

Truro Select Board Budget Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021
Remote Meeting

Select Board Members Attending: Robert Weinstein, Chair; Kristen Reed Vice-Chair, Susan Areson Clerk, Jan Worthington, and Stephanie Rein

Attending: Town Manager Darrin Tangeman; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark; Tim Collins Fire Chief, Jamie Calise Police Chief, Jackie Mastrianna and Michelle Thomas TPD, Bob Panessiti Chair Finance Committee, Steve Roderick, Raphael Richter and Richard Wood Finance Committee Members

TRURO SELECT BOARD BUDGET
TASK FORCE

Select Board Chair Robert Weinstein opened the Select Board Meeting at 1:30PM. He introduced the Board and guests to the meeting.

Police Department Budget

Police Chief Jamie Calise spoke of the short narrative that summarizes the Truro Police Department's FY22 request. The salary and wages portion reflect step 6 increases and mentioned that there is a small increase in the services line. The supply line is very consistent with years past. The cost of PPE for officers continues to rise. There is an increase in unclassified charges due to grant outlay requests. The budget request is only for a 1.4% increase. Select Board Clerk Areson requested that the Chief of Police give a broad overview of the department. Chief Calise remarked there are 14 officers, 5 civilian staff, and 5 police cruisers, 3 administrative vehicles and 1 motorcycle. There is a freeze currently for one vacancy bringing the total to 14 positions. He spoke of the turnover of the department.

Select Board Clerk Areson asked about a \$7500 decrease for crime prevention. She also asked about an increase in printer toner cartridges asking if these orders are centralized. Chief Calise responded that with a new copier machine the toner cost has increased. Chief Calise said the funds for crime prevention was a reallocation. There was a brief discussion that programing at the school with Ella (K9) monies are no longer utilized.

Select Board Chair Weinstein thanked Jackie Mastrianna for her years of service to the Police department and to Chief Calise for bringing to the Town a budget that is sustainable, and level funded. Finance Committee Member Richter asked Chief Calise to comment on how the cost of living impacts the Police department, starting and median wage for police officers, and the Police Chief's thoughts on higher wages for longer retention.

Chief Calise replied that all outer Cape towns struggle with turnover. A new Truro Police officer earns \$58K annually which is lower than the MA average of \$72,400, with the National Average at \$67K. Chief Calise added the starting salary coupled with the cost of living is one of the major contributors of staffing turnover. Only one officer currently lives in Truro. Recruitment and retention continue to be an issue. Finance Committee Member Richter asked the Budget Task

Force to consider this for future budgets. Chief Calise commented that they saw a 57% increase in calls and 14% increase in domestic related arrests during Covid. Finance Committee Chair Panessiti asked if enough overtime has been budgeted for FY22. Chief Calise responded that they have been able to manage with the funds allocated for overtime. The staffing coverage is a hardship due to long hours. The staffing level at full complement is preferred. Finance Committee Chair Panessiti asked if there has been a change in the nature of the calls and that the department needs to be acknowledged for the services they provide. Chief Calise noted the difference in calls during the early part of the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that it is important to build relationships with the community and not just enforcement.

Select Board Vice Chair Reed asked how police reform has had an impact on the department's budget. Chief Calise said aspects of the Reform Bill do not go into effect until July 1st. Training requirements will increase, greater administrative and recording requirements, including POST (Police Officer Standard on Training). Chief Calise explained the specifics of the MA Reform Bill.

Finance Committee Member Wood asked about the Collective Bargaining expiration date, housing allowance, mileage allowances, with other options that should be looked into besides just an increase in salary. Chief Calise agreed to meeting with the Town Manager to do an overview of the budget and options to incentivize Officers.

Select Board Chair Weinstein asked for an explanation again for the public on the reimbursement grant funding for 911 service. Chief Calise explained the Dispatch 911 certification. The department received 911 grant disbursements this year. The time savings is something the department wants to maintain. Finance Committee Chair Panessiti clarified the process of the finance for the Town with respect to Grant money funds. Town Accountant Brazil contributed that the seed money needs to be initially there so there is no deficit. Select Board Chair Weinstein thanked the Police department.

Fire and Rescue Department Budget

Fire Chief Tim Collins reported a 4.39% increase to the budget from the previous year. He added that there were step increases in this budget, with increases in personnel time and vacation. The BEMT program has expanded to place lifeguards at Head of the Meadow into September and October due to the frequency of Great White Sharks off season. The Fire department also had to purchase a new copier, as well as other supplies. He noted some State licensing and satellite phone fee increases. Select Board Chair Weinstein asked that the patrols on the ocean side cease in September due to the lower temperature of the water and less swimmers, he also asked about the cost of Lower Cape Ambulance. Select Board Member Worthington addressed the issue of the future of the department and whether Lower Cape Ambulance will be a part of the department as it is budgeted for by the Town. Chief Collins stated that without Lower Cape Ambulance the town would need 4 firefighters per shift for 16 fire fighters for the department.

He added that the town pays roughly \$400K a year for contracted ambulance service. There are 8 firefighters, with 4 per diem, 5 firefighter paramedics, 6 firefighter EMTs, and there is a lieutenant on every shift.

Finance Committee Member Richter felt that in the near future there should be a discussion regarding regionalization of the two towns (Provincetown and Truro). Fire Chief Collins responded that it is always an option on the table. Finance Committee Member Wood added that Lower Cape Ambulance covers two towns and asked if there is a split from Lower Cape Ambulance how will that affect Capital. Chief Collins explained that they would keep the ambulance slated for replacement as a reserve ambulance. Truro would only have to purchase one additional ambulance for 3 total ambulances.

Finance Committee Chair spoke of the history of the conversation for the Lower Cape Ambulance discussion with Provincetown. He warned against shared staff for the same area as towns must provide services. Chief Collins added that adding firefighters' places Truro in a better position for fire suppression activities and he spoke of the call force they currently have.

Finance Committee Chair Panessiti responded that there is a limited number of people that are committed to this field in the lower cape area and spoke of the importance of mutual aid. Select Board Clerk Areson stated that other options should also be looked at for staff should any new positions not pass at Town Meeting, regionalization may be an option in the future. Chief Collins added that a fire department and additional staffing make the community safer.

Select Board Member Worthington felt that the messaging was confusing for the last election. She added that the majority of the calls are rescue calls not just fire calls. She felt that several different plans should be discussed with Provincetown and Lower Cape Ambulance. Select Board Vice-Chair Reed asked Chief Collins to speak to any software technologies being utilized in his department for efficiencies and his thoughts about fees for burn permits. Chief Collins stated that burn permits (private property) are online and they are working towards adding a fee for beach fire permits.

Finance Committee Chair Panessiti suggested that they start working on a subcommittee with the Select Board and Lower Cape Ambulance after Town meeting. Select Board Chair Weinstein felt that serious discussions need to occur about the Fire department. He felt that if services were regionalized then perhaps there is a way to capture the fees generated by transport.

Finance Committee Member Steve Roderick, speaking on behalf of Lower Cape Ambulance, comes up with their total cost for operation, then they "take off" for medical billing, the balance is billed 70/30 to Truro and Provincetown while trying to keep the services the most affordable. Finance Committee Member Roderick stated that they are fairly aggressive and do send accounts to collection. In Fiscal Year 2021 they were able to revise and reduce the budget.

Select Board Chair Weinstein mentioned Chief Collins was tasked with an analysis of the input and output of monies. Chief Collins spoke of the cost benefit analysis and the breakdown of the additional 8 fire fighters. Select Board Clerk Areson stated that the cost analysis was possibly in a Budget Task Force meeting packet. Finance Committee Member Roderick's noted that Provincetown is buying a 4th ambulance approved at Town Meeting.

Emergency Management Budget

The Emergency Management Budget agrees with Provincetown's budget. Provincetown maintains the shelter; Truro maintains the supplies. The increase is to replace the Conex boxes at the school. Finance Committee Chair Panessiti stated that the kits need to be there, and they do expire. Finance Committee Member Panessiti thanked Chief Collins for his partnership with Lower Cape Ambulance. Select Board Chair Weinstein thanked the department as well during this trying time. Finance Committee Chair Panessiti agreed that the Boards do the best they can with their fiduciary responsibilities.

Select Board Clerk Areson asked about the budget of Lower Cape Ambulance. Assistant Town Manager Clark responded what was in the packet as a place holder.

Adjournment

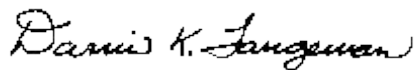
Select Board Chair Weinstein asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Select Board Clerk Areson made a Motion to adjourn. Select Board Member Worthington Seconded the Motion. Kristen Reed-Aye; Susan Areson-Aye; Jan Worthington-Aye; Stephanie Rein-Aye; Robert Weinstein-Aye. Roll Call Vote, Motion Passes, 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Tudor, Executive Assistant



Town Manager, Darrin Tangeman
Under the Authority of the Truro Select Board

Public Records material of 01/11/2021

- Proposed FY22 Budget for the Truro Police Department
- Proposed FY22 Budget for the Truro Fire Department
- Proposed FY22 Budget for Emergency Management