

Budget Task Force
Selectmen Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2016 – 8:00am
Truro Town Hall

Selectmen Present: Chair- Paul Wisotzky, Clerk-Maureen Burgess, Robert Weinstein

Finance Committee Present: Richard Wood, Robert Panessiti via cell phone

Staff/Others: Town Administrator-Rae Ann Palmer, Town Accountant-Trudi Brazil, Harbor Master-Tony Jackett, Fire Chief-Tim Collins

The meeting was called to order by Selectmen Chair Paul Wisotzky at 8:15am. He noted that there was a quorum for the Board of Selectmen but not for the Finance Committee.

Fire and Rescue Budget

Chief Collins started with the 5100 budget. He stated that the increase in salary was due to the Chief's position. He made nominal changes in the request for salary and wages other than his.

For purchase of services (5200), items were moved into this category. There has been an increase in equipment supply costs and testing services. \$15,000 from the 5800 category was moved into 5200, which more appropriately classifies the funds as they will be expended. Richard Wood questioned the cost of chairs (which were budgeted at approximately \$300 per chair). Town Administrator Palmer stated that she would take a look at the cost of chairs on the office supply contract, and will adjust as appropriate. Chief Collins told the group he could get the cost, and the readjustment amount, to them today.

For training and expenses (5300) the amount was kept as-is. Money from this budget was moved into the 5700 budget. Town Accountant Brazil explained that people were being reimbursed for training expenses. \$16,500 was added for uniforms for department members, they do not currently provide uniforms and this is a way to identify the firefighters as members of Truro.

\$3,000 was moved into the 5700 budget from 5300 as previously mentioned. A membership to the NFPA in the amount of \$1350.00 was added.

Chief Collins then ran down a list of gear and equipment which needs to be replaced, and a discussion amongst the group ensued. The next item mentioned was training incentives for employees, and where that incentive money comes from. Selectman Weinstein asked for a status on certifications for employees. Chief Collins updated everyone on who should be certified and who does not need to be. There was also a dialogue about offering benefits to certain fire department members. Town Accountant Brazil asked if there would be additional training for EMS personnel. Chief Collins explained that part of the budget is to bring a physician from Cape Cod Hospital to the Fire Department to do Morbidity and Mortality rounds and EMS training.

Harbor Master/Shellfish Budget

Town Administrator Palmer mentioned that both budgets were combined. Harbor Master Jackett began by reminding the group that there was an Assistant Harbor Master last year to help with coverage. Going into the next season, he is looking for the same staffing.

As far as purchase of services (5200) there was a request from the Harbor Commission to install a light on the south side of the jetty. Harbor Master Jackett has purchased the light but did not have the funds to have it installed. Town Administrator Palmer noted that if money is available in the current year, they will use that money. If not, they will use money from next year to install.

For supplies (5400) they've put in shell fish stock, and supplies typically needed during the season.

Town Administrator Palmer mentioned that the Shellfish Advisory Committee was asking for a revolving

fund for their fees and after researching, the Town Accountant has advised that it cannot be done. Therefore, more money has been placed in the budget in case it's needed. Selectman Weinstein asked if there has been an increase or decrease in the shell fishing permits since the fees have been raised. Harbor Master Jackett told him that he would need a full year of statistics to better answer his question. There has been an increase in launch revenues. Board of Selectman Chair Wisotzky asked how the parking situation over the summer was. Harbor Master Jackett said that typically, on weekends, they sent several trailers with their vehicles (sometimes 12 to 14) over to the Corn Hill parking lot. Selectman Weinstein asked if there was a way to extend the season. Due to a significant tuna season after Labor Day the parking lot was quite busy and this could be a revenue generator. Charging for launching typically ends around Columbus Day weekend. Town Administrator Palmer stated that they would need to keep the staff longer.

A general discussion was held regarding policy on towing, Capital Budget, and the "hull" of the boat over at the Public Safety Facility.

General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

Chair Wisotzky asked for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Burgess made a motion to adjourn at 9:40am, Selectman Weinstein seconded.

Respectively submitted, Noelle Scoullar, Executive Assistant

Board of Selectmen

Paul Wisotzky – Chair

Absent
Jan Worthington – Vice Chair

Maureen Burgess – Clerk

Absent
Jay Coburn

Robert Weinstein