

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
August 4, 2015
Seekonk Town Hall

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

Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander

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

Meeting of July 14, 2015

Mr. Richardson began the discussion on the remarks made by the Town Moderator at the July 14, 2015 meeting of the Finance Committee.

Ms. Perkins expressed her opinion, prefaced by her history on the Finance Committee. Ms. Perkins continued to express her opinion on the accusations presented by the Town Moderator. If the Finance Committee is in violation of any rules or regulations, we should be contacted directly, or through the chairperson, not wait for a public meeting.

Mr. Saad explained the circumstances the Town Moderator confronted the Finance Committee about at the July 14th meeting. Mr. Saad stated that there was no open meeting violations as it was a conversation between three residents.

Ms. Perkins stated that since she was accused of wrong doing on television, she should be apologized to on television.

Mr. Saad proposed the Finance Committee return to the liaison method, where Finance Committee members are assigned to various departments as their focus.

Mr. Richardson redirected conversation. Mr. Francis, who was not present on July 14th stated that the Town Moderator did not have any right to chastise the Finance Committee. A reasonable business person would interact with the named individual in private before going public.

Ms. Gagnon-Elderkin does not disagree with the message of the Town Moderator that the finance committee should work as a professional group, however the presentation was inappropriate. Should have been an email to the Finance Committee reminding them of their role in Town and addressing specific issues with the chairperson and alleged offending individual.

Mr. Francis suggested the Finance Committee express dissatisfaction with the way the Town Moderator handled the recent complaint regarding Finance Committee conduct outside of Finance Committee meetings.

Moved that the Finance Committee through its chairperson correspond with the Town Moderator expressing disappointment with the way the moderator handled the situation at the July 14, 2015 Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Francis, second Ms. Perkins (4-1)

Comments from Committee

Mr. Richardson reported that the school fees were rescinded at the August 3rd School Committee Meeting, there were additional revenue received from grants that would offset the fees. Mr. Richardson reported on other information from the School Committee meeting.

Committee discussed the reporting that they have been provided and how it can be used on a monthly basis to monitor expenditures in both the municipal and school budgets.

A new member has been appointed to the Finance Committee, Mr. Justin Sullivan, he will be at next meeting.

Committee will discuss the liaison system at September meeting, departments will be assigned. More than one member can be the liaison to a department if need be.

Next Meeting

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

Moved adjourn, Ms. Perkins, second Mr. Saad (5-0) 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Gagnon-Elderkin, Clerk