

Board of Selectmen - Budget Taskforce
January 27, 2014 – Meeting Minutes
Truro Town Hall – 9:07am

Members Present: Bob Weinstein, Jay Coburn, Breon Dunigan

FinCom: Bob Panessiti and Lori Mead

Others: Rex Peterson, Trudi Brazil, Charleen Greenhalgh, Brian Davis, Terry Humes (School Committee Chair), Kyle Takakjian

School Budget: Brian Davis

Mr. Davis provided a handout of the budget summary and the proposed budget and he highlighted the changes. The budget is up 10.99% overall. The TCS budget is down \$31,878; the Special Ed is up \$184,245 and \$71,000. The Nauset tuition has not yet been set. Last year (current FY) the tuition went down; however it is anticipated that this amount per student will go up. Currently projecting 5.6% increase. The \$280,000 increase is currently the worst case scenario. Several new students (7) showed up on the Truro list that had not been on the list before. The School is vigorously looking whether these students actually live in Truro. The handout provided a ten year budget comparison. Special Needs is the predominant increase in the budget. The pre-school increased from 18 to 22 students this year, including additional special needs and early intervention program students.

Pre-School is free for students in the morning; however, the school does charge for the afternoon session. Students can attend starting at age 2.9. Early intervention and/or special needs students do not get charged.

Mr. Coburn is concerned about the tenor of these discussions; he knows and understands the importance of the needs of these students. He is hearing negative remarks out in the public which he wants to be sure to address positively.

Mr. Davis currently serves as the superintendent, the principal and the Special Ed Director. With Mr. Davis' departure, they are looking to fill with a part-time Superintendent, a part-time Special Ed Director and a full-time principal. Overall it would be a 22% budget increase. The position is being broken out, as Mr. Davis has indicated that there is too much to do for one individual. The business manager (finance) is retiring as are some other positions. Ms. Humes stated that the Nauset Regional system does not cover the elementary schools, only the middle and high school. School Choice money (approx. \$200,000) is drawn on first when paying tuitions.

Mr. Coburn indicated that new positions are generally subject to an over-ride. Special Ed cannot be included in this. Mr. Peterson explained that he and Ms. Brazil have discussed a general over-ride to cover all the increases, perhaps rather than having a "menu" over-ride. A discussion about benefits ensued. Mr. Coburn asked for comments on how to proceed with an over-ride. The Board of Selectmen is the only entity that can call for an over-ride. An over-ride provides for funding into the future, a permanent increase. There is still the need to look at the overall budget and the revenues to see where things are and where and what needs to be done. Extra meetings and discussions need to be had. School expenses are not always fluid, as there are many unfunded mandates, such as Special Education. This could very well be a one-time deal with the budget increase, but it is difficult to know that any given time.

Building Department Budget: Rex Peterson

He asked that the group revisit this budget. The plumbing inspector has not received a pay raise in 10 years. The increase would provide this person with a raise, approximately \$7,000.

IT Budget: Rex Peterson

He asked that this also be revisited. Mr. Peterson is working with the County to provide additional support for the IT department. It would be a daily rate, not to exceed \$4,000/month. There would be a net increase of approx. \$40,000.

Selectmen Budget: Rex Peterson

The budget has increased, primarily because of the increase to cover reimbursable grants. Mr. Coburn wants to be sure that there is adequate fund to cover a grant writer. Chief Takakjian spoke to the line item for grant reimbursement. Is this money intended for all departments, or is this just for Administration. There is \$10,000 for State Grants and \$40,000 for Police Grants. Mr. Panessiti would like to see this money for grant reimbursement back into the Police Budget. After a lengthy discussion the \$40,000 is going back into the Police Budget.

The Chamber of Commerce has requested additional funds. A discussion ensued about whether the Chamber booklet is an effective marketing strategy. The request is up from \$12,000 to \$15,700. According to the Chamber the booklet is useful. The group would like to see competitive bids and updated information in the booklets.

The budget also includes the required single audit for federal grant funds.

Administration:

The increases are salary related. \$10,000 can come out for the salary compensation plan (5200 line) and \$35,000 will be added to the Town Administrator salary line (5100 line) to cover negotiations with a new Town Administrator.

Other Budgets under the Town Administrator:

There was a cursory review of the following budgets:

- 0151 - Legal up \$2000
- 0152 - Vacation-Sick by-back up \$2500
- 0153 - Reserve for Contract Settlement
- 0154 - COLA
- 0195 - ATR & ATM Warrant
- 0543 - Veterans Services
- 0945 - Municipal Liability – consistent.

Next Budget Taskforce Meeting – February 3, 2014 9:00am – 11:00am.

Library budget will be back in and perhaps Fire Department. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The quorum was lost at 11:15am.

Truro Board of Selectmen

Jay Coburn, Chair

Breon Dunigan, Vice-Chair

Absent
Janet Worthington, Clerk

Robert Weinstein

Absent
Paul Wisotzky