

Select Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2022, Budget Task Force Meeting

Via GoToMeeting Platform

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

Select Board Members Absent:

Others Present: Darrin Tangeman-Town Manager, Kelly Clark-Assistant Town Manager, Alex Lessin-Finance Director, Judy Brazil-Town Accountant, Stephanie Costigan-School Superintendent, Bob Panessiti-Chair Finance Committee (FinCom), Rich Wood-Vice Chair Finance Committee (FinCom)

Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and introduced FinCom Chair Panessiti. FinCom Chair Panessiti announced that there was not a quorum of FinCom members present so he would not open a FinCom meeting at this time.

Presentation of Revenue Projections

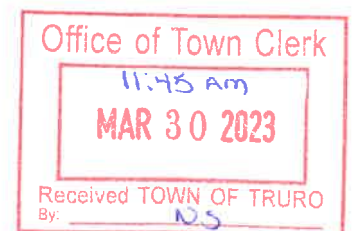
Chair Reed recognized Finance Director Lessin who provided a brief overview of the Budget Task Force responsibilities and process. Finance Director Lessin then presented the revenue projections (property taxes and other revenues) for FY2024. Finance Director Lessin briefed that FY2024 total maximum allowable tax levy was \$19,790,628 and total other receipts/revenues was \$6,837,244. Total preliminary projections (as of 12/6/2022) were \$26,627,872.

Discussion, comments, and questions ensued among Members regarding tax rate buydown, the proposed elimination of tax rate buydown and the impact to the budget, cost of services provided by Lower Cape Ambulance Association if Provincetown drops out as a partner, the absence of the Dennis Family Gift Fund from the budget, the funds and appropriations process during the fiscal year, encouraging and educating the public early on the budgeting process to avoid disruptions at Town Meeting, projected new growth down by \$178,000 from FY2023, the state aid reduction of nearly \$100,000 from FY2023, and the reason why Truro pays more into state aid than Truro receives in state aid.

Chair Reed invited members of the public to ask questions or make comments and there were none.

Discussion of Board and Committee Budget Policy/Process

Chair Reed recognized Town Manager Tangeman who presented the Town staff's written proposal to better government around multi-member budgeting requests. Town Manager Tangeman discussed the purpose of the proposal before reviewing the recommended topics for the process. Town Manager Tangeman noted that the intent was to present to the Budget Task Force so the Budget Task Force's comments could be brought to the Select Board for a more meaningful discussion in developing a budget policy and process.



Discussion, comments, and questions ensued among Members regarding more detail as to why there is a need now for a budget policy and process, the importance of adding a policy as there are operational issues which require staff work to manage the demands associated with those operational issues, a policy will help facilitate the efficacy for capital requests, the current policy regarding FTEs, consulting fees paid by the Truro Housing Authority and the potential transition the consultant role to a Town position (housing coordinator), will this policy address the alarming and unusual large requests (in excess of \$10,000) by several boards/committees, when would a "fiscal agent" be put in place and would this require additional new staff, conducting an After Action Review after this year's process to assess what worked well and what didn't in order to incorporate those results into the proposed budget policy and process, reviewed the number of support requests (housing coordinator, climate action coordinator, and other support requests) totaling \$150,000-\$200,000, the FinCom's standing policy not to approve items at the Town meeting if the long-term impact to the Town may not be properly vetted, and the implementation of "best practices" in a proposed budget policy and process.

Town Manager Tangeman briefly reviewed the requirements of M.G.L. 30B for procurement and bids for the benefit of the members of the public who may be unaware of the statutory requirements.

Chair Reed invited members of the public to ask questions or make comments and there were none. Chair Reed then recognized FinCom Chair Panessiti who briefly commented on the importance of this process and reiterated his invitation to the public for their participation in the budgeting process.

Chair Reed announced that the next Budget Task Force meeting would be January 3, 2023, at 8:30 am. Presentations will include CIP, DPW, Harbor, and Shellfish.

Member Dundas made a motion to adjourn at 9:46 am.

Vice Chair Weinstein seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein – Aye

Member Dundas - Aye

Member Areson - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

Chair Reed - Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, 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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