

Truro Budget Task Force
Monday, January 14, 2019
Truro Town Hall Selectmen's Chambers

Finance Committee Members Present: Chair Robert Panessiti; Susan Areson, Lori Meads, Richard Wood

Board of Selectmen Member Present: Chair Robert Weinstein, Maureen Burgess, Kristen Reed, Janet Worthington

Present: Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Sullivan-Clark; Town Accountant Trudi Brazil

Finance Committee Chair Robert Panessiti and Board of Selectmen Chair Robert Weinstein called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Police FY2020 Budget

Police Chief Jamie Calise reviewed the Police Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, starting with salaries and services. He discussed the request for tasers and increases for vehicles. Chair Robert Weinstein stated his objections to the leased motorcycle. Chief Calise gave safety training requirements and some of the uses of the motorcycle. The Police Chief explained the grant line for which they anticipate a reimbursement. Chief Calise stressed the importance of training, which had an increase in its line. New officers as well as veterans of the force would benefit from training. He explained the contractual arrangements for paying for Police Academy. Hiring experienced officers is another option he could pursue. Finance Chair Panessiti discussed the correlation between Police staff, services and the importance of budgeting. Chief Calise presented a sample of calls for service with averages of calls per day and shift. The Police Chief said he had not heard of practical police use of electric vehicles. He reassured the Task Force that he regularly looks for grant opportunities. Chief Calise thanked Jackie Mastrianna for her help in preparing the budget materials.

Fire and Rescue

Fire Chief Tim Collins said his biggest increase was in salary because of step increases and overtime. He reviewed the combination model of staff with eight full-time firefighters and additional per diem employees when needed. There are four call firefighters, as well. They utilize call back for firefighters who come back after serving a regular shift. Chief Collins enumerated the various services the Fire Department provides and how Lower Cape ambulances are involved. Ms. Palmer gave the costs for Lower Cape services. Janet Worthington expressed interest in transitioning away from using Lower Cape Transport and having adequate Truro ambulance service in the next few years. Mr. Panessiti said a cost/benefit analysis should be worked out for this. Four lieutenant positions for each shift accounts for another increase in the budget. Call back Overtime has another line increase. The per diem staffing had increased. Two individuals are available for duty at any time. Chief Collins reviewed training standards and team cooperation. Town Accountant Trudi Brazil explained how the purchase & service lines now includes training. The Fire Chief said that Insurance Services Organization (ISO)

ratings had improved. He reviewed provisions for physical fitness testing; the hose maintenance program, supplies, vehicle maintenance, medication and ambulance supply replacements, and uniforms. Ambulances and the department keep up with communications technology. There are plans to send three firefighters to the Academy, which has no cost; however, housing for them is covered by the Town. Every year Chief Collins attends a firefighters' conference in Worcester. Another conference is offered in different locations of the country each year. Turn out gear rental is a savings to the Fire Department. Replacement of gear is expensive, Chief Collins said. Hose replacement is essential. The Fire Department is always seeking possible grants for equipment and training. Ms. Palmer said the Capital Budget will reflect more emergency equipment at the beaches. Chief Collins said he was compiling his report on the number of calls the Fire Department has answered during 2018.

FY 20 Emergency Management Budget

Fire Chief Collins, as head of Emergency Management, went over that budget. He planned for individual emergency kits for community members. Chief Collins said citizens should create their own kits, but the Town will have extra kits available. There is a sample kit from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) posted on the Town website. The Alert Truro system will notify citizens for a variety of situations.

FY 20 Harbor and Shellfish Budget

Harbormaster and Shellfish Constable Tony Jackett said the two budgets had been combined. He reviewed staff, removal of apparatus for the winter and for dredging, re-seeding the shellfish stock, purchases & services, use of fresh water, re-installing the floats, and winterizing expense for the fire-rescue boat. Supplies included the shellfish stock, gear, navigational aids, office supplies, a winch replacement, and float repair materials. Shellfish stock accounts for the largest increase in the supply lines. The other expenses included dues in the Harbormasters Association and vehicle allowances. Mr. Jackett said he is seeking an additional motor, but Ms. Palmer said this would be in the Capital Budget. Mr. Jackett commented on increased revenue with the Waterways Fee at the Harbor. Trudi Brazil reported on fees from each category of license. The total was \$6,315, she said.

ADJOURNMENT

Kristen Reed moved to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting. Maureen Burgess seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. Richard Wood moved to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting. Susan Areson seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

The Budget Task Force meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,




Mary Rogers,
Secretary

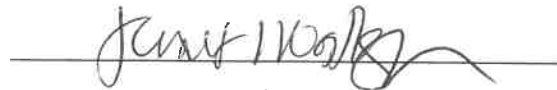

Robert Weinstein, Chair


Maureen Burgess, Vice chair


Kristen Reed

Absent


Paul Wisotzky


Janet Worthington, Clerk

