



**Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 30, 2014
Scituate Library
7:00 pm**

Committee members in attendance:

Maura Curran – Chairperson
Karen Connolly
Mark Sandham
Geoff Burns
Frank Judge
Mike Westort
Bob Sanderson

Committee members absent:

Anthony Antonello
Jamie Gilmore

Also Present:

Trisha Vinchesi
Bill Sheehan
Nancy Holt
Joe Strazdes
Chief Mike Stewart
Chief Rick Judge

1. Meeting Called to Order – By Chairperson Curran at 7:04 PM
2. Acceptance of agenda—accepted unanimously.

3. FY 15 Budget Review

Shellfish – presented by Joe Strazdes

- The shellfish beds are currently closed for state testing.
- Mark Westort asked for the reasoning behind the closure: Joe explained it is currently closed for the State to do their testing on the new crops. Closings also happen due to e-coli, warm weather and the wash off from roads.
- The Shellfish season will be extended by opening on November 1
- Joe stated that his appointment will end July 2015, he will retire.
- Mark Westort ask the cost of the shellfish license- Joe explained it is \$20 for the year
- Next year the Shellfish budget will be included within the Harbor Masters budget

Fire Department Budget- presented by Chief Rick Judge

- The radio system has been changed to narrow band, this has caused issues in areas of Scituate do to service, and they are currently working to fix this issue, the money to fix the radio system is with in the capital plan
- Geoff Burns asked for the update status of the Quint: Trisha responded that a Ladder truck will be purchased.
- Mark Westort questioned why the vacation buy back is larger than other towns; Chief Judge explained some existing towns have slower departments, a smaller amount of fire departments and have on call fire fighters
- Geoff Burns asked for a breakdown in the safety program: Chief Judge explained there is \$5000.00 from the SAFE grant and \$5000 placed in the budget; this money helps to pay firefighters to visit and schools and to conduct fire safety.
- Maura Curran stated that the 27k request for equipment has been moved to the capital budget
- Maura questioned the percentages on longevity; Rick explained with 25yrs of service there is a 2% increase, with 30 yrs. of service there is a 4%
- Maura questioned the use of the AFG grant; Rick explained the request for it was denied in FY13 & FY 14. It has been submitted for the Jaws of Life for FY 15
- Karen Connolly asked is the benchmark will change once we receive the new comps are reviewed; Rick explained it will be resubmitted in February/ March

IT - presented by Bill Sheehan

- Bill explained that the budget is lower in FY15 due to all the new equipment that was installed in FY 14.
- Bill has sent out an RFP for the Wi-Fi in the harbor
Within the FY15 budget is the cost for mobile computing. These tablets will be for the building inspectors/DPW and other committees. Training will need to be done for these departments.
- Geoff Burns questioned if it was possible to have a mobile interface for visitors to navigate them around town; Bill explained with the new Wi-Fi in the harbor, visitors will be able to access the towns website which will have links to local business, trails, golf courses etc.

Police Department budget presented by Chief Michael Stewart

- Chief Stewart indicated that two new lieutenants' have been hired, this is included in FY15
- The schools and police department have decided to remove the DARE officer from the schools. The schools will now have an in school resource officer from the police station. He will be stationed within the high school but will split his time between all Scituate public schools. The schools and the police department are sharing the cost of this position.
- Frank Judge asked if the Chief foresees problems with combining police and fire in a central dispatch system ; Chief Stewart responded that it will be helpful since they will be able to cross train employees and have a single dispatch station
- Frank questioned the lower budget for vehicle cost this year ; Chief Stewart said they had just received a new fleet and most of these costs were for maintenance
- Maura questioned when they typically replace vehicles; The Chief responded that vehicles were replaced on a 3-year cycle.

4. New Business

- Frank Judge updated the committee on the Gates school project and possible locations. It is Anticipated that there will be a Special town meeting in December 2014 to address the debt exclusion and ballot question once the MSBA has presented it's final plans and the School Committee and BOS have voted on an option.

Next meeting: Thursday February 6, 2014 at the Scituate Town Library

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM 1st motion by Mark Sandham 2nd motion by Mark Westort

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey DeSimone, Recording Secretary
2.4.14