

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
March 21, 2023

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck St

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

Director of Finance: Jennifer Argo
School Business Administrator: Jill Brilhante
School Committee Chairperson: Erin Brouillette
School Committee Member: Meaghan Mahoney
Director of Student Services: George Kelleher

Mr. Salisbury called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Review FY24 budget w/ School Department

- Ms. Brouillette started by saying the School Committee didn't vote on the FY24 budget at their meeting the night before. The School department is meeting with the Town Administrator on Thursday (23rd) to discuss how to close budget gap.
- Ms. Brouillette & Ms. Brilhante handed out a presentation handout & went through each page. Same presentation that was presented to the School Department and Board of Selectmen in prior meetings. Discussions were made but the highlighted points are:
 - o FY24 Budget Assumptions – discussed the foundation budget of \$25,865,535 for FY24, increase in State Aid Chapter 70, increases in energy, transportation, special education, and technology costs
 - Transportation is due to a 4% contractual increase & adding an extra route for middle school
 - Special education is due to a state-wide 10% increase on the Collaborative tuitions and 14% increase on out-of-district tuition (9% of it is for employee retention)
 - o Discussion between Michael Brady & school representatives on flowing the cost increase to the collaborative program by increasing their rent. School department will be renegotiating the lease & will take that into consideration
 - o Preliminary budget proposal – Total budget \$36,355,816 less Revenue offsets of \$4,244,856 equals \$32,110,960 for the net FY24 budget
 - o Mr. Kelleher presented the positions that will be reallocated along with new positions to be added in FY24
- Mr. Yan asked a follow up question on the feasibility study of the conditions of the school buildings. The school department is looking at a new vendor & will keep in touch with the progression.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of February 28, 2023.

Motion to approve minutes Mr. Brady, second Ms. L'Heureux (5-0-1, Duquette absent)

Future Meetings

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 Seekonk Town Hall @ 7:00.

Monday, April 3, 2023 Seekonk Town Hall @ 7:00.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Bradley, second Mr. Yan (5-0-1, Duquette absent) at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Yan, Clerk