

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Monday – January 11, 2010**  
**Lower Town Hall – 7pm**

**Present:** Chairman Chuck Woodard, Joan Carlton, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Jim Rao, Robert Stein, and Sheila Stewart.

**Opening Comments:**

Prior to the budget hearings, Chuck Woodard and Town Manager, Maureen Valente recorded opening comments that will be televised before the beginning of each budget hearing. No questions or discussion were to be allowed following each opening remark. Chuck Woodard explained the role of the FinCom, the budget process, and the various components of the budgets. Maureen Valente provided an overview of the revenue projections for the remainder of FY10 and FY11.

**Budget Hearing: Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School**

The budget hearing for Minuteman began at 7:45pm. Chuck Woodard opened the hearing by explaining the order of the hearing. He explained that only committee members will be allowed to ask questions during the cost center's actual presentation. Following the presentation, the public will be provided the opportunity to ask questions.

Bill Kneeland introduced Dr. Ed Bouquillon, Superintendent of Minuteman who would be making tonight's presentation.

Ed Bouquillon reviewed the status of the proposed building renovation project. He explained that a breakfast meeting was held on October 23 where the situation was discussed and estimates of the project were provided. He stated he would be in contact with all member towns so that they are informed as to what is going on with the project. He stated that no major work has been performed on the building since it was built in 1974. There are at least three years before construction could even begin.

The school is projecting a 2% increase in enrollment for the 2011 school year, which would be approximately 698 pupils.

The amount of lost revenue was discussed. The largest loss will be from expected transportation reimbursements, which is projected to decrease by 24.32%. The E & D Budget Appropriation account is expected to increase 11.93%. It was explained to the committee that this account is similar to the town's free cash.

Ed Bouquillon discussed some of the expected cuts to take place during FY11. He explained that no administrators would be receiving a salary increase. It was explained that there is a three year contract in place for the teachers, and the next round of negotiations will be for FY12. The preliminary assessment for Sudbury for FY11 is expected to decrease by 24%, from \$299,768 in FY10 to \$228,794 in FY11.

**Budget Hearing: Community Preservation Committee**

Sheila Stewart introduced Chris Morley, CPC Chairman, who would be making tonight's presentation.

Chris Morley explained the CPC received a state match of 37.5% last year. They are expecting the match to decrease in the future, with an expected match of 28 to 30%. There is legislation that is moving forward which would cap the lowest match to be 75% if approved.

Chris Morley gave a brief explanation of the articles to be proposed at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting:

- Town Hall architectural design study
- Amend Town Hall window restoration Article 29 of 2008 ATM
- Upgrade existing Town Hall vaults
- Revolutionary War cemetery radar search
- Tomb Door restorations
- Walkways (town wide)
- 10% allocation to Sudbury Housing Trust
- Funding for CSX acquisition
- Reversion of CPA Funds (returning unused balances)
- General Budget & Appropriations

The committee discussed and reviewed the indebtedness of the town with and without the CPA taken into consideration.

Robert Stein stated that there is supposedly an article that will be proposed at the Annual Town Meeting to support reducing the CPA surcharge to a lower percentage. He asked what would happen if this article was to be passed. Chris Morley explained that per the state all debt must be covered before the town could reduce or eliminate that surcharge. He stated that a vote could be taken to reduce the surcharge at a future date once all of the debt had been covered. He stated that this is a very popular program and that they have never had an article voted down since the committee's inception.

Chuck Woodard stated that based on our debt and his quick calculation, that he calculates the surcharge could only be reduced to approximately 2.25%. Sheila Stewart informed the committee that if a reduced surcharge was approved, this would automatically result in the town receiving a reduced match from the state.

Chris Morley gave a brief explanation of the hand-outs that the committee members were provided.

### **Other Business**

The committee discussed potential information to be included/excluded from the warrant. Sheila Stewart asked if there would be something in the warrant explaining where people could find the excluded information. Chuck Woodard and Maureen Valente both responded in the affirmative. Bob Jacobson recommended providing an explanation as to what changes have been made and why.

Chuck Woodard reminded the committee that there will be a budget working group meeting tomorrow morning. He informed the committee that he would email a synopsis of what is discussed at the meeting within the next couple of days.

**There being no further business the committee adjourned at 9:25pm**