

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
June 8, 2015

PRESENT: Robert Richardson, Chairperson
David Francis, Vice Chairperson
Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin
David Saad
Karen Perkins

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
Town Administrator Shawn Cadime
School Committee Chairperson Raymond Grant
Selectman David Andrade

Mr. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

FY 2016 Budget

Mr. Cadime explained the proposed budget revenue number had an error, the debt exclusion was entered in two lines. Overlay surplus was added to the revenue estimate and other accounts were analyzed. Motor Vehicle Excise was adjusted to reflect actuals received. Meals tax and Hotel tax were also increased to reflect actuals. Free Cash as a result of FY 2016 operations will be less than the last several years. Three year budget projections were introduced. Chapter 70 aid was reviewed. Expense projections and assumptions were explained. Committee asked questions and explanations were given. Regarding FY 2016, Mr. Cadime explained that all employees in Town hall would be working 35 hours per week, the hours town hall is open will not change. Mr. Grant stated that the School Committee has no intention to go to town meeting in the fall to seek funding for contract settlements.

Mr. Francis asked about the free cash requests for textbooks, Mr. Cadime provided explanation. Mr. Grant explained that the textbook purchases are for new or reinstated programs. Mr. Grant also explained the reduction in new positions to 17 from the original request of 22. Language courses to be added was discussed, Mr. Grant stated that there is no final decision yet. There were questions about the technology requests from free cash. Mr. Saad asked question about the cost of teacher "steps" in the budget.

The committee commenced the final review and took actions on Article 2, the FY 2016 Budget

Segment A – General Government	Moved recommend approval, Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin, second Mr. Francis (5-0)
Segment B – Legal Services	Moved recommend approval, Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin, second Mr. Saad (4-1)
Segment C – Public Safety	Moved recommend approval, Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin, second Mr. Saad (5-0)
Segment D – Education	Moved recommend approval, Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin, Second Mr. Saad (5-0)
Segment E – Highways & Roads	Moved recommend approval, Mr. Saad, second Mr. Francis (5-0)
Segment F – Other Environmental	Moved recommend approval, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Francis (5-0)
Segment G – Human Services	Moved recommend approval, Mr. Saad, second Ms. Perkins (4-1)
Segment H - Culture & Recreation	Moved recommend approval, Mr. Saad, second Mr. Francis (2-3) Failed

Discussion about the Recreation Payroll line took place, Mr. Cadime and Mr. Andrade explained the changing of the position of recreation director from part time to full time. Committee expressed concern that there needs further study as to the need, the added services that will take place, and if this is the most cost effective solution.

Moved that \$8,733 be reduced from Culture & Recreation and added to Debt Service as a transfer to the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund, Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin, second Mr. Richardson (3-2)

Moved recommend approval as amended, Mr. Saad, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (3-2)

Segment I – Debt Service Moved recommend approval as amended, Mr. Saad, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (5-0)

Segment J – Fixed Costs Moved recommend approval, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Saad (5-0)

Segment K – Sanitation Enterprise Moved recommend approval, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Saad (5-0)

Moved recommend approval of the FY 2016 Budget as amended by the Finance Committee, Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin, second Mr. Francis (5-0)

The committee members spoke on their concerns on the proposed appropriations from free cash as part of Article 6 (B). Mr. Richardson spoke on the need to work together, but need to evaluate the revenue allocation in the future. Mr. Cadime spoke of his conversations with the school superintendent and the school committee chairperson on the fact that these proposed expenditures were for one-time items. The committee expressed concern that these are one time appropriations setting a precedent that will come back in the future.

Article 6 (B) Moved recommend approval, Mr. Saad, second Mr. Richardson (3-2)

Next Meeting

Town Meeting, June 15, 2015 @ 7:00 PM, Seekonk High School

Moved recess to Tri-Board Meeting, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Saad (5-0) 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk