

MINUTES OF:
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 2014

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Robert Richardson
Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin
Robert Blanchard
David Francis
Karen Perkins

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
Town Administrator Shawn Cadime
School Committee
School Superintendent Arlene Bosco
School Finance Administrator Barbara Hamel

Mr. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Reserve Fund Advisory

Mr. Alexander reviewed two Reserve Fund Advisories from the Fire Department that were previously explained by Chief Jack at his budget review.

Mr. Cadime reviewed the status of the Banna station construction project.

Mr. Alexander reviewed the probability of Reserve Fund Advisories becoming Reserve Fund Transfers, and the status of the general government FY 2015 budget.

Committee asked about the "new growth" used in the FY 2015 budget and Mr. Alexander explained the reluctance of the Assessor to release the number so early in the analysis that becomes finalized in November.

Mr. Cadime explained the status of the Town Budget, plans to meet with departments and finalize the budget by early May. Status of labor contracts was also explained.

Mr. Alexander reported on the status of the appropriation for the senior center. Mr. Cadime reported on the project and updated the committee on other town projects.

Minutes

The Committee reviewed and took action on the following minutes:

March 11, 2014 moved approval Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin; second Ms. Perkins (5-0)

FY 2015 School Budget

Mr. Vieira introduced the School Committee and staff. Explained the proposed budget and the school committee's opinion on fees. Ms. Bosco explained the documentation presented to the Committee, enrollment makeup and special education program costs. Ms. Bosco also explained mandates for English Language Learners and suspension.

Ms. Hamel explained the budget numbers and amount available to the schools. The budget requests were \$900,000 more than the available funds. Administrative team reviewed the requests and presented a budget that was balanced.

Mr. Vieira explained that seven (7) current positions were eliminated to meet budget resources. All contract mandated professional development is included in the budget, non-contractual professional development was eliminated. Documentation explaining budget offsets was reviewed.

Finance committee asked questions of the School Committee and staff. Discussion of FTE and English language learners took place. Fee structure and priority list for positions that will be reinstated if fees are implemented were reviewed. Psychological services in the schools were explained. Questions about the cost of transportation contract and the explanation given, cost reduction by contracting the transportation was estimated at \$100,000 in FY 2015, \$200,000 in FY 2016 and \$300,000 in FY 2017.

Ms. Bosco explained the special education population increases.

Mr. Cadime reviewed budgeted growth and state aid in years 2001-2015. Mr. Cadime asked about the percentage of positions funded, Ms. Hamel reports that positions for known replacement are budgets at MA-3. Grant personnel are charged directly to the appropriate grants. Mr. Cadime asked about "Circuit Breaker" funding and prepaid tuition, reported to be \$291,000 in FY 2015.

Mr. Vieira detailed the positions to be eliminated, unemployment costs were discussed. Class size questions were asked and addressed by Ms. Bosco.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 @ 6:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved adjournment Mr. Francis, second Ms. Perkins (5-0) 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk