

TOWN OF SEEKONK

Meeting Minutes



MAY 9, 2022

SPRING TOWN MEETING



Town Moderator
Peter Hoogerzeil

Board of Selectmen
Justin Sullivan, Chairman
Christopher Zorra, Vice Chairman
Adam Petronio, Clerk
David Andrade
Michael P. Healy

Town Administrator
Shawn E. Cadime

Town Clerk
Florice Craig

Finance Committee
Matthew Salisbury, Chairperson
Derick Medeiros, Clerk
Nelson Almeida
Michael Bradley
Michael Brady
Normand Duquette
Phillip Yan

TOWN OF SEEKONK – Spring Town Meeting

Bristol, SS

5/9/2022

Town Clerk opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance:

Town Clerk read the greeting: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby requested to notify the inhabitants of the Town who are qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at Seekonk High School, 261 Arcade Avenue, Seekonk, Massachusetts on:

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 P. M.

To vote on the following Articles. The Meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk at 7:08PM with a quorum of over 75 registered voters and the meeting was turned over to the Town Moderator, who presided over the meeting.

Town Moderator went on to describe the new electronic voting system and presented a Power Point presentation with test question for the audience. This was done to remind everyone how to use the new voting system this is the second time the Town has used the electronic voting system.

The Town Moderator made a motion to allow the following no-residents to speak at the meeting:

Shawn Cadime, Town Administrator; Carol-Ann Days, Asst. Town Administrator & Human Resource Director; Bruce Alexander, Director of Finance; Jennifer Argo, Director of Finance, Christine Defontes, Treasure/Collector; Kate Hibbert, Library Director; John Aubin, III Town Planner; Dr. Richard Drolet, School Superintendent; Jill Brilhante, School Dept. Finance Administrator; Counsel, KP LAW; James LaFlame, Veterans Agent; Jennifer Miller, Conservation Agent; Rob Bernardo, Water Superintendent; Brian Darling, Health Agent, Police Chief, Dean Isabella; Fire Chief, Sandra Lowery; Communication's Director, Donna Wunschel, Asst. Director of Dept. of Public Works, Scott Olobri; Animal Control Officer, Andrea Russo;

Action on the motion: Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Town Moderator made a motion to allow the Town Moderator to proceed with all articles, even those that affect him/her personally.

Action on the motion: Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Town Moderator made a motion to allow the Town Moderator to declare a 2/3 vote on articles requiring that vote.

Action on the motion: Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 1

To receive the reports of Town Officers, or Committees, if any, and to act thereon, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion 1: A Motion was made that the Town vote to receive the reports of Town Officers, or Committees, and to place them on file with the Town Clerk

Action on the motion: Motion passed

Stephen E. Prew, Chairman of the Seekonk Connolly Field Turf and Renovation Building Committee gave a report and a slide presentation on the progress of the renovations.

ARTICLE 2

To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds or borrow for Operating Expenses and the Sanitation Fund of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator went through the budget presentation to Town Meeting body.

The Town Moderator went through the line items asking Town meeting body if they had questions or comments.

A motion was made on Town Meeting floor that the Town Meeting amend the Fiscal 2023 Budget line D Education amount for \$32,293,636 to include the establishing of a Reserve Fund specifically for School use whereby regulations follow in conjunction with the current Reserve Fund used by the Town and to be funded with \$1,000,000.00 from the budget request. Action on the motion: Motion failed

Motion 1 A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$65,231,167 to defray charges and expenses of the Town for Fiscal year 2023 for the purposes and amounts set forth in Budget Schedules A and J in column titled Board of Selectmen Budget 2023:

The sum of \$50,477,790 to be raised by taxation within the levy limit under proposition 2 ½;

The sum of \$450,000 to be transferred from the Overlay Surplus

The sum of \$1,018,036 to be transferred from Ambulance Fees;

The sum of \$57,961 to be transferred from the Sanitation Enterprise Fund;

The sum of \$300,000 to be transferred from Dedicated Receipts

The sum of \$9,417 to be transferred from Septic Payback

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 2 Cont:

To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds or borrow for Operating Expenses and the Sanitation Fund of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 2 A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,348,744 to defray charges and expenses of operating the Sanitation Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal Year 2023 for the purpose and amount set forth in Schedule K in the column titled Board of Selectmen Recommended Budget 2023;

The sum of \$1,348,744 to be provided from revenues of the Sanitation Enterprise Fund.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation for the following elected and appointed officials of the Town as provided by GL c 41, s108 for their services for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 as follows, provided that any part-time elected official may waive receipt of compensation, or take any other action relative thereto:

Board of Selectmen, Chairperson	\$2,400
Board of Selectmen, Member	\$2,100
School Committee, Chairman	\$1,400
School Committee, Member	\$1,000
Board of Assessor, Chairperson	\$3,139
Board of Assessor, Member	\$2,789
Planning Board Chairperson	\$2,100
Planning Board Member	\$1,900
Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairperson	\$531
Zoning Board of Appeals, Member	\$374
Town Clerk	\$80,000
Board of Registrars, Member	\$837.93

Motion 3: A motion was made that the Town vote to fix the salary and compensation for the elected and appointed officials of the Town set forth in the warrant under Article 3, as provided by G.L. c. 41, s. 108 for their services for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, provided that any part-time elected official may waive receipt of compensation.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to pay bills of a prior fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto:

K-P Law, April 26, 2021	\$12,464.00 (March 2021 Legal Services)
K-P Law, June 11, 2021	\$13,201.79 (May 2021 Legal Services)

Motion 4: A motion was made that Town appropriate \$25,665.79 from Free Cash to pay the FY21 invoices set forth in the warrant.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 from the Dog License Receipts Reserved account #23063000 to Dog License Receipts Appropriated account #23064000, to be expended by the Animal Control Department as provided by Town By-law, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 5: A motion was made that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 from the Dog License Receipts Reserved account #23063000 to Dog License Receipts Appropriated account #23064000, to be expended by the Animal Control Department as provided by Town By-law.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$85,506.96 from the Ambulance Receipts account for the lease payment for the fourth year of a four (4) year lease purchase of an ambulance/EMS vehicle for the fire department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 6: A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$85,506.96 from the Ambulance Receipts account for the lease payment for the fourth year of a four (4) year lease purchase of an ambulance/EMS vehicle for the fire department.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from free cash or available funds in the treasury, or transfer from designated funds that have been reserved for appropriation the following sums to be expended for departmental equipment and all incidental and related expenses, including new or continuing leases for such equipment, and further to authorize appropriate Town officials to enter into contracts for more than three years for such purposes, as applicable, or take any other action relative thereto:

A. From the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund the following sums to be expended as follows:

1. Year Seven (7) of seven (7) year lease/purchase of a Fire Engine to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$80,713.47

Finance Committee:

2. Year Five (5) of a seven (7) year lease/purchase for a Fire Engine to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$87,745.10

Finance Committee:

3. Year One (1) of a three (3) year lease purchase of an aerial bucket truck for use by the Public Works Department to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$70,000.00

Finance Committee:

4. Purchase and equipping of two (2) Sidewalk Compact Loaders for use by the Public Works Department, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$180,000.00

Finance Committee:

5. Purchase and equipping of one (1) Toro Core Aerator 648, or similar piece of equipment, for use by the Recreation/Public Works Department, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$29,000.00

Finance Committee:

6. Purchase and equipping of one (1) ABI Force Infield Machine, or similar piece of equipment for use by the Recreation/Public Works Department, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$38,000.00

Finance Committee:

7. Purchase and equipping of two (2) Unmarked Police Vehicles for use by the Police Department, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$100,000.00

Finance Committee:

8. Purchase and install computer server and firewall systems that serve the Public Safety Complex, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$85,000.00

Finance Committee:

9. Initiate a multiyear Personal Protective Gear Replacement Program for the Fire Department, plan would spread costs over a cycle of years replacing firefighter turn-out gear and related equipment, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen

\$45,000.00

Finance Committee:

10. Year Two (2) of a SCBA Replacement Program for the Fire Department, plan would spread costs over a cycle of years replacing 5 packs and 4 additional bottles, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

\$43,000.00

Finance Committee:

11. Purchase and install wireless clocks and paging system in all school buildings to replace the present systems that are unable to be repaired because of age, to be expended under the direction of the School Committee

\$195,000.00

Finance Committee:

Motion 7: A motion was made that the Town vote to transfer \$303,458.00 from the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund and transfer and appropriate \$650,000 from Free Cash as set forth in the warrant under Article 7 for the purposes and in the amounts specified, including all incidental and related expenses, to authorize appropriate Town officials to enter into lease purchase agreements or other contracts for more than three years for such purposes, and to take such other action as is needed to carry out this vote.

Action on the motion: Motion passed w 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town of Seekonk will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund, pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, § 6, a sum of money to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2023; and to reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation annual revenues or available funds in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for open space, historic resources and community housing purposes, as well as a sum of money to be placed in the Fiscal Year 2023 budgeted reserve for general Community Preservation Act purposes, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, as follows:

Appropriations:

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses	\$30,140
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Reserves:

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$60,280
From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserves	\$60,280
From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$60,280
From FY 2023 estimated revenues for the FY 2023 Budgeted Reserve	\$391,820

And further to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum or sums of money for Community Preservation Act projects or purposes as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee. Or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 8:

A motion was made that the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$30,140 for administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Act Committee for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and further to reserve for future appropriation the following sums recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, with each item to be considered a separate reservation

Historic Resources Reserve	\$60,280
Community Housing Reserve	\$60,280
Open Space Reserve	\$60,280
FY 2023 Budgeted Reserve	\$391,820

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of surplus property or material, exclusive of buildings and land, but including compost, no longer needed by the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 9: **A motion was made that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of surplus property or material, exclusive of buildings and land, but including compost, no longer needed by the Town.**

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the FY 2022 Town Meeting Operating Budget Line Item #68 (Snow and Ice Payroll) and to the FY 2022 Town Meeting Operating Budget Line Item #69 (Snow & Ice Expenses), or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 10: **A motion was made that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$10,362 from Free Cash to FY 2022 Town Meeting Line Item #68 (Snow & Ice Payroll), and \$165,823 from Free Cash to FY 2022 Town Meeting line #69 (Snow & Ice Expense).**

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to dissolve the following building committees that were established by Town Meeting to complete specific task that has since been completed:

Banna Station Building Committee
Police & Fire Building Committee

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 11: **A motion was made that the Town dissolve the Banna Station Building Committee and Police & Fire Building Committee and extend the thanks to those who served for their service.**

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Ambulance Receipts the sum of \$95,000.00 for the first year of a four (4) year lease/purchase for a EMS/Rescue vehicle for the Fire Department, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion 12: A motion was made that the Town vote to appropriate from Ambulance Receipts the sum of \$95,000.00 for the first year of a four-year lease purchase of an EMS/Rescue vehicle including all incidental and related expenses, to authorize appropriate Town officials to enter into lease purchase agreements or other contracts for more than three years for such purposes, and to take such other action as is needed to carry out this vote.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 13

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or School Committee negotiate with qualified vendors for a lease agreement to develop a photovoltaic electric power production facility at any and all town owned properties, under their respective control, at no cost to the taxpayers, in accordance with Massachusetts State Law, Chapter 25, Section 11C or Section 11I, and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources SMART Program, and take any other action as required thereto.

Motion 13: A motion was made that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or School Committee negotiate with qualified vendors for a lease agreement to develop a photovoltaic electric power production facility at any and all town owned properties, under their respective control, at no cost to the taxpayers, in accordance with Massachusetts State Law, Chapter 25, Section 11C or Section 11I, and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources SMART Program, and take any other action as required thereto.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town of Seekonk will vote to accept as a public way the layout identified and described as follows, Patriot Way as shown on a Plan of Land entitled "Lotting Plan, Brady Estates, Seekonk, Massachusetts 02771, Assessors Map 16, Lot 3" in Seekonk, Massachusetts, prepared by InSite Engineering, LLC Dates October 25, 2016 and recorded with Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 508, Page 25, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain any necessary easements or other interests in land within said way as so laid out for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Seekonk, therein in connection therewith, or take any other action relative thereto:

Motion 14: A motion was made that the Town vote to accept as a public way the layout of the way known as Patriot Way, all as described in the warrant for this Town Meeting, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain any interest in land within said way as so laid out for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Seekonk and to take any other action as may be needed to effectuate this vote.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Seekonk **General Bylaws, Category 27, Special Event Permit, Section 4**, by deleting the words “Board of Selectmen”, to correct an inadvertent reference, with the text to be deleted shown below in ~~bold-strikethrough~~, or take any other action relative thereto.

CATEGORY 27 – SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT

Section 4 — Notice to Abutting Owners

The ~~Board of Selectmen~~ applicant shall send special notice by certified mail to all owners of abutting property within two hundred (200) feet of the proposed site of the event and associated parking area(s) containing the time and place of the public hearing regarding said special event. The applicant shall bear the cost of the certified mail.

Motion 15: A motion was made that the Town amend Section 4 of Category 27 of the Town of Seekonk General Bylaws, entitled “Special Event Permit” to correct an inadvertent error, as set forth in the warrant.

Action on the motion: Passed

A Motion was made to dissolve the Town Meeting at 9:51P.M.

Action on the Motion: Motion passed