

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 12, 2012, 7:00 AM**

**Town Administrator's Conference Room, Town Hall
155 Village Street**

Present: Chairman John Foresto, Selectman Andrew Espinosa, Selectman Dennis Crowley, Selectman Glenn Trindade (left at 8:30) and Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy. Selectman Richard Dunne was absent.

Also Present: Allen Tingley, Police Chief; Melanie Phillips, Finance Director; Carol Pratt, Town Accountant.

At 7:02 AM Chairman Foresto called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: None.

FY2013 Budget Discussion – Continued:

Police Department – Police Chief Allen Tingley distributed copies of a handout containing a summary of information listing the number of calls to the department, divided into categories and totaled by year. He indicated calls and investigations have spiraled upwards in recent years, which generates a lot of follow-up tasks. He stated that he wanted to provide the Board with additional data and documentation to support his request for an additional patrol officer in order to promote an officer to detective.

Selectman Trindade was surprised at the number of calls, noting he was not aware that there was so much paperwork attached to each investigation or call. Chairman Foresto wanted to know if there was a way to determine the dollars involved. Brief discussion followed. Chief Tingley stated the spike in calls is what really stands out, and it's tough to be everywhere at once with limited staff. Ms. Kennedy stated she would like to look at the data a little more. Discussion followed.

Selectman Crowley asked for more details on what investigation entails. Chief Tingley listed some duties as following up on a domestic situation, call backs, processing insurance and accident forms, to name a few. Discussion followed on union positions and associated salary ranges.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board instruct the Town Administrator to work with the Police Chief to add the position of one (1) Patrol Officer to the FY13 Budget; Selectman Espinosa seconded. Brief discussion followed. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Approval – One-Day Liquor License, St. Joseph's Parish:

The Board reviewed an Application for a One-Day Liquor License, received March 9, 2012 that had been forwarded to the Police Chief for review.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board approve a one-day liquor license for St. Joseph's Parish Dinner and Dance to be held on March 17, 2012 from 6:30 – 11:30 PM at its Parish Center on Holliston Street pending a positive recommendation from the Police Department; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

At 7:35 AM Selectman Trindade moved that the Board go into executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body [Exemption 6 -- Adams St] and to return to public session upon adjournment; Selectman Crowley seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote – Crowley, aye; Espinosa, aye; Foresto, aye; Trindade, aye.

At 7:44 AM Chairman Foresto reconvened public session.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board reopen the 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board establish a placeholder article for the acquisition of open space; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board close the 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Brief discussion followed on the amount of time necessary to update and revise the warrant. It was agreed to meet again on Monday, March 19, at 7:00 AM.

At 8:00 AM Selectman Trindade moved that the Board return to executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body [Exemption 6 -- Adams St] and to return to public session upon adjournment; Selectman Crowley seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote: 4-0-0 – Crowley, aye; Espinosa, aye; Foresto, aye; Trindade, aye.

At 8:15 AM Chairman Foresto reconvened public session. The Board resumed its budget discussion.

Chairman Foresto encouraged Board members to review the updated budget and compare it to their books so that everyone is working with the same numbers. Selectman Espinosa stated he would like to a copy of whatever is transmitted to the Finance Committee.

There was brief discussion on the projected free cash of \$81,000, including the possibility of adding the salary amount for the police officer to the Police Department budget and maybe making reductions elsewhere. Selectman Espinosa expressed concern that such action would detrimentally impact the chief and the department in another way. The Board also discussed the two vehicles per year option.

Ms. Kennedy reminded the Board of its own budget policy, eliciting a discussion on the ability to add positions or capital items for other departments relative to the Board of Selectmen's Budget Policy. Chairman Foresto stated the Board has to respect the decision it made and follow its own guidelines. He added that the schools have been afforded a lot of latitude the past few years, i.e., curriculum director, so adding a patrol officer is not that far out of the scheme of things. There may be a way to spend the \$57,000 in a way that both the schools and the Town benefit.

The Board asked Ms. Pratt about the school budget. She responded that there is still a little unallocated revenue. Chairman Foresto suggested further discussion on the school budget at tonight's Leadership meeting with the Superintendent. Brief discussion followed.

Economic Development -- \$21,752 is currently listed. Chairman Foresto stated he believes the Board's position was that this amount was not sufficient for the task. He indicated he spoke with someone on the Planning Board who also did not believe it would be enough, and that the person hired should be full-time in order to successfully focus on economic development. A part-time staff member might not be the right choice.

Selectman Espinosa expressed concern that present efforts are not as successful as they could be. He suggested allocating some of that free cash with the proviso that it will not be spent until the Planning Board comes back to us with a proposal that the Board accepts. If this does not happen, the money does not get used. This would at least give them the incentive to do something. The money is set aside and if unspent, it can be rescinded. Discussion followed, mentioning other areas from where funds could be reallocated, places where budgeted numbers were left high, including the mostly unused Snow and Ice budget which will fall to free cash this year.

Discussion followed, exploring various alternate funding options, including the schools, police department allocation for vehicles and salaries, library budget, OPEB vs. ESCO, TRANE account, stabilization account, to name a few. Ms. Kennedy suggested moving \$300,000 from operational reserves into a Capital Items article, and, instead of transferring \$250,000, transfer only \$200,000 into the Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund, with an additional article for \$50,000. Various suggested motions were discussed.

Selectman Espinosa moved that the Board transfer \$200,000 from the anticipated free cash to the Capital Improvements Stabilization Account, and further, move \$59,042 to Economic Development for the purpose of promoting economic development; Chairman Foresto seconded. A friendly amendment was suggested that the motion should specify the free cash is from this fiscal year; Selectman Espinosa accepted the amendment. No further discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.

Chairman Foresto moved that the Board transfer \$49,000 from the anticipated free cash from this fiscal year to the ESCO Stabilization Fund; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.

Ms. Pratt asked the Board if it was ready for the budget to reflect revised amounts for the Finance Committee. She confirmed the revised amounts that the Board has discussed thus far.

After discussion, Selectman Crowley moved that the Board move the available capital funding allocated to the additional police officer salary (roughly \$57,000) be transferred to the DPW for roadway repair; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Night Board Secretary