

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Monday – April 28, 2014
Flynn Building – 7:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

The Town of Sudbury's Finance Committee Meeting, held in the Flynn Building, and was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Doug Kohen. Finance Committee members present for this meeting were: Doug Kohen, Joan Carlton, Susan Berry, Tammie Dufault, Robert Jacobson, William Kneeland, Mark Minassian and Andrew Sullivan. Robert Stein was absent.

Item 1: General business

- Approve meeting minutes

Members were asked to refer to the minutes of the meeting held on 2/6/14 that were previously circulated. The spelling of Bill Braun's name will be corrected. With no further discussion, comments or questions on the minutes, Chairman Kohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was so moved by Bill Kneeland and seconded by Joan Carlton. No further discussion. VOTE: The minutes were approved (9-0).

- Transfers

Transfer #1 - Maureen Valente with Bill Place requested a \$50,000 transfer of funds from Engineering salary (\$30,000) and Park & Grounds salary (\$20,000) to highway vehicle maintenance line for necessary repairs to aging rolling stock. Robert Jacobson moved the motion and Susan Berry Seconded. VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Transfer #2 - Anne Wilson, SPS Superintendent is requesting a transfer of \$323,165 from the active employee health insurance line to be distributed as follows: \$153,165 for Technology/New Equipment for the purchase of some of the 1:1 devices for the implementation of the middle school 1:1 program; \$50,000 for Curriculum/Curriculum Development for the common core standards; \$50,000 to maintenance for some of the most crucial and maintenance repairs in the system and \$70,000 to the Snow & Ice Deficit.

Andrew Sullivan moved the motion and Susan Berry seconded. VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Item 2: Discussion of Articles #16-#20 with Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

Tom Travers, Co-Chair of the CAIC read a prepared statement stating that the CAIC has worked for 6 months to evaluate capital projects, there has been a framework established, a prioritized list has been built a long-term capital plan has been identified, they wanted to fund 70% of the rolling stock and 46% of small projects. All projects have been carefully considered, vetted and due diligence has been served.

Andrew Sullivan indicated he felt labelling rolling stock replacement as a 'public safety' issue was new. However, he hasn't changed his mind regarding the purchase of ½ the rolling stock and ½ the following year.

Chairman Kohen reiterated that the FinCom controls submission of articles 4, 5 and 6 and everything else is not submitted by FinCom.

Chairman Kohen would like members to consider re-voting the capital articles. Mark Minassian reminded him that doing that would open up all prior votes for reconsideration. Bob Jacobson, Susan Berry and Bill

Kneeland agree that the committee should re-vote, but only when the full committee is present. Bill Kneeland also suggested reviewing best practices of the committee after Town Meeting.

Tammie Dufault felt there was some disparity concerning DPW rolling stock replacements in looking at minutes from a meeting on 1/29 and 2/4. After several minutes of discussion on the FinCom's role, Andrew Sullivan asked Maureen Valente to explain why rolling stock replacement is now a public safety issue. Maureen Valente maintained that the replacement of rolling stock has always been a matter of public safety and went on to elaborate. Several people joined in on the discussion which touched on the Town's capital process, what works and what could be done to improve things moving forward. Adding to that discussion, Chairman Kohen read the updated capital bylaws. He went on to say that the CAIC is an advisory board like the Finance Committee. He acknowledged their role, hard work and unbiased opinions capital projects or expenditures.

Jamie Gossels (CAIC member) then asked discuss the Nixon parking lot project. She indicated that the parking lot is not ADA compliant and has broken down pavement. Some discussion followed regarding shrinking enrollment at the school, the cost of the project and whether or not some repairs might be done for less money. Jim Kelly, Facilities Director, reminded the FinCom that the parking lot area is 50 years old and beyond repair.

Bob Armour (SPS School Committee) asked if the healthcare savings would be reinvested back into the budget. Chairman Kohen stated that he would rather leave that up to Town Meeting to avoid any confusion. In response, Scott Nassa (SPS School Committee) commented that FinCom should receive information much sooner in the process in order to make timely votes and better advise the citizens of Sudbury. Chairman Kohen responded that all parties (involved) need to take some responsibility for this issue, including the School Committee and that this discussion be tabled for now.

Item 3: Update on Articles #45 and #47

- Discussion with Petitioner, Mr. DePompeii. Chairman Kohen noted that the petitioner was not present. A vote of the Committee will be taken at Town Meeting.

Item 4: Review Remaining Articles for ATM

Decision to table this discussion until Thursday's meeting (5/1).

Item 5: Finance Committee Budget Deliberations and Vote

Decision to table this discussion until Thursday's meeting (5/1).

Item 6: Public Comments

There were no public comments from the audience. Chairman Kohen announced that he would not be seeking reappointment to the Finance Committee when his term expires at this Town Meeting. Jim Kelly thanked Chairman Kohen for his service to the town.

Item 7: Adjourn

Bill Kneeland move the motion to adjourn, Andrew Sullivan seconded. VOTE: UNANIMOUS.
9:24 PM