

**Town Administrator's Report
March 19, 2024 Select Board Meeting**

- The Town has received a 2024 cybersecurity awareness training grant, and all Town staff will be invited and encouraged to go through the training. Barnstable County IT did all the legwork to obtain the grant and is supporting this important training effort. We are talking regularly about how we change our behavior, as employees, to reduce risks of attack to the town's network.
- The Mass Broadband Institute has contacted me to enter into a "Reservation of Funds Agreement" to earmark funding under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. I have initiated the process to reserve \$70,000 at this time, which may be subject to increase to \$100,000 depending on the final proposal to be developed after the Digital Equity Plan is approved and adopted.
- The Police Department will be rolling out the body-worn, and vehicle, camera program for testing soon. If the testing phases go well, full deployment is expected later this spring. The Police Chief and command staff will be communicating the details to other staff and the public so people are aware that the equipment will be in use. If the Select Board would like a presentation about the capabilities of the system and how it is being deployed, the Police Chief is happy to attend a future meeting. Please just let me know if you are interested in a presentation?
- A very short window of time has opened up for the Town to apply for a federal SAFER grant to increase staffing in the Fire Department. Because the deadline is very short, the Chief and Assistant Chief have already begun preparing the submission. However, Fire Department is happy to schedule a presentation and discussion about this program with the Select Board before any final decisions are made to accept a potential award.

The Fire Department has been fully staffed for more than a year now, with 40 operational positions which equals 4 shifts of 10 people. Even at full staffing, we regularly backfill shifts to cover vacation, injury, and sick time, which often results in less than 10 people on-shift at any given time.

The SAFER Program would allow the Town to hire 4 additional firefighters at zero cost for 3-years. There is not "match" required for those 3-years, but afterwards, the operating budget would need to absorb the personnel costs.

The largest benefit of the participating in the SAFER Program would be to ensure that the Town could always respond with a 2-person ALS Engine, even when all the ambulances are deployed on other calls. This would eliminate the risk of having a single person respond to a call for help, which is not ideal for many reasons.

Bourne has participated in the SAFER Program in the past and was awarded grants in 2013 and 2015. For comparison sake the number of calls for service in 2013 was 4,378; in 2015 there were 4,931 calls; and in 2023 the Department received 5,127 calls for service.

- I would like to remind everyone that if they have not already renewed their dog licenses, they really are running out of time.