

Seekonk Town Charter Committee
Friday July 14, 2017
Selectmen's meeting room
Town Hall, 100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA

1:11pm Called to order by Bob Richardson

Present: David Saad, David Sullivan, John Alves, Bob Richardson, Beth Eklund,
Joyce Leven

Absent: Kyle Laprade

New Business

Bob Blanchard has resigned.

Approval of minutes: will review and approve 6/9 and 6/23 meetings at our next meeting on
7/28

Page 14 Chapters 7 to end

Page 15, Section 2- Finance committee- discussion

No already elected or appointed is allowed to serve, even as ad hoc.- any committee that deals in finances or spending (ie., building committee, human services counsel) or allocates money is not allowed to serve. **Discussion:** Add a person from the finance committee who is not a voting member. Ad hoc committees including, for example, someone from the finance committee, can be part of said committee but recuse themselves from an actual vote. Having liaisons would be a benefit. Purpose: Neutrality, no conflict of interest.

Possible problems with dual roles on committees- different funds are involved; must be recommended at town meeting finance committee in the past has said they will follow the recommendation;

Finance committee shall issue its recommendations (last sentence) - tighten to put a time limit- 14 days to the end of town meeting. Need to know why, with explanation. Should a book be sent to everyone? Do what needs to be done to get people informed.

Section 3- Preparation of the budget

BOS and SC shall meet and confer prior to the town meeting- time frame? Timelines

Section 4- Budget proposal

- What do they mean by "form"? Define and describe.

- More power to the finance committee
- Budget items should be broken down line by line
- Should forms be standardized for all committees?
- Two finance directors need to determine a format.
- Bring DOR in for recommendations and improvements.

David Sullivan- make a motion David Saad- second

Chairman move to make a recommendation that the town administrator bring in DOR to evaluate town and schools financial operations to investigate cost savings and make other recommendations to the town.

David Sullivan- amend David Saad- so moved All in favor 6-0

Amend to include Superintendent of Schools, School Committee, Town Administrator, and BOS.

Section 4B

- Residents have been asking for the balance in each account. Should be written and given to people. Hand it out prior to meeting; attach to warrant.

(Add question to legal letter to Shawn about finance committee sitting in on negotiations.)

Section 5- Submission of Budget

- TA must submit proposed budget
- Enforce this section. Change the word "shall"
- Make it a goal for the TA
- 120 days?
- Budget message - have finance committee produce a booklet with their recommendations and terms
- Have the budget sent to each home
- G- Finance committee requires...expand on this. Leave the sentence as is with "including"

Section 6- Action on the Proposed Budget

- Should be formatted to show 3 years past actuals, etc ; universal with town and school
- Do we have everyone present their budget in the same place?
- School Committee should have their continued public meeting but present the budget in public at Town Hall
- Joint meeting on the proposed fiscal year budget at the Seekonk High School Auditorium for public hearing on both Town and School
- Update this section to reflect what is in the best interest of the town

- BOS to present budget? Town administrator? Finance Committee?

Section 7- page 16

- CIC? What's missing? If we eliminate CIC, it falls on BOS and TA.
- The CIC presents to BOS and the BOS presents it to the TA.
- Remove the power from TA?
- Meet with CIC to provide an understanding of their relationship with TA and what can we do with the Charter to improve relations.
- Bring Shawn in as well.

Articles 8 and 9 to be finished at next meeting.

Adjourned at 2:52