

**TOWN OF SUDBURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2016**

ATTENDENCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair, Fred Floru, Vice Chair, Jeff Barker, Joan Carlton, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian, Bryan Semple

Also Present:

Andrew Vanni, Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Susan Iuliano, Sudbury Board of Selectmen, Leonard Simon, Sudbury Board of Selectmen, Charles Woodard, Sudbury Board of Selectmen

Absent: Jeff Atwater, Adrian Davies

CONVENE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m., by Chairman, Susan Berry at the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

ITEM 1: Hear Presentations on Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

And

ITEM 2: Discussion of Articles 1, 2, 3 & 4 of Special Town Meeting and Possible Vote

Article 1 - Amendments to the MRVSD Regional Agreement

Article 2 - Withdrawal of Town from MRVSD

Article 4 - Disposition of Former Police Station

Ms. Iuliano spoke about the purpose for the Special Town Meeting on February 9, 2016. Ms. Iuliano stated that Town Meeting members would consider the new Minuteman Regional Vocational School District (MRVSD) Agreement and consider whether or not to withdraw from the MRVSD. Ms. Iuliano summarized the tenets of the Regional Agreement. Ms. Iuliano outlined changes to the new MRVSD Agreement as well as the purpose for the changes. Ms. Iuliano stated that Sudbury, through the Board of Selectmen, have announced their intention to withdraw. Ms. Iuliano also stated that, if Town Meeting approves the proposal to withdraw, and once the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approves the agreement, Sudbury would be allowed to withdraw from the MRVSD. Ms. Iuliano explained what would happen if the vote on the new MRVSD Agreement does not pass. She also explained how the vote on the new MRVSD would affect the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funding for a new

Minuteman High School. Ms. Iuliano outlined cost associated with leaving the MRVSD. Ms. Iuliano summarized what would happen to students who are currently attending Minuteman.

Chairman Berry asked if the Board of Selectmen has heard from parents or students attending Minuteman. Selectmen Simon stated no.

Ms. Iuliano presented additional information on other vocational school options, and out-of-district tuition. Ms. Iuliano also presented a scenario on what would happen if the Town of Sudbury approved the agreement and decided not to withdraw from the MRVSD. A general discussion followed.

Motion and Vote:

**Joan Carlton moved and Jeff Barker seconded the motion to approve Article 2 - Withdrawal of Town from the Minuteman Regional Vocational School District (MRVSD).
The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

Motion and Vote:

**Bryan Semple moved and Fred Floru seconded the motion to approve Article 1 - Amendments to the MRVSD Regional Agreement.
The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

Chairman Berry welcomed Jim Kelly, Facilities Director. Chairman Berry invited him to speak about Article 4 - Disposition of Former Police Station, 415 Boston Post Road. Mr. Kelly stated that this is a request that the residents of Sudbury vote to sell the building and or land formerly known as the Sudbury Police Station at 415 Boston Post Road. Mr. Kelly added that the Police Department took occupancy of the new police station in December and the old station is now vacant. Mr. Kelly stated that the article would allow the town to capture the value of the land by the sale of the property. Mr. Kelly spoke about the survey that was initiated by the Planning Board in terms of options for disposing the building. Mr. Kelly stated that property has been appraised at \$750,000. Mr. Kelly presented additional information regarding what can be built on this property as well as constraints regarding this property. A general conversation followed on use of funds from the sale of the property.

Motion and Vote:

Jeff Barker moved and Joan Carlton seconded the motion in favor of approving the sale of the building and or land

formerly known as the Sudbury Police Station at 415 Boston Post Road.

The motion carried. The vote was six in favor. One opposed.

ITEM 3: General business

Approve Minutes

There were no Minutes to approve.

Transfers

There were no Transfers to approve.

Other

There was no new business.

ITEM 4: Budget Deliberations

Chairman Berry led the discussion on this item. Chairman Berry asked if members had additional comments regarding what was said in response to questions from the Finance Committee at the meeting of 1/28/16. Chairman Berry stated that Sudbury Public Schools would receive aid from the state for full-day kindergarten. She added that she would contact Superintendent Wilson on per student cost regarding this.

The Finance Committee began its deliberations on budgets received from the cost centers. A lengthy discussion followed. Chairman Berry stated that there is an upcoming joint meeting with the Budget Strategies Task Force (BSTF) and the Finance Committee. There is information that the Finance Committee needs that would help the Finance Committee better understand the budget limitations it faces. Chairman Berry added that Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) would need to provide final information on out-of-district cost as well as per pupil cost of the full-day kindergarten state aid. Chairman Berry stated that the Finance Committee would need to make a decision about OPEB. After a lengthy discussion the Finance Committee decided not to make a decision on including increases in the budgets to fund 2/3 of the OPEB normal cost until the Finance Committee has heard other ideas about how to close the gap of \$350,000.

Motion and Vote:

Joan Carlton moved and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion that the Chair of the Finance Committee meet with the cost centers to inform them that there is a \$350,000 deficit and ask that they attend the BSTF joint meeting to present their proposal on how to close the deficit. The motion carried. The vote was two in favor. Four opposed. One Abstention.

Motion and Vote:

Bryan Semple moved and Jeff Barker seconded the motion that the Chair of the Finance Committee would instruct the cost centers that there is a \$350,000 gap in the FY17 Budget. The cost centers would work collaboratively with the Finance Committee on closing the gap and keeping the 2/3 OPEB target.

The vote was five in favor. One opposed. One Abstention

Discussion and Vote on Need for Joint Finance Committee/BSTF meeting

Motion and Vote:

Joan Carlton moved and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion that the Finance Committee hold the Joint Finance Committee/BSTF meeting as scheduled.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM 5: Public Comments

Charles Woodard expressed concerns about OPEB cost.

ITEM 6: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Jeff Barker moved and Fred Floru seconded the motion that the February 1, 2016 Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 10:14 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary