

**TOWN OF SUDBURY  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 25, 2016**

**ATTENDENCE**

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Jeff Atwater, Jeff Barker, Joan Carlton, Adrian Davies, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian, Bryan Semple

**Also Present:**

Andrew Vanni, Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Kevin Matthews, LSSC, Nancy Marshall, LSSC, Susan Iuliano, Sudbury Board of Selectmen, Elena Kleifges, LSSC, Lucie St. George, SPS, Radha Gargeya, LSSC

**Absent:** Fred Floru

**CONVENE:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Chairman Susan Berry at the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

**ITEM 1: General Business**

**Approve Minutes**

There were no Minutes to approve.

**Transfers**

There were no Transfers to approve.

**Other Business**

Chairman Berry reminded committee members of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the new Sudbury Police Station on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Chairman Berry handed out information on projected enrollment in response to questions from Mr. Semple at a previous meeting. Chairman Berry also distributed information on quarterly statements from the town and schools.

**ITEM 2: Finance Committee Deliberations on FY17 Budget**

Mr. Vanni's presentation included a summary of the FY17 budget request for the four cost centers, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS), Sudbury Public Schools (SPS), General Town Government and Minuteman. Mr. Vanni pointed out that there is currently a deficit of \$489,082. Mr. Vanni noted the total LSRHS Operating Assessment, including OPEB normal cost assessment, is \$22,476,655. SPS total expenses, including offsets, employee benefits/insurance, and OPEB normal cost is a net amount of

\$40,851,331. Minuteman Regional School District Operating Assessment is \$740,501. The total for the schools is \$64,068,487. A brief discussion followed on enrollment.

The total request for the General Town Government, including Public Safety, Public Works, Human Services, Culture and Recreation, town employee benefits/insurance, OPEB normal cost, other transfer accounts, and offsets, is \$22,295,798. Mr. Vanni stated that the town debt service is \$3,578,425, and that LSRHS debt assessment is \$591,655. Mr. Vanni noted that the total debt budget is \$4,170,080. Mr. Vanni stated that the total operating budget for the cost centers including debt service is \$90,534,365. To this amount is added the Town Manager's Capital Budget of \$404,000, as well as other amounts to be raised, \$1,006,564, bringing the total Operating Budget to \$91,944,929.

Mr. Vanni stated that the total revenue, which includes state aid, MSBA reimbursement, local receipts and property tax levy, is \$91,455,847. Mr. Vanni stated the difference between expenses and revenue is \$489,082. A lengthy discussion followed on the excess levy capacity, property tax and LSRHS.

Mr. Semple summarized changes made to the budget worksheet. He explained that the worksheet described a level service budget for the three cost centers. Mr. Semple explained the worksheet includes a column for 2.6%, a level service comparison, and reported needs. A discussion ensued on items for which more clarification is needed.

**ITEM 3: Discussion and Vote on Need for Joint Finance Committee/Budget Strategies Task Force (BSTF) Meetings**

Chairman Berry led the discussion on this item. Chairman Berry stated it is important to come up with a responsible no override budget. Chairman Berry outlined the possible format of the upcoming joint meeting with the BSTF on January 28, 2016. Chairman Berry stated this meeting would give the cost centers an opportunity to reiterate what their needs are. A general discussion ensued.

Chairman Berry stated that she would contact Superintendents Bella Wong, and Anne Wilson as well as Town Manager Melissa Rodrigues regarding information that the Finance Committee will need. Mr. Semple stated the Finance Committee still has many unanswered questions on a level service budget and staying within the 2.6% directive. He added that a meeting moderated by Michael Fee might not be needed at this time.

After a lengthy discussion Chairman Berry suggested that instead of having a moderated discussion, she could invite the two Superintendents and the Town Manager along with their Finance

Directors to a meeting to discuss what they think they can live without to get to a no override budget. The Finance Committee would need to know specifically what the cost centers are using for circuit breaker, out-of-district tuition increases, what savings will not be in next year's budget, full day kindergarten cost, a better understanding of the FTE reduction etc. Chairman Berry stated it is important to have this discussion with the cost centers so that the cost centers would fully understand the expectations of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee should know what the cost centers could remove from their budgets and what that would do to their programs. A general conversation ensued on the process for an override if the cost centers are not able to stay within the 2.6% threshold. Chairman Berry will circulate the questions to the relevant groups.

#### **ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Berry recognized Susan Iuliano, Sudbury Board of Selectmen. Ms. Iuliano asked for more clarification on what the Finance Committee is going to do next. She added that a lot of assumptions have been made and noted that it is important to talk with the cost centers before anything is decided. Ms. Iuliano also encouraged the involvement of the cost center on an override budget. Ms. Iuliano urged the Finance Committee to keep the concept of a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the BSTF and going back to each committee with information discussed at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting even though the structure has changed.

Chairman Berry responded that the cost centers are involved. Rather than the joint meeting we are going to talk with the heads of the cost centers, and they will need to go back and have a discussion on what has come out of our meetings.

Chairman Berry recognized Radha Gargeya, LSSC. Mr. Gargeya it is important to know what is in the cost center's control, what is not in their control and what are they doing with the things that are in their control.

#### **ITEM 5: ADJOURNMENT**

##### **Motion and Vote:**

**Adrian Davies moved and Jeff Atwater seconded the motion that the January 25, 2016 Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 9:53 p.m.**

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

*Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary*