



KYLE TAKAKJIAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

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LT. / EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 2015 eNewsletter

Quick Updates

We are pleased to see the bulk of this winter in the rear-view mirror. I know these past few months have been taxing on all of you, to say the least. I'm proud of the way the men and women of the Police Department responded to all the calls for assistance during this period. Three new Police Officers are completing their Field Training Program, which helps to acclimate our new officers to the practical applications of policing in Truro specifically. The annual Senior Dinner was held here at the Public Safety Facility on Sunday March 22. This year we hosted about 50 seniors, who enjoyed a delightful meal prepared under the guidance of Mr. Michael Janoplis, with assistance from members of both the Truro Police and Fire Departments. As we anticipate spring and prepare for Town Meeting, I would like to discuss with you our FY16 Budget. Additionally, we have been developing a police dog (K9) program and hope to present this to the Town's governance in May. Highlights of both are below.

FY16 Budget Request

Each department in Truro was asked to examine closely its budget submissions for areas of savings. Further, we looked at what a 5% reduction in our budgets would look like. For the Police Department, that figure was \$93,000.00 (Ninety-Three Thousand Dollars.) Cuts of this magnitude would mean losing one of the full-time positions authorized at last year's Town Meeting, community outreach programs, Officer and Dispatch training, and other important programs. I'm pleased to submit a request for the FY16 operating budget in the amount of \$1,857,099, which is a reduction from our FY15 operating budget of \$3,441.

Capital Improvement items come under a separate request. As you are aware, we have reduced the police vehicle fleet substantially. As a result, the cars we have accumulate mileage at a much higher rate. Accordingly, the Board of Selectmen has instituted a policy, namely "Policy Memorandum #55," which supports the Police Department's fleet and the replacement of as many as two vehicles per year as part of the Town's Capital Outlay Business Practices. I'm very appreciative of the Board's support as we try to institutionalize the way we do business. The Capital Improvement outlay for FY16 will include two Police Cruisers and all their associated equipment for a total request of \$71,000.00. Please note that one of the cruisers is a legacy Ford Crown Victoria. Replacing that car, which is no longer available, requires additional pieces of equipment as much of it no longer fits into the new cars.

As always, we make every attempt to match the requested budget items to items we truly need in order to deliver needed services. I and the members of the Police Department seek your support as these items come to Town Meeting.

Truro Police K9 Association Initiative

Members of the Truro Police Department's Police Association have formed a second non-profit organization for the purpose of establishing a K9 program for the Truro Police Department. This program is currently a partnership of private citizens, businesses, and the Truro Police K9 Association, Inc. Our goal is three fold: to provide a trained K9 police dog and handler for the Truro Police Department; to gain community support for the initiative; and third, to raise funding needed to equip, maintain, and support this program.

Officer Steve Raneo has purchased "Ella" – a lively and energetic Yellow Labrador Retriever. Ella will be trained as both a "Passive" (non-aggressive) search and rescue dog and as a narcotics dog. As a search dog, Ella will be able to find lost people, whether it is an issue with Alzheimer's, Autism, a lost child, or any other search for a person. The difference being once Ella finds the person, she licks and wags her tail vs. biting. Secondly, as we are seeing with alarming frequency all over Cape Cod, the Heroin and Opiate addictions, overdoses, and deaths caused by the use of these drugs is affecting the quality of life for many individuals and families. Currently the Police Department uses dogs from the County Sheriff's Department, the State Police, and Upper Cape Police Departments. The response time and availability has caused us to lose out on drug seizures that sometimes go unfound. Adding a locally available trained search/drug dog to assist in searching and finding these dangerous drugs will increase greatly our ability to deal with this quality-of-life issue.

I fully support this initiative, and I will be making a formal presentation to our Board of Selectmen in May. As a continuation of our regional efforts, the three Chiefs of Police from Provincetown, Wellfleet, and Eastham, through their respective Boards of Selectmen, will ask their Towns to provide additional financial support to the program, as Ella will be available to other communities through our mutual aid agreements. Additionally, the work being done by our Lower Cape Regional Detectives Group will be enhanced greatly with Ella's presence and availability. To date, the K9 Association has raised over \$22,000.00 in community donations for the program. Our goal is raise \$50,000.00 this year, knowing that fundraising will be on a continuing basis.

