

**Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday – March 2, 2011
Flynn Building – 7:30pm**

Present: Joan Carlton (arrived 7:38pm), Tammie Dufault, Jamie Gossels, Bob Jacobson, Bill Kneeland, Jim Rao, Robert Stein, and Chuck Woodard (arrived 7:43pm)

Absent: Marty Ragonas

Opening Comments

The meeting was opened at 7:35pm.

Votes on 2011 Warrant Articles

NOTE: The votes are listed in numerical order by article, and not in the order that the committee discussed or voted..

Article 2-FY11 Budget Adjustments: Report at Town Meeting

Article 3-Stabilization Fund:

Since there is no amount listed, it was agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 4-FY12 Budget:

Non-Override Budget: VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of the Non-Override Budget in the amount of \$80,728,348. Motion made by Jamie Gossels, and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragonas)

Override Budget: The committee will Report at Town Meeting

Discussion regarding Override Scenarios: Joan Carlton questioned if there has ever been a time when an override was not listed in the warrant, but was then presented at the Annual Town Meeting. Bob Jacobson stated that he does not believe so. This year is something very different being proposed than what has been in the past.

Chuck Woodard recommended putting a \$700,000 scenario in the warrant. Jaime Gossels stated that she has thought about this all day, and thought of the possibility of putting a statement in the warrant from the FinCom stating that they will recommend a potential override at the Annual Town Meeting. Jim Rao stated he is kind of hesitant, as it is not the FinCom's responsibility to decide whether or not an override should be presented.

Bob Jacobson stated that he has given this a lot of thought, and they should put the \$1 million override in the warrant that is up for consideration if certain conditions are met. If the conditions are not met, then the FinCom may consider an override for a lesser amount. Jamie Gossels stated that this could be confusing for the taxpayers, because different amounts are being considered based on whether or not the conditions are met. Bob Jacobson responded that all the committee can do is to recommend an override amount. It is up to the Board of Selectmen to decide what amount if any is voted on at the town meeting.

The committee discussed what information has been included in past warrants.

Joan Carlton questioned if the committee would include the override number in the warrant narrative. Bob Jacobson stated a small chart could be included showing how the proposed \$1 million override would be allocated. Jim Rao stated they need to include the exact effect the override would have on the taxpayers.

Jamie Gossels questioned if they can legally put conditions on an override recommendation. Bob Jacobson responded that we can put that conditional factors must be met in order for the committee to support an override. Jim Rao stated that he does not like the idea on voting on factious numbers. Robert Stein questioned how they would handle the savings if SPS does outsource the food service program. In his opinioned the savings are going to be used to fund pay increases. The school could have been saving money for the past 10-years if this was looked at sooner. He feels the money should not be used to hired more administrators. Jim Rao responded that we cannot go back and correct what has been done in the past. We need to work on controlling the fixed costs, and deal with what we can control. Chuck Woodard stated he was impressed that SPS is looking at ways to try to save money. Jamie Gossels stated that SPS has done a lot to look into cost savings, and if the school department says it needs an administrator at the Curtis School, then she trusts that they really need the position filled.

Tammie Dufault questioned if anyone knows where Tom Conroy (State Representative) stands on moving health care benefits from union negotiations. Bob Jacobson stated that it is still on the table. Tammie Dufault responded that it should be moved from the table and the percentage split should be 50/50. This way we could pay teachers better and be able to sustain the budget. We would still have unfunded liabilities.

Jim Rao stated that the committee is proposing to provide no detail on the override in the warrant, and that the information will be included in the FinCom's narrative. He asked for a motion.

VOTED: Motion to support the proposal of not including the detailed override budget scenario data in the 2011 Town Warrant. Motion made by Tammie Dufault and seconded by Jamie Gossels. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

Tammie Dufault questioned what the next step for the committee is now. Jim Rao stated that he will need help from the liaisons in preparing the FinCom narrative for the warrant. The committee discussed articles that could be placed in the Town Crier.

Article 5-FY12 Capital Budget:

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 5. Motion made by Bob Jacobson and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 6 in support, 0 opposed, and 3 absent (Carlton, Ragonas, and Woodard)

Article 6-FY12 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget: Report at Town Meeting

Article 7-FY12 Pool Enterprise Fund Budget: Report at Town Meeting

Article 8-FY12 Recreation Field Maintenance Enterprise Fund Budget: Report at Town Meeting

Article 9-Unpaid Bills: Report at Town Meeting

Article 10-Chapter 90 Highway Funding:

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 10. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 7 in support, 0 opposed, and 2 absent (Ragonas, Woodard)

Article 11-Real Estate Exemption:

The committee felt more information was needed, so they agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 12-Town/School Revolving Funds:

Chuck Woodard stated that some of the funds are new, and Jim Rao stated that a few of the amounts have been increased from last year. Bob Jacobson stated that the changes are listed within the article.

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 12. Motion made by Jamie Gossels, and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On Vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 13-Conservation Revolving Fund:

Jim Rao stated that this would be a new fee. Bob Jacobson responded that it is for a small fee for allowing agricultural use of fields on conservation land. The fees will allow for more trail maintenance.

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 13. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 14- Cemetery Revolving Fund:

Tammie Dufault stated that she has sent a letter to the town in regards to the maintenance of the cemeteries. The maintenance is limited to what the trust fund earns. She wrote a letter to the selectmen asking that funds be set aside for this matter.

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 14. Motion made by Bill Kneeland, and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 15-Regional Housing Services Revolving Fund:

The committee discussed which accounts Beth Rust, Housing Specialist, salary are charged against.

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 15. Motion made by Tammie Dufault and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 16-Home Rule Petition-Transportation Fees:

The committee was informed that this article would basically petition the state to allow the school department to set up a revolving fund to collect transportation fees based on distance.

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 16. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 17-Amend Special Legislations:

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 17. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 7 in supports, 1 opposed (Stein), and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 18-Street Acceptances:

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 18. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 19-Amend Bylaws, Article V.3 Regulation of Dogs:

The committee was informed that this article would increase the current fees charged.

VOTED: Motion to recommend approval of Article 19. Motion made by Jamie Gossels and seconded by Chuck Woodard. On vote, motion carries 8 in support, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Ragones).

Article 20-Route 20 Sewer System Design & Permitting:

Bob Jacobson informed the committee that there is a possibility of suggesting that the project be completed in three stages, although nothing definite has been decided. The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 21-Amend Zoning Bylaw-Wireless Services Overlay District:

Tammie Dufault stated she feels that the towers should not be allowed to be built in the cemeteries. Bob Jacobson agrees, and stated that the wording needs to be corrected within in the article. The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 22-Amend Zoning Bylaw Article IX – Inclusionary Zoning:

Jim Rao stated he does not remember the committee voting on these types of articles last year. Bob Jacobson responded that they usually only vote on the article if the committee has the exact dollar amount. The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 23-Amend Zoning Bylaw Art. IX - Use Table Retail Use in Industrial & Limited Industrial:

The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting

Article 24-Amend Bylaw – Outdoor Hydronic Heater: Report at Town Meeting

Article 25-Dissolve Permanent Landscape Committee: Report at Town Meeting

Article 26: Sale of Land – Hudson Rd & Pinewood Ave: Report at Town Meeting

Article 27: Exchange of Land off Peter’s Way with Abutter:

Since the dollar amount was not listed in the article, Bob Jacobson suggested to report at the town meeting. The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 28 through Article 35: Community Preservation Fund:

Robert Stein recommended waiting to vote on the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) articles, as they are waiting to see the investment information regarding the CPF funds. He wants to see the actual financial situation of the CPF. The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting on Articles 28 thru 35.

Article 36-Reduce CPA Surcharge from 3% to 1.5%: Report at Town Meeting

Article 37-Amend Special Act to change from Town Manager to Town Administrator:

The committee discussed the differences between having a Town Manager verse a Town Administrator. It was stated that Sudbury had previously switched from a Town Administrator to a Town Manager. The committee agreed to take no position on this article.

Article 38-Purchase Land off Brimstone Lane:

Robert Stein stated that compared to the Nobscot purchase, this is a pretty good deal. The price is reasonable and the town would own the land outright. Jim Rao stated he would contact Jody Kablack for more information. The committee agreed to Report at Town Meeting.

Article 39-State of the Town Public Forum: Report at Town Meeting

Other Business:

Robert Stein suggested the idea of securing a room at the high school in order to hold a public forum in anticipation of the override passing at the Annual Town Meeting. Chuck Woodard stated the past forums have been used to educate the voters prior to the start of the Annual Town Meeting. The committee discussed the time frame for a Special Election once the Board of Selectmen makes a decision on the override.

Meeting Schedule:

The committee agreed to meet on March 21st and April 25th.

The committee was informed that a conference room has been reserve at LSRHS in order to meet prior to the start of the Annual Town Meeting. The meetings held prior to the ATM will be used to clean up any last minute matters.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 8:56pm.