

Minutes
Lincoln Finance Committee
Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Finance Committee
February 22, 2016
7:00 pm

Present: Jeff Birchby, Gina Halsted, Jim Hutchinson, Peyton Marshall and Laura Sander.

Absent: Eric Harris, Chris Kasper

This meeting was scheduled as a joint meeting with the Sudbury Finance Committee at the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (L-S). In attendance were members of the Sudbury Finance Committee and members of the L-S School Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in Conference Room B. Mr Marshall and Ms Berry opened the meeting.

Ms Berry reviewed the Sudbury Finance Committee process for budgeting for FY '17, indicating that the original guidelines provided to Sudbury agencies had been satisfied with initial submissions but that there was a budget gap at that level. She described the process of getting the agencies to a no override budget in Sudbury and provided an update on the status and timetable of budget discussions in Sudbury.

Mr. Marshall reviewed the Lincoln budget process and objectives. He reviewed the current status indicating that the Finance Committee report in Lincoln and the proposal to Town Meeting are consistent with the L-S budget under review in Sudbury and that Lincoln's appropriation to L-S was likely to exceed the assessment for FY '17.

The Committees discussed changes and trends in enrollment from the respective towns and the swings in assessment percentages applicable to the 2 towns.

Ms. Berry indicated that the Sudbury Finance Committee had been discussing out-of-district budget pressures, highlighting a different approach to bearing out-of-district costs at Dover-Sherborn. Mr. Marshall suggested the L-S regional agreement may be inconsistent with such an approach. Bella Wong, Superintendent-Principal of L-S indicated that providing some town-specific data on out-of-district placement in any given year presented some privacy challenges, given the small numbers. Mr. Marshall indicated that the Lincoln FinComm would consider the matter further and revert to Sudbury FinComm about possible further joint conversations on the subject.

Ms. Berry and other members of the Sudbury FinComm reviewed the current Sudbury approach to funding OPEB obligations. Mr. Marshall and other members of the Lincoln FinComm discussed recent initiatives and policies in Lincoln on OPEB.

At approximately 7:40, on motions duly made and seconded by both Committees, the Committees adjourned their joint session. The Lincoln Finance Committee then moved to Conference Room A to meet on its own.

Ms Sander reviewed the VEOWG presentation material for the upcoming Special Town Meeting to consider Lincoln's continued membership in the Minuteman district. The Committee discussed the different ways to present some of the numbers. The Committee discussed Mr. Marshall's letter to the Lincoln Squirrel and made suggestions about his possible remarks on behalf of the Committee at Special Town Meeting.

There being no further business for the Lincoln Finance Committee, the Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

Submitted by: Peyton J. Marshall

Approved: