

Select Board Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2022, Budget Task Force Meeting

Via GoToMeeting Platform



Select Board Members Present: Kristen Reed-Chair, Susan Areson-Member, Stephanie Rein-Member

Select Board Members Absent: Robert Weinstein-Vice Chair, John Dundas-Clerk

Others Present: Darrin Tangeman-Town Manager, Kelly Clark-Assistant Town Manager, Chief of Police Jamie Calise, Police Administrative Assistant Michelle Thomas, Alex Lessin-Finance Director, Trudi Brazil-Town Accountant, Stephanie Costigan-School Superintendent

Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and noted no members of the Finance Committee were present.

Discuss/Review FY2024 Budget for the Police Department

Chair Reed recognized Chief Calise who presented a narrative summary for the Truro Police Department's 2024 fiscal year budget. Chief Calise briefly discussed the challenges for the department. In preparing his budget, Chief Calise focused on costs and inflation, best practices, legal requirements, and finally, recruitment and staffing. Chief Calise noted there were increases in lab fees and medical physicals for police officers, an increase in supplies to include fuel (\$4.50/gal.) and routine maintenance for vehicles. There has been a push throughout the Commonwealth for officers to wear body cameras. The Truro Police Department was successful in receiving a grant to purchase body cameras, associated equipment, and hardware. The grant did not cover the expense of maintenance costs and extended warranties which would cost approximately \$7,800 per year as reflected in the budget request.

Upon the completion of Chief Calise's presentation, Members asked Chief Calise about projected overtime, the impact of overtime costs with the hiring of one additional police officer, the establishment of a police academy on Cape Cod or access to a police academy closer to Truro, the challenges with recruiting and hiring new police officers, and the budget request for a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Truro Elementary School.

Chief Calise commented that it would take approximately 9 months from date of hire (background checks, preparation to attend the police academy, attend/graduate from the academy, and complete field training) for a police officer to fully serve on patrol. Chief Calise noted that the recruitment of police officers is currently the most challenging that he has seen in his 25-year law enforcement career. Chief Calise noted that Truro is now in competition with Provincetown for new police officers as Provincetown has now raised its top step to \$85,000 for a police officer and Truro's top step was \$70,000. Chief Calise hoped that the Budget Task Force would take this into account when reviewing the requested FY2024 budget.

Chief Calise noted that the Plymouth Police Academy is currently meeting the needs of the Truro Police Department's newly hired officers who require police academy training.

Chief Calise discussed the new Police Reform Bill and the impacts such as the removal of reserve and special police officers, police officer recertification requirements and timelines, work history information, internal investigations conducted, and training requirements.

A member of the public asked Chief Calise if the department is currently at full headcount and Chief Calise stated that the department was at full headcount at the beginning of the fall but that was no longer the case. The department recently had one retirement, one resignation, and one transfer to another department. Chief Calise noted that Provincetown has expanded to 21 police officers and Wellfleet has expanded to 18 police officers.

Chief Calise addressed the challenges of recruiting new police officers to Truro. Chief Calise briefly mentioned that a compensation analysis is currently underway, the aggressive expansion of marketing and advertising to draw qualified applicants, and the cost of housing in Truro makes it unaffordable to live for most police officers and their families.

Chief Calise described the role of an SRO, the SRO's responsibilities, and the benefits of an SRO to the community as well as the children. School Superintendent Costigan stated her support for an SRO and noted that she and Chief Calise have had several meetings to discuss the need for an SRO.

Chair Reed and Chief Calise discussed the previous grants awarded to Truro for the purchase of radios and body cameras.

Chair Reed recognized Town Manager Tangeman who said that the hiring of an SRO would require an override from Truro residents.

Chair Reed asked Chief Calise about the impacts of COVID-19 on the force and Chief Calise stated that the impacts have been less. The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in 15 overtime shifts at a cost of \$4,232.52.

Chair Reed thanked Chief Calise for his presentation and comments. Chair Reed also noted the professionalism of the Truro Police Department that has resulted in Truro being a very safe community. Chief Calise stated that it was due to the dedication and service performed by the police officers and staff at the Truro Police Department.

**Member Areson made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 am.**

**Member Rein seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Member Areson - Aye**

**Member Rein - Aye**

**Chair Reed - Aye**

**So voted, 3-0-0, motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,



Alexander O. Powers  
Board/Committee/Commission Support Staff





Darrin K. Tangeman Under the Authority of the Truro Select Board

**Public Records Material Attachments**

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