

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday – February 7, 2008
Flynn Building – 7:30pm**

Present: Chuck Woodard, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Jim Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Sheila Stewart, Ralph Verni, and Debbie Zurka

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm.

Andrea Terkelsen stated she will start circulating a summary of the FC-12 section so that the committee can review it. Sheila Stewart stated that they usually have it for this meeting, and in her opinion finds it useful to have it. Marty Ragonas stated that in the past the narrative has been prepared for them, and was wondering if Andrea will be preparing it. Andrea stated that she would and then the FinCom will need to review it. Chuck Woodard asked when the committee would have the completed FC-12 section. Andrea Terkelsen stated she hopes to have it out in the next week or so.

The committee discussed and voted on the following articles:

Article 3 - FY09 Budget:

Voted: On motion to support the budget containing the \$1,821,200 override. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Voted: On motion to support the budget containing the \$2,821,200 override. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion is not carried 1 in support (Gossels) and 8 opposed (B. Jacobson, J. Jacobson, Kneeland, Ragonas, Stewart, Verni, Zurka, Woodard)

Article 4 – Renovate Police Station:

Report at Town Meeting

Article 5 – Construct Police Headquarters:

Report at Town Meeting

Article 6 – FY09 Capital Budget:

Voted: On motion, to support the FY09 Capital Budget (Article 6). Motion made by Ralph Verni and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 7 – Purchase Fire Department Ambulance:

Voted: On motion, to support the purchase of a Fire Department Ambulance (Article 7). Motion made by Ralph Verni and seconded by Jim Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 8 – FY09 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget:

Voted: On motion, to support the FY09 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget (Article 8). Motion made by Ralph Verni and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 9 – FY09 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget:

Voted: On motion, to support the FY09 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget (Article 9). Motion made by Ralph Verni and seconded by Sheila Stewart. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 10 – Unpaid Bills:

Report at Town Meeting

Article 11 – Stabilization Fund:

Voted: On motion, to support Article 11-Stabilization Fund. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Articles 12, 13, 16 (Consent Calendar)

Voted: On motion, to support Article 12 (Ch 90 Highway Funding), Article 13 (Real Estate Exemption), and Article 16 (Bus Revolving Fund). Motion made by Ralph Verni and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 14 – Collective Bargaining Funding:

Report at Town Meeting

Article 15 – Special Act (111F Insurance Proceeds):

Voted: On motion, to support the Special Act – Use of MGL 111F Insurance Proceeds (Article 15). Motion made by Marty Ragonas and seconded by Bob Jacobson. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Articles 17- DPW Mining Revolving Fund

Article 18 – Fire Revolving Fund (Permits)

Article 19 – Zoning Bd. of Appeals Revolving Fund

Article 22 – Public Safety Boating Regulations

Voted: On motion, to support Articles 17, 18, 19, and 22. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Marty Ragonas. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 20 – Senior Tax Deferral

Voted: On motion, to support the Senior Tax Deferral (Article 20). Motion made by Marty Ragonas and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 21 – Change term of Town Moderator to 3 years:

Report at Town Meeting

Article 23 – Public Safety – Trench Permit

The committee takes no position

Article 24 – Farming Preservation Bylaw

The committee takes no position

Articles 25 thru 36 (excluding Article 34) – Community Preservation Fund:

Voted: On motion to support CPF Articles 25 thru 33, 35, and 36. Motion made by Marty Ragonas and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

Article 34 – CPF Nobscot Reservation:

Report at Town Meeting

Article 37 – Create George Pitt Tavern Historic District:

The committee takes no position

Article 38 - Senior Property Tax Relief:

Report at Town Meeting

Discussion on Compensation:

Marty Ragonas stated that she found the spreadsheets from the cost centers very helpful, and that she was surprised by the figures.

Bob Jacobson stated he was surprised by the overtime figures. It shows that they do not have enough employees. Ralph Verni asked about the comparison of the cost of overtime to the hiring of a new person. Bill Kneeland reminded everyone that you can not say it would be cheaper to hire someone, because of the costs related to benefits being offered. Bob Jacobson asked if it is possible to ask the Town Manager for a copy of the OT analysis. Marty Ragonas stated she would request it.

Debbie Zurka asked how the overtime is budgeted. Andrea Terkelsen stated it is on a separate line than the salaries.

Questions for Audience:

Bob Stein asked if any funds were being allocated for the suit that we are facing in regards to the issue with Wayland. Bob Jacobson stated the funds would come from the Reserve Fund.

Bob Stein asked if any funds were being allocated for a potential lawsuit from the family of the student that was murdered at LSRHS last year. Bob Jacobson stated that he was not sure if the town would be liable, but thought the lawsuit would be covered by the town's insurance.

Bill Kneeland asked who would be responsible for the lawsuit, the town or school. Bob Jacobson would expect it to be filed against everyone.

Other Business:

Chuck Woodard stated that he will email everyone to get a consensus of when everyone will be available for another meeting.

Bill Kneeland asked if the town has received the final figures from Minuteman yet. Andrea Terkelsen stated that they have not received anything yet. She also stated that they still do not have the information for the students that attend Norfolk Agricultural.

Jim Jacobson asked when the last time things have seemed so bad in regards to the budgets. Bob Jacobson stated that if the \$1.8 million override is not passed, than this will hurt the school worse than ever. Andrea Terkelsen stated that a history of overrides and average tax bills will be placed in the warrant. Bob Jacobson stated the SPS will lose approximately \$550,000 even if the override passed.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:10pm