

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2023

Board of Selectman Room, Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck St

PRESENT: Matthew Salisbury, Chairperson
Michael Brady, Vice Chairperson
Michael Bradley
Normand Duquette
Phillip Yan
Joanna L'Heureux

Director of Finance: Jennifer Argo
School Superintendent: Dr. Rich Drolet
School Business Administrator: Jill Brillhante
Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds: Jim Roy

Mr. Salisbury called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Discussion w/ School Dept

- Mr. Salisbury opened up discussion with the School department on their FY24 budget. Dr. Drolet stated they are still building the FY24 budget. Should be completed by end of February to early March. Still waiting for the State to release their State aid allocations which they are expecting to hear around March 6th. Some factors that will result in an increase in the FY24 budget: contractual increases, SPED program to increase 10 – 15% due to inflation & staff retention, adding a bus for transportation, and new positions mostly in SPED for lower elementary.
- Dr. Drolet presented the status of a feasibility study on the conditions of the schools. Should be completed mid-late February when School Admin along with Colliers can come back to present the findings. Discussion on MSBA reimbursements between the Finance Committee & School Admin. School Admin explained MSBA is currently only taking applications for new school construction. MSBA is not accepting any applications for accelerated repairs this year.
- Dr. Drolet presented the School dept's Capital Improvement List from top priority to least. Discussion on various items on the list between the Finance Committee and School Admin. Once the feasibility study is completed the School Admin will cross check it with their list & update accordingly.

FY2024 Budget Process Discussion

Mr. Salisbury opened discussion on meeting with the bigger departments to discuss their FY24 budget presentations. The smaller department can be presented by Jennifer Argo or have the department heads come in to answer any questions. Decision was made on inviting the Library, DPW, and Human Services to February's meeting. Followed by Public Safety, School, and Shawn's FY24 budget presentation on future meetings before Town Meeting.

Liaison Appointments

Mr. Salisbury suggested assigning liaisons to the DPW, Public Safety, Town Hall, Library, Human Services, and School departments. The liaison will be a point of contact for these departments to the Finance Committee for discussions in budget, departmental needs, etc. The following was assigned:

- DPW – Michael Brady
- Public Safety – Michael Bradley

- Town Hall – Joanna L’Heureux
- Library – Normand Duquette
- Human Services & Animal Shelter – Phillip Yan
- School – Matthew Salisbury

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of November 14, 2022.

Motion to approve minutes Mr. Brady, second Mr. Bradley (5-0-1, L’Heureux abstain)

Future Meetings

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 Seekonk Town Hall @ 7:00.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Bradley, second Mr. Brady (5-0) at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Yan, Clerk