

**Budget Task Force Meeting
Monday January 22, 2018
Town Hall Selectmen's Chamber**

Finance Committee Members Present: Chair Bob Panessiti; Richard Wood, Lori Meads

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Chair Paul Wisotzky; Robert Weinstein, Maureen Burgess

Present: Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Sullivan-Clark; Town Accountant Trudi Brazil; School Committee Chair Theresa Humes; School Superintendent Michael Gradone; Library Director Tricia Ford; Library Trustee Keith Althaus

Board of Selectmen Chair Paul Wisotzky convened the Budget Task Force and Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:03 a.m., and Bob Panessiti convened to order the Finance Committee meeting. Paul Wisotzky reminded viewers of the video-taped meeting that there is a glossary of budget terms on the Town Website in any Town Warrant.

School Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

School Committee Chair Theresa Humes and Superintendent Michael Gradone presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Truro Central School and overall School Budget. Dr. Gradone said there were no significant changes. The entire budget is up, but the Central School has come down. He said the Nauset tuition budget is higher. Personnel changes consisted of a half-time assistant, who is being replaced by a grant-funded math coach. Several budget lines had small reductions in them. Unlike this year, some sixth graders will be staying at the Central School next year. The teachers are in negotiations, so there is an expected increase in salaries. The school does not anticipate any surprises for Special Needs. They said that the Special Ed teacher follows up with all Special Needs students, no matter what school they go to. Superintendent Gradone explained how the per pupil costs are determined and offered comparisons with other Lower Cape towns. Mr. Panessiti discussed the interconnectivity of all Town departments and the benefit of keeping a good, healthy school system. He asked about a 5-year plan for delivering what is expected and mandated by the state. Ms. Humes said all the Lower Cape towns are maintaining their own elementary schools. She said that an expanded pre-school is being planned to offer more services for younger families. Dr. Gradone expects a stable enrollment of 115 students for next year. They are looking at additional transportation to get School Choice students from Provincetown and Wellfleet, he said.

They have restructured some Capital Budget items. A big item is a gas heating system, Dr. Gradone said. Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer said the boilers are expected to be replaced through a Green Communities grant.

Library Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Library Director Tricia Ford and Trustee Keith Althaus came forward to explain the Library FY19 Budget. Paul Wisotzky congratulated them on the five-star rating the Truro Public Library had received. Personnel remain stable although there was an additional request for more hours for one employee, Ms. Ford said. She and the Budget Task Force discussed the pre-school

literacy program and participation. Trudi Brazil gave the full history of the program, which had begun as a grant, went to Recreation and moved to the Library. Ms. Ford addressed the number of volunteers who serve at the Library. In the services area, she asked for money to be restored. She pointed out an increase in the domain name and a decrease in the data base budget line. In supplies, she had a request for shelving and two new chairs in the periodical room. For "other charges" she requested an increase on mileage allowances and a reinstatement of payment for professional membership fees.

Robert Weinstein questioned the 3% increase in the Library's budget. The Library was the first to come in with a budget that was not decreased or level funded, he said. Ms. Ford gave further details on what had brought the budget up – chiefly reinstatement of items that had been cut last year. She said numbers of people using the Library had increased, but circulation of books had gone down. She stated that eBooks and program attendance have gone up. Ms. Ford submitted the statistics on these. Lori Meads asked about grant opportunities. Ms. Ford said they ask for Truro Treasures and Cultural Council grants every year, but she is interested in seeking a large grant.

Robert Weinstein asked about Capital Budget expenses for the Library. Rae Ann Palmer said the new roof is in the Capital Budget for next year. She explained how the shelving budget request is being presented. Mr. Weinstein suggested that the next shingles for the Library roof should have maximum life span. Ms. Palmer said the DPW Director is developing a plan for longevity of investments. She said performance specifications can inform the quality of the low bid, which the Town is required to take.

Tricia Ford explained how she covered shelving costs last year. She said the focus of the Library is rearranging for better physical flow and attractiveness. Bob Panessiti expanded upon the shifting needs at the Library, just as the Finance Committee does for any community need. Ms. Ford said the Library is interested in filming programs and placing them on the website. She discussed the seasonal changes for the Library. In summer they run many more programs, which are mostly free. Keith Althaus said the Library is one of Truro's attractions in summer. Ms. Ford expounded on collaboration on programs for children with Puma Park, the Community Center and the Library garden all right there.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday, January 29, 2018 at 8 a.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers at Town Hall for the presentations of Town Departments Budgets for DPW, Finance, Administration and Information Technology.

ADJOURNMENT

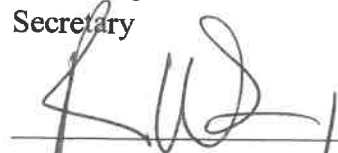
Paul Wisotzky moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting. Robert Weinstein seconded, and the motion carried by 3-0. The Finance Committee adjourned by consensus.

Paul Wisotzky adjourned the Budget Task Force meeting at 9:18 a.m.

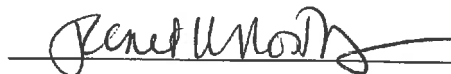
Respectfully submitted,



Mary Rogers,
Secretary


Paul Wisotzky, Chair

Maureen Burgess Vice-chair


Jay Coburn

Janet Worthington


Robert Weinstein, Clerk

Public Records Material for 1/22/18

1. FY19 Draft School Budget
2. FY19 Draft Library Budget

