

## Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2023, Budget Task Force Meeting

Via GoToMeeting Platform

Select Board Members Present: Kristen Reed-Chair, Sue 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, Alex Lessin-Finance Director, Trudi Brazil-Town Accountant, Jamie Calise-Police Chief, Tim Collins-Fire Chief, Stephanie Costigan-Truro School Superintendent, Heather Harper-Truro School Administrator for Business and Finance, Katie Ward-Truro Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Kolby Blehm-School Committee Chair, Robert Panessiti-Finance Committee (FinCom) Chair, Rich Wood-Finance Committee (FinCom) Vice Chair, Lori Meads-Finance Committee (FinCom) Clerk, Raphael Richter-Finance Committee (FinCom)

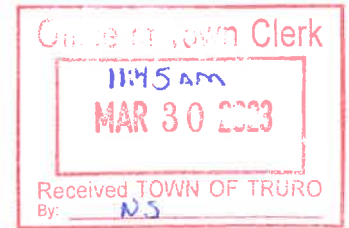
Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and introduced Members and Town staff present. Chair Reed then recognized FinCom Chair Panessiti. A quorum of FinCom members present, FinCom Chair Panessiti introduced the FinCom members and announced the FinCom meeting open.

Chair Reed led the discussions and reviews of the FY2024 Budget for the following departments: Truro Central School, Fire & Rescue Emergency Management, and Administration.

### Truro Central School

Chair Reed recognized Superintendent Costigan who presented an organizational overview of the Truro Central School, the narrative summary, and the budget highlights for the Truro Central School's FY2024 budget.

Members and Town staff discussed the total staffing at the school (administrators, instructional, and support staff); two teacher retirements at the end of this school year; principal's role as administrator; the contract with Nauset and any increase in tuition due to major renovation and expansion costs at Nauset; more research into a solution for the discontinuation of after school childcare program in FY2024; coordinate with the Council on Aging for senior residents who may have interest in providing childcare to children several times a week; after school childcare program options either through the Recreation Department or outsourcing; planning and budgeting for enrollment projections; elementary school's viability and financial impact to the Town in the future based upon projections; regionalization alternative based upon student enrollment; increased median age in Truro is now 61 years of age; Census projection of 3-5 new students enrolled per year versus actual declining enrollment with no students currently enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade; background of the creation and evolution of the Town's after school childcare program circa 2009/2010 up to 2023; enrollment and student services offerings among the Outer Cape elementary schools; potential grant funding to support after school program; the Childcare Voucher Program and its importance to families as well as the commitment of the Town to its residents; licensing requirements of an after school childcare program at the Community Center versus the Truro Central School; the housing issues and competitive full-time pay challenges to draw young

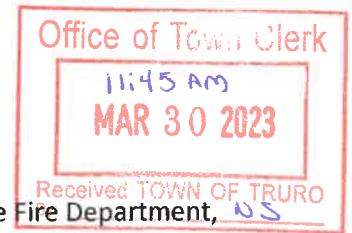


families to Truro for year-round residency; and any Massachusetts legislative changes regarding COVID-19 funding that would now require the Town to cover in FY2024.

Chair Reed thanked Superintendent Costigan.

### **Fire & Rescue Emergency Management**

Chair Reed recognized Chief Collins who presented an organizational overview of the Fire Department, the narrative summary, and the budget highlights for the Fire Department's FY2024 budget.



Members and Town staff discussed firefighter/EMT recruitment challenges; Cape Cod communities need to hire 44 firefighters this year; certifications and training for a firefighter/EMT; staffing per shift and differences during off-season and during the summer; per diem firefighters; fees for beach fires governed by the Fire Department and are deposited into the General Fund; retention efforts for firefighters/EMTs; cell phone coverage at the beach and the ability of a cell phone caller to reach 911 in an emergency; backup plan for fire and rescue operations this summer if staffing goals fall short in hiring; cessation of Lower Cape Ambulance Association's (LCAA) delivery of services this year and its impact; number of staff who live in Truro and average of drive times for the other staff who reside elsewhere (Harwich, Yarmouth, and Brewster); raise pay to retain the best staff and goal to have the best paid first responders on Cape Cod; FY2024 proposed budget does not reflect projected wages due to ongoing Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations or Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA); update on emergency management coordination with other Cape Cod entities for resource support; communications and registration of Truro residents and visitors through ALERTruro to receive emergency notifications; Mutual Aid Plan is in place to provide services when LCAA ceases operations effective July 1, 2023; redirected monies allocated to LCAA to continue emergency management services; exploration of temporary solutions to transition to permanent solutions; and possible standby RFP for a private entity to provide support and temporary regional fire department support services.

Members and Town staff also discussed the four new firefighters/EMTs salary, wages, training, and turnout gear which were also included in the FY2023 budget but will not be spent until the four are hired.

Chair Reed thanked Chief Collins for his presentation. Chief Collins thanked Town hall staff who helped prepare the budget. Chair Reed also congratulated Chief Collins on his graduation from Fire Chief's Training.

### **Administration**

Prior to Town Manager Tangeman's FY2024 Budget presentation, Chair Reed announced that the School and Fire & Rescue Emergency Management budgets would be further discussed at the next Budget Task Force meeting scheduled for February 14, 2023.

Chair Reed recognized Town Manager Tangeman who presented an organizational overview, the narrative summary, and the Administration's budget highlights for the FY2024 Budget.

Members and Town staff discussed the soft launch date for the survey platform, Engage Truro, for Members followed by a launch to the public; update on the digital budgeting software ClearGov;

overhaul of the Town website to achieve larger community outreach; regulatory limitations regarding municipal websites; and budgeted supplies (printed brochures) and food for community outreach engagements.

After Town Manager Tangeman completed his presentation, Assistant Town Manager Clark presented the FY2024 Dredge Budget.

Members had no additional questions or comments.

Chair Reed requested that communications be distributed to the community regarding tonight's meeting as well as upcoming public forums regarding Mill Pond Road.

Chair Reed thanked all the participants and presenters. Chair Reed announced that the next Budget Task Force meeting would be held on February 14, 2023, at 8:30 am. Budgets scheduled to present are non-departmental budgets and outstanding Budget discussions.

**Member Areson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am.**

**Member Rein seconded the motion.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

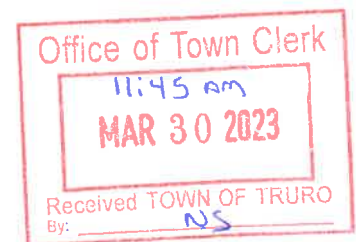


Alexander O. Powers

Board/Committee/Commission Support Staff



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



**Public Records Material Attachment**

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