Valente stated the Board of Selectmen is very supportive of this article, especially since the vote was so close at the polls. If the article is approved tonight, the town would need to hold a special election. If the article is passed tonight, this gives the Town permission to start the process. A two-thirds vote will be needed in order to hold the special election. If less than two-thirds votes are received, then the article is dead. If

the article had passed at the election, two-third votes still would be needed at town meeting to continue the project.

Marty Ragonis stated she would like to know if the committee had any opinions on the constructing of a new police station. She knows how the committee voted. Sheila Stewart would like to see a way that the committee can let it be known that the committee is in support of a new station. It should be known that the committee did visit the facility. Sheila reminded the committee that the police and fire departments are top priority in the Master Plan that was written in 2000. Debbie Zurka stated that there have been a lot of letters to the editor in the paper stating we need a new station, but maybe not as large as the one being proposed.

Article 10 Unpaid Bills:

There are no unpaid bills, so the article has been indefinitely postponed.

Article 25: CPF Johnson Land Purchase:

The article has been indefinitely postponed.

Article 33: Senior Property Tax Relief:

Bob Jacobson asked what the committee could recommend at Town Meeting given there are no details?. Maureen Valente stated that she can ask the Moderator to recess before this article is brought up, so that the committee could have 5 minutes to discuss it amongst themselves.

Maureen Valente stated that there are new senior exemption laws. The assessors are looking to see if this is better/worse than what is currently being offered. Maureen Valente stated she would get the outcome to the committee once it is completed.

Article 30 CPF General Budget and Appropriation:

Finance Director, Andrea Terkelsen pointed out there are actual figures now listed under this article. The figures were just provided today.

Other Business:

Sheila Stewart asked if the committee would be willing to revote on Article 22. She was trying to decide which way to vote since she is a citizen of the town and a member of the CPC. She had abstained from the previous vote, and she would like to get an understanding of why the committee members voted the way they did.

Bob Jacobson stated he would be willing to re-vote the article, but recommends to holding off until Monday's meeting so that the rest of the committee can participate.

Marty Ragonis stated she would be in support of taking a re-vote, since she will probably change the way she previously voted.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 7:10pm.