

**Board of Selectmen
Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023**

Present: James Bailey – Chairman, Iris Campbell – Selectwoman, Richard Pelletier - Selectman and Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Police Chief Chris Parsons, Riche' Colcombe

Meeting opened at 2:00 pm

1. 2024 POLICE BUDGET

- More manpower has been budgeted for 2024 (2 full-time officers).
- Cases have increased from 850 in 2022 to 1050 in 2023.
- Ms. Buono would like the Board to consider funding the 2 full-time positions from the money the town received for the workforce housing project (\$840,000). The first year would be funded 100%, the following year 75%, third year 50%, fourth year 25% and the fifth year the budget will cover the expenses for the 2 positions. The Chief knows of 3 certified officers that would like to work for the town. The Board is in favor of using the \$840,000 to off-set the cost for the 2 positions for 5 years.
- Equipment purchase line increased by \$25,000 because of the 50/50 grant match for the dash cams.
- Overtime will be used for two-man coverage and court time. The Chief explained the court time process that always includes the time of an officer.
- Money will be encumbered in 2024 towards the purchase of 2 replacement vehicles in 2025.
- Hillsboro Police have been hosting trainings which results in a cost savings because Hillsboro officer cost is half price. Seven training courses will be hosted in 2024.
- The Diversion Officer has also been added to the police budget.
- The updated union contract will be presented in a warrant article in March.

2. 2024 BUDGET

The Board talked about the 2024 budget which is showing a large increase including the warrant articles. The cost of doing business has increased in many areas of the budget. 2024 also includes 2 updated union contracts that will be voted on.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman