

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2016
Seekonk Town Hall

PRESENT: Robert Richardson, Chairperson
David Francis, Vice Chairperson
Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin
Karen Perkins
Justin Sullivan
David Saad
Ben Furman

Town Administrator Shawn Cadime
Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
Police Chief Craig Mace
Fire Chief Michael Healy
Communications Director Christopher Campbell

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

Mr. Richardson welcomed Mr. Benjamin Furman as a new member for the Finance Committee, term expiring 2017.

Minutes

Committee reviewed meeting minutes of January 19, 2016.

Moved approval of minutes of January 19, 2016 as corrected, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Francis (6-0-1, Furman)

FY 2017 Budget – Public Safety

Mr. Cadime prefaced the department presentations by stating that this is a preliminary budget presentation.

Mr. Campbell reviewed the Communications Department budget and initiatives, detailing staffing. Mr. Cadime and Mr. Alexander explained how “comp-time” was recorded and budgeted in the past. Mr. Campbell explained increases in expenses, the bulk of the increase is for licensing fees for the School/Town CCTV system, which was previously budgeted and paid for in a variety of departments. Mr. Campbell explained the 911 grant program. Committee inquired about the radio system study, Mr. Campbell explained the status.

Chief Healy reviewed the Fire Department budget, detailing personnel staffing and objectives. The request includes one new position for a Fire Prevention Officer. Expenses were explained, the hand held radios are a concern of the Chief. Increases in the various lines was explained, including “air cards” to allow communication to hospitals. The education reimbursement line needs to reflect the current enrollments and union contract requirements. Equipment needs include a thermal imaging camera, exhaust fans, and nozzles. Ms. Perkins asked if the Town could bond and make a bulk purchase, Mr. Cadime listed several options to purchasing equipment. Chief explained the revenue generated by the Fire Department, and the projected increase in revenue to support his budget request. Committee asked questions about education requirements and residential sprinklers.

Chief Mace transitioned into explaining the Police Department budget, and explaining staffing structure the status of filling vacancies. The request includes one new position for a patrol officer. Mr. Cadime commented on the filling of vacancies, the procedures, and lateral transfers. The willingness of officers to come to Seekonk was discussed. Chief intends to apply for a grant to add a patrol canine to the department. Stated that this budget reflects the true cost to operate the department. Expense increase includes an incremental \$6,000 to outfit new vehicles. The vehicles currently available from manufacturers require a different configuration of equipment, not allowing equipment installed on older cars to be transferred and installed. The Chief continued by explaining revenue generated by the Police Department. After questions from the Committee, the Chief explained some of the line increases and the reason behind them.

Mr. Alexander asked for a plan for the February 16, 2016 meeting. Committee decided DPW, Library, and smaller departments in Town Hall would be reviewed.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 8, 2016, 6:00 PM @ Seekonk High School, (Tri Board Meeting)

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 6:30 PM @ Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved adjourn, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Saad (7-0) 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk