

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
March 29, 2023

Planning Meeting Room, Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck St

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

Director of Finance: Jennifer Argo
Police Chief: David Enos
Chief's Administrative Assistant: Elaijah St. Germain
Fire Chief: Sandra Lowery
Communications Director: Donna Wunschel

Mr. Salisbury called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Review FY24 budget w/ Public Safety

- Fire Chief Lowery presented her budget in detail line by line.
 - o Mr. Duquette had a question on staffing. Currently the staffing is at 40 (36 firefighters & 4 staff). The FY24 budget includes 5 mid-year hires to bring to 45 (40 firefighters & 5 staff). Discussion between the Fire Chief & Finance Committee regarding staffing and duties. No further questions on the salary budget.
 - o Chief Lowery discussed increases in turnout gear, contracted services, fuel, and adding a new line item for Open House event. Discussion on the expenses regarding the conditions and shelf life of turnout gear. No further questions on the expense budget.
- Police Chief Enos presented his budget in detail line by line.
 - o The budget includes hiring 2 officers to bring staffing from 40 to 42. One SRO was to be added (paid by the School Department). The school department withdrew. Discussion on staffing of SROs which led to Mr. Duquette recommending adding funding for (4) SROs at \$80,000 each as an earmark to allow the Chief to hire in the future. Discussion on whether the Chief would be able to fill in those positions. Mr. Brady suggested adding the (1) SRO that was to be covered by the School department of \$70,000 into the Police Salary budget. Discussion on to bring this up at the next meeting with the Town Administrator. No further questions on the salary budget.
 - o Chief Enos discussed the increases in entrance exams, fuel, medical supplies, armory, vehicle leasing, and adding a new line for events such as National Night Out. Discussion on types of vehicles and the cost increase. Also discussion on the armory. No further questions on the expense budget.
- Ms. Wunschel presented her budget line by line.
 - o Discussion on her staffing, the training process, and the length of time to train. The department is down 2 dispatchers from 8. No further questions.
 - o Ms. Wunschel discussed the increase in the radio maintenance and the reduction of the 'Fire Alarm' expense line to the 'Radio Maintenance' expense line. No further questions on the expense budget.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of March 21, 2023.

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

Future Meetings

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

Motion to adjourn Mr. Yan, second Mr. Brady (6-0) at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Yan, Clerk