

June 30th SRO Meeting Minutes

SRO Meeting July 30 @ 2PM

Call to order 2:04, followed by pledge.

Selectman Cronin - Follow up from last meeting June 12, who'd like to start

Selectman Menges - as it stands, Mr. Braga on compensation/my position: if SRO is to start it needs to start 1st of September. Thumbnail approach is: we immediately advertise SRO position subject first to impact negotiation with union, memorandum of opening, and advertise simultaneously for a new police officer, funds of which appropriated by last meeting minus last proviso by the school.

Selectman Tanis - Instructional piece is taken out; funding of some form is lost; position is simply a police presence in the school

Principal Kevin Braga - budget is 20k teaching, 75 resource officer. Asked amount of budget...total amount 72-73k not exact

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - so budget is ... For the SRO... They want me to take a man and hire another guy... Where is this 72k going to the police department, not a dime to be received by the department, only the town.. It doesn't help the department and my goal is to protect the town... Basically I'm going backwards not forward... Accountant told us that it was going into general fund, so it's not going back to us. Understaffed as it is. That's how I feel

Selectman Tanis - wasn't part of the budget, but the funding is for a patrolmen and not an SRO, so I think it should be counted as a new position, it shouldn't fall on the budget for only one officer.

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - taking a guy from roster and hiring again... Not gaining anything... Concern is with 72k in this, how is that coming to the town? Where's it going.

Selectman Tanis - your budget in the long run has to be increased whether special town meeting...

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - only 2 with bachelors, so we'll lose one

Principal Kevin Braga - mass requires a bachelors but ideally we want experience... For teaching

Selectman Menges - if we don't have a teaching position, what's your plan?

Principal Kevin Braga - teaching piece it's my top priority, 50k is for SRO alone without teaching, 25ish is for the teaching

Selectman Menges - are you still able to take a portion of the funds that have been allocated and plug the whole in the teaching aid to not adversely affect the safety of the town. Question is, are you able to do the teaching alone without SRO

Principal Kevin Braga - haven't explored the option yet...

Selectman Menges - chips have settled, against the teaching position, also against sending an SRO up there.. We need to create the budget and position for police office first... Not likely in FY 2016

Principal Kevin Braga - I worry that since it's been 5 years after last decline, it'll be another five years, I've worked to get this position again, it will be difficult to budget this again

Selectman Menges - police union will have to be comfortable with instructing, they are concerned with an officer performing dual roles. Secondly it would depend upon us taking the money we have appropriated for an additional police office to replace for an officer for the high school, no net gain in safety for the town.. We'd have to wait for FY 2017.... I'd be willing to talk to school committee and explain why it may have to wait for FY 2017

Selectman Tanis - this way we can appropriately budget in 2017...

Selectman Menges - we should make a decision today...

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - I think selectmen Tanis is correct in saying budget is allowed in 2017... My other question... Is it possible to post this position for an officer to teach without acting as an SRO position.. Could you still utilize that funding to hold for this year? - adds I think that would satisfy the need and get the position out to a certified officer

Principal Kevin Braga - sure that could work, would that be an issue with union.

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - no, it wouldn't, we acknowledge the importance of the position, but we can't lend an officer at this time. - If it was someone else, they couldn't act on behalf of town, but would be able to teach at least, to get the position running...

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - Would it satisfy the need and secure funding and accreditation in the future?

Principal Kevin Braga - yes, but it doesn't get me an SRO, ... How much is an SRO for 12 months...

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - it could vary, looking at 100k anyway.

Selectman Menges - I'd suggest that we may wait until someone did have his position and experience that it should be at least 55k.

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - in a perfect world, your responsibility would be nil, we'd be sponsoring the SRO.

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - if we have a fulltime staff, this wouldn't be a problem, but it's just how it is... Needs to change. We still haven't added additional men. Town never put additional men on, just replace people as they retire, just how it's worked in the Town... It time to build this police department.

Sgt. David McGurik - question, in schools scenario you get a police position to teach, what would be next step for next year?

Principal Kevin Braga - to make sure we get an SRO,

Selectman Menges - how long would it take you to authorize it through the union?

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - basically about 2 months, at least 30 days to call the meeting. Gist of posting is that we've never had a position involving this much criteria, we have a problem there, so we need someone to fill all qualifications for position. Fair to say we need you to secure funding?

Principal Kevin Braga - I'm Principal, so top priority is safety in the building, then it try and be creative to get a full time position and get a resource officer in the building. It would be easier to get an SRO position next year if we have something.

Selectman Menges - if we did a written agreement, then secure at town meeting a direct transfer of that commitment to the police department for another officer. Committing school to provide payment while the Union starts the process... Town meeting scheduled for 27th of October, if town votes to authorize transfer of payment to police officer...

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - so finance committee said you'll get one guy not and one in October

Selectman Menges - because of the way we received it we can't to a raise and appropriate but we can to a transfer of money to pay for SRO and you already get the officer.

Selectman Cronin - the second officer comes in June.

Selectman Menges - have a draft memorandum of understanding then well move on our end and wait on agreement from the high school

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - can that be done,

Selectman Menges - yes

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - union is willing to talk about this with the chief,

Chief Robert L. MacDonald - yes I have no issue

Selectman Menges - I move that board of selectmen send a formal written request to mass cop local 306 for an impact negation on a draft memorandum of understanding for creation of an SRO position for the high school.

Selectman Tanis - second

Selectman Cronin – Any discussion

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin – question; what we looking at for a number for this program

Principal Kevin Braga - between 60-65

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - so were looking at potentially 80% funding of the program, chief would pay 20% of the program,

Selectman Tanis - were already passed for 2 months, then were covered for next fiscal year

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - will be a different number

Chief - just have to figure that out in the next budget, is that right

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - well it could change

Selectman Menges - until town meeting no one is employed. We definitely can fund it with a 60K commitment.

Sgt. David McGurik - since we're in the middle of an agreement it needs to be a year to year agreement at least until June 30 next year.

Selectman Menges - if 1 yr. draft memorandum, we've got it

Sgt. David McGurik - going to be a choice until it's completed, funding could be different

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - next question: for who's interested, what are we looking at for funding to being in a teacher, for u to get accreditation, what would be money for that?

Principal Kevin Braga - it would be somewhere in the low 20k range..

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - so if there was an officer could I give that number

Principal Kevin Braga - I have to go back and I would let u know. If there's a teacher he'd be under me..

Sgt. David McGurik - little liability exposed because were sworn Dighton officers.

Principal Kevin Braga, I have complete confidence in our department, would mind a Dighton officer.

Selectman Menges - individual who does it will have to figure out his own benefits and understanding and schedule, Principal won't have any control over that schedule.

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - by having your criteria for teaching, it could be clouded because of what the officer can and can't do, as an officer still bound to do certain things, so could disrupt schedule,

Principal Kevin Braga, no issue with that,

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - but to be clear, someone from outside wouldn't have that commitment

Principal Kevin Braga, now the vacation periods would be under the school district...

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - could be a double whammy for ya, could work out

laughter

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - ultimately we want to work together and make the relation ship strong, this might be a better option.

Principal Kevin Braga - I want to work with you guys, don't want an SRO if it jeopardize

Selectman Menges - leave with understanding that teaching will be taken care by you, we need 3 docs memo of understanding from union.... town meeting Warrant

article for direct transfer of funds from school to department, and a commitment in writing pledging a monthly salary agreement

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - if he knows he can better know what to ask for,,,

addressing the 3 docs

Selectman Menges - I will work closely with u and union to move this forward..
Need to talk to town council first... Target should be not later than end of
November to have and SRO in place

Selectmen Cronin - on Motion: unanimous approval.

Selectman Cronin – I like this agreement, much better than last one

Chief I agree, I think this was a great meeting, may not be in place by September
but progress was made...

Principal Kevin Braga - sooner we work on getting MRO the sooner you can work
in posting.

looking over docs, revising to fit motion made

Sgt. David McGurik - union may want to make some changes according to what
we need suggestion, do normal job posting and forward it to us, so by change if
someone is interested well forward them to you

Sgt. Shawn P. Cronin - weekly commitment?

Principal - every day of the week,

Chief - thank you board, thank you Kevin.

Selectman Cronin - motion to adjourn made; unanimous favoring.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ PATRICK W. MENGES
Clerk of the Board of Selectmen

Prepared by:

LUCAS FAGUNDES
Intern