

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 2015
Seekonk Town Hall

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

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
School Committee Chairperson Raymond Grant
Town Moderator Michelle Hines

Mr. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Town Moderator

Town Moderator Michelle Hines spoke to the Finance Committee on responsibilities and actions as individuals and as a member of the Finance Committee. Spoke to committee strongly about voicing opinions out in the community. As a community leader when you speak outside it is perceived that you are speaking as a Finance Committee member. Info received outside should be brought back to the Finance Committee as a whole. Filled the committee in about the status of appointments to the Finance Committee. Ms. Hines spoke about duties and obligations as a Finance Committee member and as a Town Moderator appointment. Ms. Perkins asked if the committee member that was named in the complaint received by the Town Moderator had been spoken to, Ms. Hines responded that they had not. Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin voiced opinion that the alleged offending individual as well as the chairperson should be spoken to individually.

School Department

School Committee Chairperson Raymond Grant was asked by the committee to explain the new fees that were enacted by the School Committee. Transportation fee is projected to raise between \$55,000 and \$57,000. Implementation of the transportation fee was explained. The timing of the new fees was questioned. Mr. Grant explained the School Committee began discussing the new fees on June 1st and at that time it was tabled for more information. Fees came to the attention of the School Committee after May meeting with the Finance Committee. Discussion of the timing of adding fees right after the town approved a significant increase in the school budget took place. Mr. Grant also spoke about changes in School Committee operations since he was elected in April. Athletic fees were explained by Mr. Grant.

Ms. Hines spoke of the history of fees in Seekonk, and relayed some of the feedback she is getting in Town.

Committee asked questions of Mr. Grant and Ms. Hines. Mr. Saad and Ms. Hines had a heated discussion about interactions with the community.

Discussion continued with Mr. Grant addressing special education services in Seekonk, and stressed that Seekonk does not offer services not mandated by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Reserve Fund Advisory/Reserve Fund Transfer/Year End Transfers

Mr. Alexander explained a Reserve Fund Transfer submitted by the Town Clerk. Advisory was submitted in February after the death of the Assistant Town Clerk.

Moved approval of the reserve fund transfer as presented, Ms. Perkins, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (4-0)

Mr. Alexander reviewed the proposed Year End Transfers allowed under MGL Chapter 44, Section 33B. The proposed transfers total \$63,273.11 and the source accounts were detailed.

Moved approval of Year End Transfers as presented Ms. Perkins, second Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin (4-0)

Next Meeting

September 15, 2015, 6:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved adjourn, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Saad (4-0) 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk