

FINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
Judge Welsh Room, Town Hall
Provincetown MA

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Members Present: Mark Hatch (MH), Chairman; Scott Valentino (SV) Vice-Chair; Mark Bjorstrom (MB); Mark Del Franco (MDF); Chip Cappelli (CC); Dorie Seavey (DS).

Excused Absence: Kathleen Goodwin (KG).

Staff Present: Robin Craver (RC), Town Manager; Josee Cardinal Young (JY), Finance Director.

1. FY2021 Departmental Budget reviews.

Division 3 Public Safety

210 Police

Police Chief Jim Golden presented; said there is some additional information, noted the request for two additional police officers to handle the public safety presence at the airport; (3) additional senior seasonal traffic officers; placeholders for raises for non-union staff, with steps; no increase in over-time; increase for coverage of Provincetown 400 celebration events.

MH spoke of the extra airport personnel resulting from a Fed cut-back a few years ago. Chief Golden said the police have had a presence at the airport for (17) years, but that the model has changed to a national one reducing coverage to only about 51% but that through the budget math from other funding sources, the additional seasonal officers at the airport would come in at under 11k with benefits.

JY said the placeholders are there for the police personnel increases based on how things shake out from the outgoing and incoming, and that bumps in health care are also factored into the budget for advance projections.

Louise Vendon spoke, asked on the situation for the potential of Cirque du Soleil coming in for the season and how this would impact police costs. Chief Golden responded by saying he has asked three times for a plan from the producer and is still awaiting word but that the police presence for the event would not come from the police budget. MDF said he read of the forecast for a potential 12,250 ticket holders, asked if these types of events are typically put on the producers. Chief Golden replied that in this case it can be leveraged this way as the Town owns the property.

MB asked per the condition of the base staff. Chief Golden said it's a good but difficult question in that it's a buyer's market and every community is hiring police officers and that the Town's officers while well-paid are not the best paid and the location is at issue; noted only two cops from the 1990s are still on the beat in Town, and one from the 00s; counted (9) current officers out of the total of (25) who live in Town; said he is amazed how the seasonal officers are able to arrange their local housing based on scarcity.

SV made a motion to approve the 210 Police budget as presented. MDF seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; SV, MDF, MH, MB, CC, DS.

Police Department: Capital Improvement Projects

Chief Golden spoke of CIP items as (2) requests; one for \$40,000 and one for \$90,400; rotation of police fleet as standard, no new vehicles being added to the fleet; currently pursuing a UDSA community grant which might provide up to 60+% for vehicle reimbursement but will not hear back for another seven or eight weeks; purchasing (4) additional police advisory signs for replacement around Town; requesting a small portable advisory sign for the PD for 14k.

Division 3 Public Safety

220 Fire

Fire Chief Michael Trovato and Deputy Fire Chief, Jimmy Roderick, Jr., presented; noted biggest change as being the request for an EMS Coordinator at 80k which requires a lot of work and the need for a medic on hand; spoke of trimming the budget in terms of combining inspector duties. Chief Trovato said changes were necessary as the State, which inspects ambulances twice a year, had come down last April and related improvements were needed to the Town's response mechanism.

RC said she spoke with the Town Manager in Truro and was told that Truro intends to increase its staff by eight fire fighters and EMTs over the next two years and agreed with Chief Trovato in the need for sustainable growth with no gaps in order to provide reliable service. DS asked RC how the pieces fit together for the staffing position and the methods of determining need. RC responded by citing the urgent need for the EMS Coordinator position within the Fire Dept. and anticipated a needs-survey but planned to evaluate consulting requests going forward in terms of how departments might better inter-relate structurally, as well as boards and committees.

Chief Trovato spoke of the unique challenges of running a Fire Department at the tip of the Cape and the gratitude he shares in having 50-60 people on hand who are able to choose Fire, Rescue, or both, in terms of their detail and the lasting effect this choice has had on retaining personnel.

SV made a motion to approve the 220 Fire budget as presented. MB seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; SV, MB, MH, MDF, CC, DS.

Fire Department: Capital Improvement Projects

Deputy Roderick spoke of the need to replace ambulance #196 which is 10 years and has approximately 160 miles on it, is currently in the shop, vehicle to be kept in the fleet; total ask is \$325,000 which includes 45k for stretchers. Leaking ceiling repairs are needed, as well as fresh gear for the fighters, based on a need to expel carcinogens from gear after engagement; a grant was received for partial payment on a new washer and one for hoods at 4k, which, Mr. Roderick said, all told, could help to lower the CIP request to 295k.

Division 3 Public Safety

296 Shellfish

Stephen Wisbauer, Shellfish Constable, presented; said B budget is level-funded; mentioned 30-odd aquaculture grants previous and said a study was now called for going forward at a cost of 5k to assess National Heritage and Endangered Species toward a goal of bringing commercial prospects to the shellfish farming enterprise. Mr. Discussion followed on the robust resurgence of oysters on the lower Cape.

MB made a motion to approve the 296 Shellfish budget as presented. SV seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, SV, MH, MDF, CC, DS.

Division 3 Public Safety
295 Marine/Harbormaster

JY gave an overview, addressing the new methodology for breaking down the budget. RC acknowledged the hard work done over the past month by today's presenters to bring the Pier Corp and the Harbor department together through weekly meetings.

Rex McKinsey, Marine Coordinator, Doug Boulanger, Pier Manager and Don German, Acting Harbormaster, presented. Mr. McKinsey explained the Marine Coordinator position as being crafted to focus on technical issues, shark issues, National Seashore and other duties and concerns not covered by the Pier Manager and the Harbormaster.

Mr. Boulanger gave highlights of the Harbormaster service agreement, adding that the budget was revised and cross-cuts made on the assumption that the Harbormaster's Service Agreement falls under the Pier Corps. RC said that part of the current work involves crafting a new contract for Harbor services which has not been renewed since 2017 and bringing that contract for review to the Select Board; related that the Marine Coordinator position evolved out of the Harbormaster's post which had grown to encompass too many elements to function effectively. Mr. McKinsey said that Chapter 91 and the 92 recommendations for the Harbor plan is also a part of his function in the capacity of Marine Coordinator.

CC made a motion to approve the 295 Marine/Harbormaster budget as presented. MB seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; CC, MB, MH, SV, MDF, DS.

Marine/Harbormaster: Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Boulanger spoke of the Pier infrastructure and maintenance improvements in terms of a 5 year plan at 200k per year; said a request is being made to up that amount to 210k, followed by 220k over a 5-year plan, based on the upkeep of pilings and other concerns of longevity; Pier electrical upgrades and outdated switch-gear placed on a 5-year improvement plan; Pier main waterline replacement also referenced as another antiquated system which 120k as requested will go toward jump-starting upgrades through different options; seeking to replace and upgrade Pier lights, 100k, 5 year plan.

MB asked how the Pier interacts with cruise ships. Mr. German replied that requests come in at least one year in advance whereby they are placed on a tentative schedule which goes through the Pier Corps., security plans put in place, traffic flow, and other details. Mr. Boulanger said the ships that are dockside tend to remain in dry dock whereas the ones that are out in the Harbor are shuttling into Town and spending money in Town; added that no cruise ships have been turned down this season, but that a conflict may exist with the Mayflower for the Provincetown 400 celebrations.

Division 3 Public Safety

250 Community Development

Assistant Town Manager, David Gardner, presented; said budget includes administrative salaries; A budget reported to be pretty consistent; significant change in B budget concerns adding 10k to the software, said Cape towns are migrating from the Acela program into Viewpoint, an OpenGov product; 2k line item for advertising and promotion, direct mailings; an increase for in-State travel.

MB made a motion to approve the 250 Community Development budget as presented. SV seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, SV, MH, MDF, CC, DS.

Community Development: Capital Improvement Projects

Tim Famulare, Conservation Planner, joined Mr. Gardner. Mr. Famulare said the CIP has been on the Warrant for the past two Town Meetings concerning the dune nourishment project at Ryder Street beach; said the survey portion of a grant from Coastal Zone Management completed last June located about (8) private property owners who might be affected by the project, resulting in a request for an increase to the CIP for 200k while working with Town Counsel to acquire property rights.

MDF said the ask is a lot of money, but noted the benefits to the Town of the project down the road; sat in on a recent meeting regarding the presentation of this project and found it impressive and informative; thanked Mr. Gardner for his work on the budget.

Division 3 Public Safety

251: Building Division

Anne Howard, Building Commissioner, presented; announced an increase, along with some modifications and decrease in other areas; a reduction in education and training; spoke of future needs for inspectors; said she has been working for the Town in this capacity since 2016 and now has all of her certifications in place. The FINCOM thanked Ms. Howard for her work and service.

MB made a motion to approve the 251 Building budget as presented. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, DS, MH, SV, MDF, CC.

Division 3 Public Safety

255: Housing & Economic Development

Michelle Jarusiewicz, Housing and Economic Development Specialist, presented; said the only change in the budget is a 20k contract and services line item that is not in the proposed budget as it's been used in a variety of ways; per Harbor Hill: Building 5 has been fully occupied since last summer; have certificates of occupancy for (7) units as of last two weeks; another (5) or (6) committed units that are not available yet; continuing to accept rolling applications, expect to be fully occupied among all (4) Town-owned buildings by June; said the ADA unit will have a deed restriction applied to that unit, low-to-moderate income, or 80%; said property is still in Land Court and once removed from that status will become a condominium association; Trust membership, fully staffed.

SV made a motion to approve the 255 Housing & Economic Development budget as presented. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; SV, DS, MH, MB, MDF, CC.

Division 3 Public Safety

253: Health Division

Morgan Clark, Director, Department of Health & Environment, presented; said budget is basically level at a ss than 1% increase; highlighted features of the Health Department, including lunches, free rides, free childcare, Winter Wednesday classes, and crop swap, which is a year-round program at the Library; addiction treatment program.

MB made a motion to approve the 253 Health Division budget as presented. SV seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, SV, MH, MDF, CC, DS.

Division 1 General Government

672: Art Commission

David Gardner spoke; said the Art Commission is the Board that maintains the Town's art collection, seen as hung in buildings about Town and that they are seeking to have a greater online presence and to make the collection more accessible to the public.

MB made a motion to approve the 672 Art Commission budget as presented. SV seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, SV, MH, MDF, CC, DS.

Division 4 Public Works

545: Disability Committee

No one presented. JY opened the files on OpenGov to gain a more in-depth perspective and the various committees and their activities.

MB made a motion to approve the 545 Disability Committee budget as presented. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, DS, MH, SV, MDF, CC.

Division 4 Public Works

550: Animal Welfare

Mr. Gardner said the Committee creates educational materials for topics such as dogs in cars, wildlife, as well as buying, implementing and maintaining dog-poop bags around Town; does a lot of outreach and public awareness; Committee is level-funded.

SV made a motion to approve the 550 Animal Welfare budget as presented. MDF seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, MDF, MH, SV, CC, DS.

Division 4 Public Works

560: Bicycle Committee

Mr. Gardner said the Committee has bike rack programs and participates in World Fest; active in bike safety and public awareness, works with the local seasonal Visa-holders.

DS made a motion to approve the 560 Bicycle Committee budget as presented. MB seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; DS, MB, MH, SV, MDF, CC.

Division 3 Public Safety

231: Ambulance

MH noted the budget as basically level-funded. MB asked why Ambulance was a separate budget. RC said it would probably be enveloped into the Fire Rescue Department budget with the new EMS Coordinator hire. DS asked if there were stats on number of rides, to which RC said those figures have been hard to track, but will be tethered out going forward.

MB made a motion to approve the 231 Ambulance budget as presented. CC seconded the motion and it passed, 6-0-0; MB, CC, MH, SV, MDF, DS.

2. Any other business that may legally come before the Committee.

Rainbow Crosswalk

MH referenced the controversy as one group in Town wants to paint two crosswalks rainbow colors at a cost of \$5,000 and another group in Town objects to the innovation. Some Board members related that they were perplexed by the objection, asked why it has dragged on for several years, stated an option before the Board to propose an Article on the issue where the Select Board has not. SV noted that the Portuguese Festival foots the bill and does the work painting crosswalks for its event. MB said that the initial issue is that the crosswalks were painted yellow by the DPW but proved slippery. MH said the FINCOM is involved because the money has to come from somewhere and he feels that a vote on Town Hall floor breaks the log-jam. CC stated his preference that the Town pays for the job rather than a private or community entity.

RC said the handling of the matter at the Select Board meeting was respectful and inclusive but suggested democracy is sometimes messy and getting everyone on board will go a long way and that allowing more time to work on a resolve might be prudent; noted the DPW letter sent to the Select Board was not in favor of the designation. MH repeated his displeasure in noting that something which stands for a measure of inclusiveness should have to be negotiated in this day and age. DS suggested that, as a process issue, the two parties designated by the Select Board to negotiate a resolve be permitted to follow along that process prior to a controversy on the floor of Town Hall. MH said this would be fine were it not for the time-line of the Warrant closure for Town Meeting in April, but stated he was not in full agreement that a negotiation is what is needed for something that hinges on inclusion. SV agreed to try and let the groups work out their differences with a little mediation.

Mr. Gardner stated that there is a distinction not being addressed at the moment in that the issue with the opposition group is not a gay or rainbow designation, but rather the location; that one of the streets for the proposed rainbow crossing – Ryder – has already been designated by the Town as part of Portuguese Square over the course of 70 years; that the Portuguese Festival organizers donate ornamentation and brackets on the street poles and also allow other banners on the flagpoles in the Square outside of the three weeks their Festival occupies the square and poles for its events.

MDF made an analogy to the Boston St. Patrick's Day parade organizers excluding LGBTQ participation for years, and MH concurred. SV differed, suggesting that giving the Portuguese Festival their own themed-crosswalk at their Ryder Street section would be prudent, and then have a rainbow and trans-themed crosswalk in two other locations.

MH suspended conversation on the matter for the remainder of today's meeting.

Parking Fees Bylaw Proposal

Mr. Gardner said he didn't feel that a Bylaw is the correct place to have parking fee regulations, but would investigate other communities which have parking fee bylaws in the general bylaw as suggested by the FINCOM; said parking regulations are under the purview of the Select Board, and cautioned that the usual traffic meeting can go for four or five hours. MB said his concern is that opening up parking fees into a bylaw could bring on other determination proposals. Mr. Gardner said the time-frame for a bylaw vote might bring complications.

MH said the initial impulse was to have a place to bring forth clear information on what the regulations are concerning resident and non-resident parking, which Mr. Gardner said can be found extensively on the Town's website. MH said the bylaws are more concise and prefers to find his information therein.

Mr. Gardner said a proposal is in the offing to provide free parking permits to all sitting Town board members which will be heard at a Town meeting on Monday. MH advised that the conversation continue on the proposal following further research but that he is feeling ambivalent on the matter at the moment.

Non-resident FINCOM Board Members

MB proposed tabling this Warrant article proposal to the next meeting.

MH adjourned the meeting at 12:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jody O'Neil