



SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT

To the Constable of the Town of Sudbury:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of all five precincts of said Town of Sudbury, who are qualified to vote in Town Elections, that voters residing in Precincts 1, 2 and 5 should meet at the Fairbank Community Center, 40 Fairbank Road, and voters residing in Precincts 3 and 4 should meet at the Town Hall, 322 Concord Road, in said Town on

**Tuesday, October 16, 2007
from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Town Election on the following question:

Ballot Question

Shall the Town of Sudbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to construct a new Police Department Headquarters and appurtenant structures on Town-owned land adjacent to the existing Fire Headquarters, purchasing additional equipment, technology, and furniture, landscaping, and all expenses connected therewith, including professional engineering, and architectural services and preparation of plans, specifications and bidding documents, supervision of work, relocation, and borrowing costs and expenses?

YES

NO

SUMMARY:

Under Article 4, Construct Police Headquarters, of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, the Town approved an expenditure of \$8,200,000 to construct a new Police Department Headquarters on the Fire Headquarters site at 77 Hudson Road. This ballot question seeks to exclude the principal and interest to pay for this project from the Proposition 2 1/2 levy limit. A more detailed report may be found on Page 7 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant – a link to which may be found under “Topics in the Spotlight.” on the Town’s website (www.Sudbury.ma.us).

Estimated impact on the tax rate: \$.20 per \$1,000 assessed value at its highest point of the bonding period (based upon a 20-year bond at 5%). Tax impact on a \$702,800 home is estimated at \$141 in the highest year, and would average \$107/year during the 20-year bonding period.

A “yes” vote on this question will authorize the Town to fund construction of a new Police Headquarters facility outside of the Town’s levy limit and therefore allow the project to go forward, a “no” vote will mean the project cannot proceed at this time.

ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE:

The current Police Station, built in 1961 and expanded in 1981, is about 6,400 sq. ft. When the original Station was built, Sudbury had a population of approximately 8,400 residents. Since that time, the Town has grown to over 18,000 residents and the role of the Police Department has expanded as well. Last year, the Sudbury Police Department answered about 17,600 calls. The current building does not meet state and federal requirements in areas such as handicap access, conducting interrogations, or size and location of detention cells. There are safety concerns for the health and welfare of our employees due to the building configuration and how space is laid out for movement of detainees within the building. The electrical, ventilation and heating systems are all in need of significant upgrades. An additional feature of this building will be a combined fire/police dispatch center. A dispatch center located in a police station is cost effective and improves response time between police and fire departments. Finally, the Town lacks a meeting room that is large enough and equipped properly to serve as an Emergency Operations Center, as well as provide a community meeting room and a space for police and fire personnel to train simultaneously.

Approval of this debt exclusion question will increase taxes temporarily, only for the cost and term of the bond. The estimated \$141 cost of the debt on the average home will begin in FY09 and will be offset by debt that is being paid off by the Town, estimated at \$149 on the average valued home. The Board of Selectmen, with Town Meeting approval, would have the option of selling the land where the current station is located, and be able to use those funds to offset some of these debt costs.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION:

Approval of this question will increase real estate taxes and personal property taxes by adding an estimated 20 cents to the tax rate in the highest year of the bonding term, or about \$141 on an average valued \$702,800 home. Thus, the taxpayer would not benefit from the reduction of debt service that is being paid off, estimated at \$149 on a \$702,800 home, and would instead see this reduction used to pay the debt service on the new police station.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 17th day of September, 2007.

SELECTMEN OF SUDBURY

John C. Drobinski, Chairman

Lawrence W. O'Brien

William J. Keller, Jr.