

Mayor Soranno stated he was very impressed with Ms. Waters' resume and it will be a major loss for the City of Largo when she makes the transition.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, stated it was a challenge getting an interview set up, as Ms. Waters was on maternity leave. A Skype interview was scheduled, but the cameras froze, so the first interview was by phone. The second interview occurred with staff members and all agreed she was the perfect candidate.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by **John Caruso**, to recommend Council hire the proposed candidate, Stephanie Waters for the position of Town Clerk, to tentatively begin employment on March 8, 2017, at a salary of \$63,000 per year. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Ms. Dhonau stated the hire date may change to March 7, 2017, in order to include Ms. Waters in a scheduled EOC training session in the EOC.

4.0 **Consideration of approving the proposed Police Department target budget for FY 2017/2018.**


Chief Hughes stated he tried to keep the base minimum to only a 1.6% increase overall. This is the first time in a long time he has all full-time positions filled, thus, the increase in health insurance, work comp, and retirement. However, this will lower the anticipated overtime.

Chief Hughes further stated there is \$3000 dedicated for police education and training, however it is in the General Fund, to prevent losing it if not used. He will meet with Redington Shores officials in March, and present it to the Commissioners for approval. Redington Shores pays 35% of the total budget.

Chief Hughes reported his department lost some good officers who went to the Sheriff's Office because they were afraid of losing their job, so we negotiated a five-year contract last year.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, stated this is also the year the Town negotiates the opening bargaining unit contract, and if we can get this in the same cycle as the contract with Redington Shores, it will create more of a planning tool.

Motion by John Caruso – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to recommend Council approve the proposed Police Department target budget for FY 2017/2018. **Motion carried 3-0.**



ELAINE JACKSON, MMC
Town Clerk