

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of October 13, 2021
Seekonk High School Library/Media Center
261 Arcade Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, David Andrade, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio, Michael Healy

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Sullivan opened the quad-board meeting at **6:00 p.m.** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

School Committee: Kim Sluter, Noah Escaler, Erin Brouillette (arrived late)

Finance. Committee: Matt Salisbury, Nelson Almeida, Derick Medeiros, Normand Duquette, Phillip Yan, Mike Bradley

Capital Improvement: Steve Rutter, Joanna L'Heureux, Rick Amaral, Matt Dygon

General Discussion and update of FY 22 budget

Town Administrator, Shawn Cadime, provided FY22 budget update for the first quarter. Presentations will be posted on the website. In summary:

- FY 21: Free cash certified on October 12, 2021; General Fund \$3,018,264; Enterprise Fund \$601,068;
- Assessor's Update: Average Residential Value FY21; \$370,130; Finalizing FY22 total valuation reports for DOR approval; Tax Recap to be submitted end of November;
- Treasurer's Update: General Bond and Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs): Aitken School Addition/AC/Window Repair Bonded for 20 years-\$11,665,000;
- Anticipated borrowing for the following projects: Senior Center Phase II, High School Turf Field, South End Fire Station, and DPW Building Project;
- FY22 Revenue Summary: Real Estate and Personal Property-above target; Motor vehicle excise-slightly below target; Meals and Hotel Tax-above target; Budget vs. Actual Expenditures were also discussed.

Jill Brilhante, School Business Administrator, presented the FY 22; Budget amount in \$30,087,416; Expenditures \$4,092,000 (28.4% of budget); Ms. Brilhante also summarized the "Esser 3" Grant; and four capital improvement requests that they will be forward to Department of Education for approval.

Superintendent, Rich Drolet, presented FY23 forecast (2022-2023 school year). In summary:

- Finalize elementary class size reduction;
- Staff new specialized 18–22-year-old Transitions program;
- Possibly addition of new STEM classes or innovative pathways;
- Capital improvement items; Martin Elementary School will continue to lease modular classrooms; and -
- "Esser" grants (COVID money).

Chairperson Sullivan asked if new hires hired under the “Esser” grant would only be paid through the end of the grant.

R. Drolet answered, as of now, any positions being paid through COVID grants would end when the grant ends.

S. Cadime summarized the FY23 budget timeline; building infrastructure projects-\$50M plus; anticipated building projects/outstanding debt-\$25,098,824; stabilization accounts; certified free cash; and revenue & department priorities.

N. Escaler asked the Board of Selectmen if they have a priority list of building projects that need to be completed.

Chairperson Sullivan said that is something the Board will need to discuss.

(Erin Brouillette was in attendance. Chairperson Kim Sluter called the School Committee to order)

Chair Sluter asked if a permanent building committee was considered to handle all the building projects.

S. Cadime said it was written into the By-laws in 2015-2016, but it included very specific language for qualifications and people did not come forward to volunteer. The language has since been removed.

Chair Sullivan asked if the Board of Selectmen were comfortable going up to the 2.5% levy for FY23.

A. Petronio agreed.

Finance Committee adjourned. Roll Call Vote 5-0

Capital Improvement Committee adjourned. Roll Call Vote 4-0

School Committee made a motion to recess their meeting until they enter into Executive Session Meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Roll Call Vote 3-0

S. Cadime provided 11 preliminary warrant articles to the BOS members.

Adjournment to Enter into Executive Session

A. Petronio made a motion to adjourn the open meeting at 7:10 p.m. to go into joint executive session with the School Committee; once joint executive meeting is adjourned, the BOS will stay in executive session; it was seconded by M. Healy, and unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0

E. Brouillette made a motion to reconvene into regular session, N. Escaler seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0

E. Brouillette made a motion to convene into joint executive session with the Board of Selectmen; it was seconded by N. Escaler, and unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the October 13, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Town Administrator's Presentation
- Preliminary Warrant