

TOWN OF SEEKONK

Meeting Minutes



MAY 8, 2023

SPRING TOWN MEETING



Town Moderator

Peter Hoogerzeil

Town Clerk

Florice Craig

Board of Selectmen

Michael P. Healy, Chairman
Christopher Zorra, Vice Chairman
Michelle Hines, Clerk
Justin Sullivan
Pamela Pozzi

Finance Committee

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

Town Administrator

Shawn E. Cadime

Director of Finance

Jennifer Argo

BRISTOL, SS.

5/8/2023

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 8, 2023 at 7:00 P. M.

To vote on the following Articles. The Meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk at 7:00PM 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 electronic voting system and presented a Power Point presentation with a test question for the audience. This was done to remind everyone how to use the new voting system.

A motion was made to allow the following non-residents to speak at the meeting:

Shawn Cadime, Town Administrator, Carol Ann Days, Assistant Town Administrator, Kate Hibbert, Library Director, Jennifer Argo, Director of Finance, Christine DeFontes, Treasurer/Collector, John Aubin III, Town Planner, Richard Drolet, School Superintendent, Jill Brilhante, School Dept. Finance Administrator, Jeffrey Blake, Town Counsel KP Law, James LaFlame, Veterans Agent, Brian Darling, Health Agent, David Enos, Chief of Police, Sandra Lowery, Fire Chief, Donna Wunschel, Communications Director, Andrea Russo, Animal Control Officer, Donald Cooper, Water Superintendent.

Action on the motion: Motion passed

A motion was made by the Town Moderator 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.

ARTICLE 1

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

It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to receive the reports, if any, of Town Officers or Committees and to place them on file with the Town Clerk.

Action on the motion: Motion passed. A committee report given by Dan Tavares for the South End Fire Station Project.

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, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, 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 Town Meeting amend the Fiscal 2024 line-item under Fin. Comm. Recommended Budget C - Public Safety - Line 39 from \$4,791,509 to 4,871,509. And amend the Fiscal 2024 line-item under Fin. Comm. Recommended Budget D-Education- Line 55 from \$31,785,453 to \$31,705,453.

Action on the motion: Motion failed (55Y, 147N)

Motion 1 A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$67,801,622 to defray charges and expenses of the Town for Fiscal year 2024 for the purposes and amounts set forth in Budget Schedules A through J in column titled Board of Selectmen Budget 2024:

The sum of \$51,901,613 to be raised by taxation within the levy limit under proposition 2 1/2;

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

The sum of \$1,300,000 to be transferred from Ambulance Fees;

The sum of \$52,162 to be transferred from the Sanitation Enterprise Fund;

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

Per Article 7, Section 6 of the Town Charter the vote will be on the Board of Selectmen Budget

Action on the Motion: Motion passed (168Y, 28N)

Motion 2 A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,393,123 to defray charges and expenses of operating the Sanitation Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 for the purpose and amount set forth in Schedule K in the column titled Board of Selectmen Recommended Budget 2024: The Sum of \$1,393,123 to be provided from revenues of the Sanitation Enterprise Fund.

Per Article 7, Section 6 of the Town Charter the vote will be on the Board of Selectmen Budget

Action on the motion: Motion passed (147Y,17N)

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, 2023 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 | \$81,600 |
| Board of Registrars, Member | \$837.93 |

A motion was made on Town Meeting floor that the Town amend the salary/compensation for the elected officials of the Board of Selectmen. To increase from Free Cash; Chairman of BOS \$12,000 and Members of BOS \$10,000 for their services for fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023.

Action on the Motion: (18Y, 173N) Motion failed

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, 2023, provided that any part-time elected official may waive receipt of compensation.

Action on the motion: Motion passed (142Y, 22N)

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to 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. The following sums to be expended as follows:

1. Year Six (6) of a seven (7) year lease/purchase of a Fire Engine, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen
\$87,745.10

Finance Committee: Recommend Approval

2. Year Two (2) of the three (3) year lease/purchase of one (1) heavy duty dump truck with plow for the Public Works Department, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen
\$102,535.49

Finance Committee: Recommend Approval

3. To furnish and install double acting doors in the Gear Room to prevent contamination and particulates from the exhaust of the Apparatus from falling on the fire gear, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen
\$13,950.00

Finance Committee: Recommend Approval

A motion was made that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate \$204,230.59 from Free Cash as set forth in the warrant under Article 4 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 (144Y, 14N)

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,217.66 from the Ambulance Receipts account for the purchase of two (2) LUCAS Machines, or equivalent machines, to assist with CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$55,217.66 from the Ambulance Receipts for the purchase of two (2) LUCAS Machines, or equivalent machines, for the Fire Department.

Action on the motion: Motion passed (159Y, 6N)

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Free Cash or available funds in the treasury, or transfer from designated funds that have been reserved for appropriation in the sum of \$100,000 to fund a feasibility study on the existing library building, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made on Town Meeting floor that the Town vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to fund a cost analysis study for the renovation and repair of the existing library building under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Action on the motion: Motion passed (102Y, 80N)

A motion was made that the Town vote on Article 6 as amended; to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to fund a cost analysis study for the renovation and repair on the existing library building under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Action on the motion: Motion passed as amended (116Y, 52N)

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town of Seekonk will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024; 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 2024 budgeted reserve for general Community Preservation Act purposes, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, as follows:

Appropriations:

| | |
|---|----------|
| From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses | \$34,687 |
|---|----------|

Reserves:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve | \$69,373 |
| From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve | \$69,373 |
| From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve | \$69,373 |
| From FY 2024 estimated revenues for the FY 2024 Budgeted Reserve | \$450,928 |

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.

A motion was made that the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2024 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$34,687 for administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Act Committee for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; 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 | \$69,373 |
| Community Housing Reserve | \$69,373 |
| Open Space Reserve | \$69,373 |
| FY 2024 Budgeted Reserve | \$450,928 |

Action on the motion: Motion passed (134Y, 21N)

ARTICLE 8

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.

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 (146Y, 9N)

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the FY 2023 Town Meeting Operating Budget Line Item #69 (Snow & Ice Expenses), or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$30,117.06 from Free Cash to FY 2023 Town Meeting Operating Budget Line Item #69 (Snow & Ice Expense).

Action on the motion: Motion passed (128Y, 13N)

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Medeiros Farm Committee consisting of seven members for the purpose of overseeing the Medeiros Farm project at Elm Street and Lincoln Street, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to include but not be limited to, planning and design, cost estimates and oversight of expenditures, with said committee to be composed of one member from each of the following:

- Community Preservation Committee
- Historic Commission
- Conservation Commission
- Parks & Recreation Committee
- Planning Board
- Board of Selectmen appointee
- Member of the Medeiros family

or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Medeiros Farm Committee consisting of seven members as printed in the warrant for the purpose of overseeing the Medeiros Farm project at Elm Street and Lincoln Street, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to include but not be limited to, planning and design, cost estimates and oversight of expenditures.

Action on the motion: Motion passed (135Y, 13N)

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Reserve for the Medeiros Farm Committee, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to seek, hire, and direct a consultant to develop a master plan for the Medeiros Farm project at Elm Street and Lincoln Street, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made that the Town appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Reserve for the Medeiros Farm Committee, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to seek, hire, and direct a consultant to develop a master plan for the Medeiros Farm project at Elm Street and Lincoln Street.

Action on the motion: Motion passed (139Y, 15N)

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from the Stabilization Fund or other available funds in the treasury, including funds reserved for appropriation, the sum of \$143,700.00 to

fund the cost elements of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement and the sum of \$93,400.00 to fund the cost elements of the second year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1931, for a term beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made that the Town appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$143,700.00 to fund the cost elements of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement and the sum of \$93,400.00 to fund the cost elements of the second year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1931, for a term beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

2/3 Vote Required

Action on the motion: Motion passed by a 2/3 vote (137Y, 18N)

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from the Stabilization Fund or other available funds in the treasury, including funds reserved for appropriation, the sum of \$xxx to fund the cost elements of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement and the sum of \$xxx to fund the cost elements of the second year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Union, for a term beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, or take any other action relative thereto

A motion was made that the Town appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$5,000 to fund the cost elements of the first year of a collective bargaining agreement and the sum of \$24,000 to fund the cost elements of the second year of a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Union, for a term beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

2/3 Vote Required

Action on the motion: Motion passed by a 2/3 vote (139Y, 11N)

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to acquire, by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, six (6) parcels of land in Seekonk, located at 34 Hammond Street (Map 10, Lot 305); 0 Hammond Street (Map 10, Lot 306); 291 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 307); 297 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 308); 303 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 309) and 0 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 310), containing 6.46 acres, more or less, with any improvements thereon; and to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund the amount of \$560,000 for the purchase of said property; and to authorize the

Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions to carry out the purposes of this article, including the execution of any and all documents related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

A Motion was made on Town Meeting floor to indefinitely postpone article 14.

A motion was made to indefinitely postpone the Town vote to acquire, by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, six (6) parcels of land in Seekonk, located at 34 Hammond Street (Map 10, Lot 305); 0 Hammond Street (Map 10, Lot 306); 291 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 307); 297 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 308); 303 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 309) and 0 Chestnut Street (Map 10, Lot 310), containing 6.46 acres, more or less, with any improvements thereon; and to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund the amount of \$560,000 for the purchase of said property; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions to carry out the purposes of this article, including the execution of any and all documents related thereto.

Action on the motion: Motion passed (85Y,62N)

A motion was made to dissolve the Town Meeting at 10:43PM

Action on the motion: Motion passed