

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday - January 29, 2009
Flynn Building – 7:30pm

Present: Chairman Chuck Woodard, Todj Gozdeck, Jaime Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Sheila Stewart, and Debbie Zurka.

Opening Comments:

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

Review of 2009 Annual Town Meeting Articles:

Chuck Woodard asked if Town Manager, Maureen Valente or Finance Director, Andrea Terkelsen would explain the various articles for the committee.

Article 1 – Hear Reports: There was no discussion involving Article 1.

Article 2 – FY09 Budget Adjustments: Maureen Valente explained that there are no definite plans in place as of today on how they plan to deal with any cuts to the FY09 budgets. There will be no cuts to the Chapter 70 funding, and Sudbury is looking a net cut of \$169,000 in State Aid. If any cuts are to be made to a department's appropriation, this has to be done by a budget adjustment at the Annual Town Meeting.

Article 3 – Stabilization Fund: There was no discussion involving Article 3.

Article 4 – FY10 Budget: There was no discussion involving Article 4.

Article 5 – FY10 Capital Budget: There was no discussion involving Article 5, since it was discussed at the January 26th budget hearing.

Article 6 – FY10 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund &

Article 7 – FY10 Pool Enterprise Fund: An explanation of what an enterprise fund is and how it works was provided for the new members on the committee. Bob Jacobson stated that the committee will need to know the amount of funds that the Pool will need to operate from the town. Maureen Valente stated that the information is in their budget books.

Article 8 – FY10 Recreation Field Maintenance: Maureen Valente stated that they are hoping to have more information for the committee on this article by Thursday. It is still being researched as to how much can be raised through assessing these fees. The hope is to be able to raise 8 months worth of salaries for one of the Parks & Grounds employee whose primarily job is to maintain the playing fields.

Article 9 – Unpaid Bills: Maureen Valente explained that there are currently no unpaid bills.

Article 10 – Chapter 90 Highway Funding: Maureen Valente explained that this allows the Highway Department to spend what the state reimburses in Chapter 90 funding.

Article 11 – Real Estate Exemption: Maureen Valente explained that the Board of Selectmen & FinCom usually take a position on this article, although it usually gets pulled off of the consent calendar at the town meeting every year.

Article 12 – Town/School Revolving Funds: An explanation was provided as to what a revolving fund is and how it works. These funds are different than the one listed under Article 8, with the primary difference is that the revolving funds have spending limits.

Article 13 – Septage Facility Financials: The Town is looking into changing the administrative process of the Septage Facility. Currently that Town of Wayland processes the payroll and pays all the bills, and the Town of Sudbury is responsible for sending out bills and the collections. The town would like to go back to the original agreement where one town is responsible for everything. If Sudbury does all of the work, we will charge \$10,000.

Article 14 – Amend Bylaws Building Permit Fees: The FinCom does not need to take a position on this article.

Article 15 – Regulation of Dog – Increase License Fees: There was no discussion involving Article 15.

Article 16 – Transfer Land off Hudson Road to the Sudbury Housing Trust &

Article 17 – Transfer Land off Pinewood Ave to the Sudbury Housing Trust: There were no discussions involving Articles 16 & 17, as the committee needs more information.

Article 18 – Amend By-laws Fire Alarms Systems: This article has a potential to raise revenues for the Town. It is still being researched, and at this point there does not look like there will be any financial responsibility on the town. If a resident has an alarm in their house, this bylaw would not allow the alarm system to transmit an alarm message to any telephone lines of the fire department.

Article 19 – Amend Bylaws Storm water Management: There was no discussion involving Article 19.

Article 20 – Amend Article IX Zoning Bylaw: There was no discussion involving Article 20.

Article 21 thru Article 31 – Community Preservation Fund: A position will need to be taken on all of these articles. The articles were not discussed further, as they were heard about at the January 26th budget hearing.

Article 32 – Clarification of Title (11 Butler Place): It was explained that this article was submitted at the last minute. A citizen needs the town's help in clarifying a deed.

Cash Reserve Policy:

Chuck Woodard stated he would like to have a discussion to see if we can make recommendations to change the policy. He would like to set the requirements to be where the minimum target is 3% and the maximum is 5%. In order to remove money from the fund, a 2/3rd vote is need at town meeting.

Maureen Valente reminded the committee that we do not put money into Free Cash. The Department of Revenue closely monitors this, by making sure that the town's revenues are on target. It is hard to increase your Free Cash figures. The town has always been spending its free cash. The town can not have a separate budget line to try to create free cash. It is too late for this year, but a new article can be introduced to create a new override stabilization fund at the Annual Town Meeting next year.

FY11 & FY12 Budget Process:

It was agreed that the committee would have this discussion after the February 9th hearing with the Budget Review Task Force. The committee is interested in continuing their spending limit recommendations.

Other Business:

The committee was informed that the working group will be meeting again tomorrow morning. It looks like if there is a pay freeze for all employees, there will be limited or no lay-offs.

Maureen Valente stated that you have to be careful when saying there will be limited or no lay-offs if there are pay freezes. The majority on the town's employees are union members. There could be layoffs depending on what the unions settle for. She also clarified that the non-union employees offered to make concessions and that they never agreed to salary freezes.

Chuck Woodard stated that when the FinCom has the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 4th, he will be reporting that the FinCom will not support an override.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 8:39pm.