

Advisory Committee Public Safety Budget Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
1/9/2019

In attendance: Subcommittee Members Eric Haskell (Chair), Eryn Kelley, and Davalene Cooper.
Others in attendance: Glenn Olson (Chief of Police), David Jones (Deputy Chief of Police) Ken Corson (Harbormaster), and Joseph Driscoll (Head Assistant Harbormaster).

Chair Haskell called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Harbormaster Budget: Harbormaster Ken Corson presented the level services budget. There was discussion regarding the clerk's position, which is funded at 26 hours per week. Originally, there was no administrative support for the Harbormaster's Office, and the 26 hours is probably not adequate over time, but it is sufficient for now. There are a lot of administrative tasks to be done, including interfacing with the public, collecting late fees and violations, and dealing with online mooring reservations.

There is a need to keep a close watch on the maintenance and replacement of the Harbormaster vehicles. The Town Administrator is requesting additional funds (\$2500) for this line item. The other additional increase of \$9226 is for the rental agreement for the offices at the MBTA Intermodal Center.

One area of concern for the Harbormaster is the increasing demands on the office because of increased use of the harbor for school sporting activities and other private events. The traditional summer season of 9 weeks continues to be stretched out, creating additional demands for services in the "shoulder" seasons.

Animal Control: There is a slight increase in payroll expenses (\$418) and no increase in the budget for expenses.

Police Department: Chief Olson presented the Police Department budget. The increase in salaries is based on the requirements of the negotiated contract with the union. There are three additional requests being recommended for FY 2020. First, there is a request for 2 additional school crossing guards for a total increase of \$16,577. Hingham needs school crossing guards at 12 different locations and this increase will prevent negative spending.

Second, the department has opted to use the Assessment Center approved by Civil Service for promotions within the department. This is in place of the traditional written examination. The Assessment Center uses real life scenarios that permit an examinee to demonstrate the ability to properly manage a situation. This would provide better information with regard to those officers seeking to be promoted. This process is also a more efficient one,

Third, the department is requesting \$9000 to pay for two recruits to attend the Municipal Police Training Academy. Historically, Hingham has had recruits pay the cost of this training. This affects the ability of the town to hire the most qualified candidates. As part of paying for the training, it is expected that a change will be made to the police union contract that will require officers whose training is paid for by the town to stay for 3-5 years before they can transfer to another police department.

The subcommittee adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Davalene Cooper

Approved by AdComm Public Safety Budget Subcommittee: 02/14/2019