

MINUTES OF:
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2013

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Michael Brady
Edith Kerkorian
Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin
David Francis
Karen Perkins
Robert Blanchard

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
Town Moderator Michelle Hines
Banna Building Committee, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Champigny, Mr.
Ransom
Board of Selectmen, Mr. Almedia, Mr. Parker, Mr. Sagar, Mr.
McLintock
Town Administrator Pamela Nolan

Mr. Brady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Banna Fire Station Building Committee

Mr. Brady welcomed Mr. Warren Carpenter and Mr. Norman Champigny. Mr. Carpenter explained the timeline for the Banna Building Project. Mr. Champigny described the obstacles and challenges that the committee encountered. Mr. Carpenter explained the need to go to the voters to increase the bond authorization for the Banna Fire Station at Special Town Meeting February 25th, and asked for the support of the Finance Committee. Discussion followed. No action taken at this meeting.

Relocation of Human Services/Senior Center

Ms. Nolan and Mr. Sagar addressed the committee on the need to move the senior center. The Board of Selectmen decided it was time to move the senior center out of Pleasant Street. Specifics of the move to the Knights of Columbus building were described. Zoning approval will be needed. Request funding through a Reserve Fund Transfer. Ms. Perkins asked what the need for immediate action was. Ms. Kerkorian questioned the immediate need. Heated discussion followed. Mr., Sagar stressed that this was a temporary measure. Mr. Brady asked what has changed in the least several months that make this an unexpected expense. Ms. Nolan responded that the cause was the liability at the present location. Mr. Francis asked if the insurance company had inspected and deemed the building a liability. Mr. Brady asked if there were any fire or building code violations. Mr. Brady explained what the criteria are for a reserve fund transfer. Mr. McIntock explained the status of the Senior Center Building Committee and why the RFT was requested. Discussion continued. Mr. Parker stated that the building official's opinion is that the Pleasant Street location is unsafe for senior citizens. Issues include capacity and electrical issues. Mr. Blanchard questioned why the building is not shut down; Ms. Nolan responded that if a complaint is received that the building could well be

shut down. Question about the whole building or just the human services offices. Ms. Perkins asked if other buildings were available. Mr. Sagar responded.

Discussion on the timeline for the move took place. Mr. Blanchard expressed opinion why it took so long for this to be an issue, since situation has been known since early 1990's. Ms. Perkins expressed concern with the Knights of Columbus proposal. Mr. Sagar responded that all other locations had parking and handicap issues. Discussion continued.

Committee deferred action to the next meeting.

FY 2013 Status

Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin asked about FY 2013 Status. Mr. Alexander reviewed the current expenditures and revenue. No problems with revenue at this time, Veterans Benefits are a concern at this time. Mr. Brady asked about FY 2013 State Aid given news articles. Mr. Alexander explained that the total local aid reduction proposed by the Governor is \$9,000,000 over 351 cities and towns; if reduction is proportional the reduction to Seekonk would be minimal. Mr. Brady commented that the reductions are not always proportional. Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin asked about FY 2014. Mr. Alexander informed committee that the Governor's budget is not released yet. New Growth was discussed.

Special Town Meeting – February 25, 2013

Proposed articles for the Special Town Meeting were discussed, no action was taken.

Minutes

Committee reviewed the minutes of November 5, 2012
Moved approval Ms. Perkins, second Ms. Krekorian (6-0)

Committee reviewed the minutes of October 16, 2012
Moved approval Ms. Krekorian, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (6-0)

Future Meetings

February 5, 2013 7:00 PM @ Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved adjourn at 8:37 p.m., Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Blanchard (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

David Francis, Clerk