



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor Murphy, Chair
Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair
Councillor-at-Large Karen Colon-Hayes
Councillor Jadeane Sica
Councillor Christopher Simonelli
Councillor Stephen Winslow

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room #105

215 Pleasant Street

Roll Call

Also Present: Councillor Crowe, Linehan, McDonald, O'Malley
Zaheer Shaheer-Assistant City Solicitor
Ron Hogan-Chief Strategy Innovation Officer
Charles Ranaghan-CFO

Councillor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Present: 5 - Councillor Barbara Murphy, Councillor Paul Condon, Karen Colon Hayes, Jadeane Sica and Stephen Winslow

Absent: 1 - Chris Simonelli

Minutes to be Approved

[245-22](#)

Minutes of March 1, 2022 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor at Large Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Winslow, that the Committee Minutes of March 1, 2022 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[246-22](#)

Minutes of April 19, 2022 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Committee Minutes from April 19, 2022 be tabled to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[247-22](#)

Minutes of May 10, 2022 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor at Large Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Winslow, that the Committee Minutes May 10, 2022 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[248-22](#)

Minutes of May 17, 2022 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Committee Minutes of May 17, 2022 be tabled to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

[236-22](#)

Order: Annual appropriation for FY2023

Sponsors: Barbara Murphy**Attachments:** [Proposed Budget](#)

The committee will continue discussion of the proposed F/Y23 Budget with the following departments:

Chief Molis-Police Department

Chief Sullivan-Fire Department.

Chief Molis-Police Department thanks the committee for having him in. He mentions the line items in the Budget in dollars and said most of them are contractual based on factors of personnel and the others related to our operational ability such as gasoline, radio equipment and bullet proof vests and he feels that what has been laid out if front of you will support our mission of public safety and that the Malden Police Department have been able to serve and protect the community with great distinction and no controversy and have performed in a way that has put us in a position to respond to any emergencies or contingencies but always know the unknown is possible but they highlight the reality of the need to have a police department adequately staffed, funded and supported. He believes this budget does that in a way that not in any way exorbitant with no unnecessary frills. He feels if it is approved they will be able to continue to be able to do the great work they do each day with their support.

Councillor Winslow asks about the two full time positions patrolling Sargent's where will that new resource will be focused and also about Police Stipends

Chief Molis said one will be at the school and he hopes to maintain that commitment throughout the year and that would make two at the schools the second Sargent will be overlooking the body cams which will be a reality in the Malden Police Department and this position would look over that. The stipends are contractual which let them perform certain functions like fingerprinting or breathalizing

Chuck said as part of the body one cam program it includes 78 officers in order to get the stipend which will implement the program

Councillor Condon asked what is the plan for new training or his approach for more training

Chief Molis says the focus is on de-escalation of various mental health issues and the entire department has been trained in that area. They also have to have training to respond to unpredictable matters in a way that meets all the unpredictable elements in the day of the life in the City.

Councillor Colon-Hayes asked if there is an increase in the budget for training for the police officers

Chief Molis said the training is geared toward the current expectations that people have and they also listen internally to the community and they would like to build on things like an adult police academy and explain the fundamental walk through of the court system. He doesn't think there is a deliberate deficiency or indication of an indifference toward that

Councillor Linehan asked about some of the national trends of road rage or vehicle accidents or aggressive driving

Chief Molis said his fleet is ok but anticipates more vehicles in the future he prefers a walking beat but he hopes in the future the government will support those needs. He feels there is a combination of peoples frustrations that manifest in peoples lives with the aggressive driving behavior. He feels it does go to the issue of the need for mental health awareness training empathy and understanding the behavior has an underlying component.

Councillor McDonald said you do feel that this budget reflects the department needs to

do the next level of follow-up based on the advisory use of force and the 10 recommendations

Chief Molis said their policies has touched upon many of the elements that people have high expectations for and how that has manifested since he has been Chief a Malden police officer has not fired his weapon in 9 years. There are real elements that they do everyday and are met each and every day by the manner of how they use these policies and how people treat them. He would never present something that looks beautiful in words but did not live up to reality.

Councillor McDonald asked about police OT

Chief Molis said when you see overtime it is always to fulfill staffing needs in the streets or augment a an investigation for a violent crime or engage with the kids in the community in a positive way it is never used to advance someone economically in any way. In public safety OT always seems to be a glaring number. Some of the things are beyond his control with staffing for example they have an officer who has been deployed and he needs coverage for him. It becomes an economic balance. He always supports the need for safety.

Councillor Murphy said OT has increased a little because of COVID over the past two years but the number of \$850,000 reflects a \$200,000 grant which is added to the budgeted \$650,000 for OT.

Councillor Colon-Hayes asked if the Cares Act counts for OT

Chuck said the original cares act money did last year but it has expired

Councillor Condon thanked the Chief for his service to the City

Councillor Murphy said as she looks at this budget one of the roots on the ground she deals with on a daily basis is speeding and the traffic department within the police department she would love to see more focus on speeding and traffic she continually hears this from the residents and she would love to see some of the OT and staffing could be utilized as presence with this matter. She said even the presence of a police car could be a traffic calming measure.

Councillor O'Malley said one of the goals is to make our streets safer for residents.

Chief Sullivan-Fire Department thanks everyone for having him back for the third time as Chief. He said the role of the Fire Service and providing public safety for cities and towns such as Malden is continually increasing in frequency and they are at about 30 calls citywide in a 24 hour shift he said frequency complexity is increasing and he feel the budget allows them to support the demands of the City, training and fire prevention. Councillor Colon-Hayes asks about the increase in OT from 2022-2023 there is 150% increase

Chief Sullivan said first and foremost beginning last year certainly and continuing this year is Covid-19 and the other is the use of FMLA which has increased 239% in the last 3 years on top of contractual time sick, personnel, vacation or injury time also military leave as well. It is a significant jump but relevant to what we are spending

Councillor Winslow said the fire fuel is level funding and diesel is up more than gasoline he wonders if that will be enough

Chief Sullivan said that diesel fuel is more efficient and he believes they will be able to keep that under control

Councillor Winslow asked about fire breathing apparatus and equipment

Chief Sullivan said we will be able to apply for a grant to cover that and we also have a back-up for equipment

Councillor McDonald asked about YTD expected OT

Councillor Murphy said \$943,000

Councillor O'Malley said since 2021 do we see it returning to that range because of Covid

Councillor Murphy said it has significantly doubled in the last two years some could be related to Covid and the FMLA and she is hoping as with the Police Dept once Covid calms down it will trend down

Chief Sullivan said he is hoping at the bargaining table he will be able to bring this

number down. He also said they are a very young department and the young men and woman are using it to start families.

Councillor O'Malley asked if it is also prohibited for firefighters to take time off to do details

Chief Sullivan said they are not allowed to take time off to do details

Councillor Linehan said if you are seeing men and woman taking FMLA that is relating to the culture and is to be commended. She asked if the new FMLA requirements with the state added into this at all

Chuck said the City is not obligated to pay into any FMLA program

Councillor Murphy said if anyone has any questions they can send them to the Chief he is very responsive or they can send them to her and she will make sure the groups get the answers.

Other Business

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was by Councillor Paul Condon, seconded by Councillor at Large Karen Colon Hayes, that this meeting be adjourned 7:01 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.