

Select Board Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024, Budget Task Force (BTF) Meeting

Via Zoom Platform

Select Board Members Present: Kristen Reed-Chair, Susan Areson-Vice Chair, John Dundas-Clerk, Robert Weinstein-Member, Stephanie Rein-Member

Select Board Members Absent:

Others Present: Darrin Tangeman-Town Manager (may join remotely due to illness), Kelly Clark-Assistant Town Manager, Alex Lessin-Finance Director, Trudi Brazil-Town Accountant, Stephanie Costigan-Superintendent, Heather Harper-School Administrator for Business and Finance, Tim Collins-Fire Chief, Julie Cataldo-Fire/EMS Administrator, Tricia Ford-Library Director, Truro Central School, Vida Richter-School Committee Chair, Robert Panessiti-Finance Committee Chair, Michael Fee-Finance Committee Member, Michael Forgione (Truro Voter)

Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Chair Reed recognized Finance Committee Chair Panessiti who announced that he was the only member of the Finance Committee present.

Chair Reed introduced the Members and Town staff present. Chair Reed requested to bring forward the library's budget presentation first and there were no objections.

Library

Library Director Ford noted that she has been on medical leave for a month and she thanked the library staff for their excellent work during her absence.

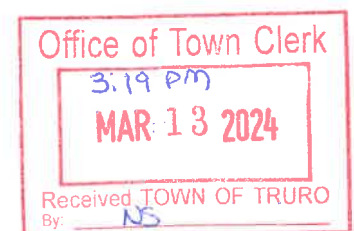
Library Director Ford then presented the FY2025 budget narrative and line budget items.

A discussion ensued regarding the following highlighted topics: the request for \$500 in the budget for janitorial support to utilize following specific events at the library so library staff does not have to clean the facility, the percentage of children who use e-books exceeds 50% and fantasy fiction is in demand by children from the library, and the suggestion to use meeting rooms in the library by installing Zoom technology so that programs may be recorded.

School

Superintendent Costigan expressed her gratitude to School Administrator for Business and Finance Harper who assisted in the development of the FY2025 budget and is present in this meeting.

Superintendent Costigan presented the FY2025 budget narrative, highlighted line budget items with changes from last year's budget, and reviewed goals and objectives.



A discussion occurred on the following highlighted topics: the budgeting for grade 6 (teacher, classroom, and materials), the cost of school choice tuition (\$5,000-\$6,000) for a Truro student to attend either Provincetown or Nauset, the lack of interest of the community in the Truro school as no one attended the school's budget hearing, and the financial implications if Truro eliminated the 6th grade.

Superintendent Costigan and Finance Director Lessin commented on the importance of the school budget as it also improved other areas of the community beyond the classroom. The school budget reflected the values and priorities of the citizens of Truro.

Fire and Rescue

Chief Collins expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to present the FY2025 budget. Chief Collins also thanked Fire/EMS Administrator Cataldo for her assistance in the preparation of the budget.

Chief Collins presented the FY2025 budget narrative, highlighted line budget items, and reviewed goals and objectives. Fire/EMS Administrator Cataldo briefed the maintenance contract costs associated with the transition from Lower Cape Ambulance Association.

The highlighted discussion topics included: reconfirmation of the capital planning priorities, special capabilities of two fire engines (18 and 27 years old, respectively) and the cost to replace them (\$1M+ per fire engine), the accounting for the revenue received from ambulance service receipts, the difference between a revolving fund and a receipt reserved account, the success of the Traveling Paramedic Program and the need for it moving forward, the successful increase in hired staff and its impact on overtime costs, and the use of data collection for the purpose of developing a budget.

Chair Reed, Chief Collins, Finance Director Lessin, Fire/EMS Administrator Cataldo, Member Weinstein, and Mr. Forgione provided final comments on the Fire Department's budget.

Finance Director Lessin reviewed the agenda for the next Budget Task Force's meeting on February 13, 2024, at 8:30 am. The following budgets will be presented: Clerk and Overall Budget. Additionally, new positions will be discussed as well as any unresolved items.

Finance Committee Chair Panessiti noted that Finance Committee Member Fee had joined the meeting but there was not a quorum of Finance Committee members.

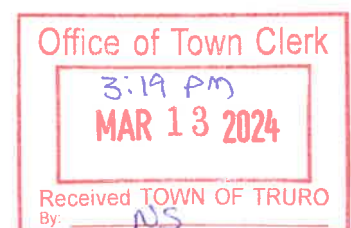
Chair Reed adjourned the Budget Task Force meeting at 10:47 am.



Alexander O. Powers
Board/Committee/Commission Support Staff

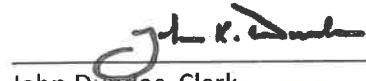


Kristen Reed, Chair

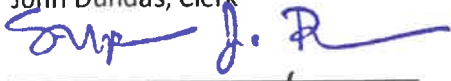




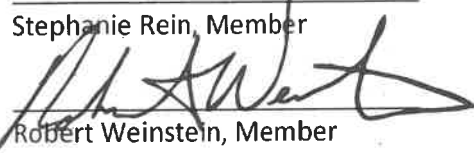
Susan Areson, Vice Chair



John Dundas, Clerk



Stephanie Rein, Member



Robert Weinstein, Member

Public Records Material Attachment

Legal Notice

