



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
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Mark S. Carson, Chair
Tara B. White
Bill West
Select Board

**Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee
Hybrid Meeting
In Person and Via Zoom
Thursday, February 23, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Select Board Members Present: Mark Carson, Chair
Tara B. White
Bill West

Finance Committee Members Present: Beth Reynolds
Steve Klein
Doug Newman
Robert Miller
Jane Fuccillo (not present)
Barbara Marchione
John Pshenishny

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Michelle Castellano, Administrative Secretary
Graham Frank, Police Chief

Beth Reynolds called the meeting to order for the Finance Committee at 6:04 p.m.
Mark Carson called the meeting to order for the Select Board at 6:04 p.m.

Mari advised that the remaining budgets for FY24 are being prepared and that the Select Board has been working on the COLA. She is confident that they will have a final COLA recommendation at their next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, February 27th. Mari will then update the salary budgets. In the meantime, the remaining budgets will be reviewed by the Select Board and Finance Committee with the Transfer Station budget expected to be reviewed at the next joint meeting. Mari also expects to have a partial budget roll-out document by the middle of next week.

Meet with Department Heads to discuss FY 24 budget requests

Police Chief Graham Frank reviewed the FY24 budget requests for the Police Department:

- Police Dept. Salaries

Chief Frank advised that because of the new state police-reform law, his department can no longer employ officers with only part-time training. Based on this update, the FY24 budget reflects the salary increase for all trained officers. Chief Frank also indicated that last year he had projected adding a full-time officer to his staff, but for FY24 he instead increased the hours for the 32 hour / week full-time officer he already has on staff by 8 hours / week so the officer will now be working a total of 40 hours / week. Chief Frank also added another certified police officer at 16 hours/week with full-time pay at \$28.00/hour. This will implement a rotating schedule where the officers rotate their work days, working 4 days on and 2 days off. Eventually, he advised that he would like to add an additional officer so there are two officers on during the day shift. Based on FY23, Chief Frank also increased the overtime budget for FY24 from 100 hours to 250 hours. The FY24 salary rates will be determined by the COLA but he is working with the Select Board and Human Resources on a pay scale for the police department because he wants to stay competitive with other towns. Chief Frank's proposed salary budget is an increase of \$60,000 over the FY 23 budget. However, \$6,000 of that increase includes moving the Animal Control Officer stipend into the Police Dept. so the net increase would be approximately \$54,000.

- Police Reform Bridge Academy

Chief Frank advised that he has one officer that is signed up for 132 hours of Bridge Academy Training of which \$3,000.00 is eligible to be reimbursed by a grant.

- Police Dept. Expenses

FY24 budget has increased by approximately \$8,300.00 because of the addition of the body cams, computer software, cell phones and animal control expenses. However, the net change is less than \$5,300.00 because the animal control expenses were previously in a different budget. They have been moved over to the police department expense budget because the Animal Control responsibilities have become part of the police department and Chief Frank is the Animal Control officer. The chief also discussed purchasing a new police cruiser which will largely be paid for (75%) by a grant. The remaining cost for the cruiser has already been planned in the capital expense.

Discuss FY24 Budget

To be discussed at a future meeting.

Review and approve Finance Committee Budget requests

To be discussed at a future meeting.

Review and approve minutes of previous meetings

The Finance Committee had previously approved the minutes from the January 17, 2023 joint Select Board and Finance Committee meeting as written and the Select Board did not. These minutes will be reviewed by the Select Board at a later meeting.

A motion was made by Tara White on behalf of the Select Board, seconded and so voted to approve the joint Select Board and Finance Committee minutes from February 16, as amended.

Mark Carson	Aye
Tara White	Aye
Bill West	Aye

A motion was made by Beth Reynolds on behalf of the Finance Committee, seconded and so voted to approve the joint Select Board and Finance Committee minutes from February 16, as amended.

Beth Reynolds	Aye
Steve Klein	Aye
Doug Newman	Aye
Robert Miller	Aye
Barbara Marchione	Aye
John Pshenishny	Aye

Barbara Marchione discussed the potential impact of more and more residents purchasing electric vehicles and the contribution they can make to the town's excise tax. Tara advised that when the tax rate is set, the town estimates the excise tax for the coming fiscal year. The impact of the electric vehicles on the overall budget varies year to year because as all vehicles age and / or are purchased and sold, the overall excise tax revenue fluctuates.

Tara reminded everyone that the School Committee meeting for school budget is for Thursday, March 2nd and suggested that both the Finance Committee and the Select Board should join to hear their budget presentation.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:12 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Submitted by Michelle Castellano, Administrative Secretary

Date Approved: March 9, 2023