



**Town of Tisbury**  
**Office of the Town Administrator/Personnel Director**  
**51 Spring Street, P.O. Box 1239 Vineyard**  
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(Tel. 508-696-4203)

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**July 7, 2021**

**Interim Police Chief**

In my capacity as Town Administrator, I am pleased to put forward for your consideration and approval Sergeant Christopher Habekost for Interim Police Chief. Officer Habekost was promoted to Sergeant April 24, 2013. He has been a member of the Tisbury Police Department as a fulltime Officer since March 16, 2004. He was first hired as a traffic officer in 1998.

Sergeant Habekost has a deep understanding of the Tisbury Police Department and possesses a wealth of knowledge. He is experienced with community policing in a small town and will easily transition into the position having developed many key relationships over the years with residents and civic leaders. He is experienced with personnel processes and known for open and clear communications. He will provide the steady leadership and clarity of purpose that will afford you, the Select Board, the time to carefully consider the future direction and structure of the Tisbury Police Department.

Mid May, I received Chief Saloio's official notice of retirement with an effective date of retirement on November 5, 2021. I therefore began to consider the transition plan for the Tisbury Police Department. As part of this process, I attended a Police Department Meeting and met individually with members of the Police Department. I informed them that following Town Meeting, I would move expeditiously on identifying an Interim Police Chief and make that known at the earliest date feasible. I have had a series of conversations with Officer Habekost concerning the position. I updated Chief Saloio on June 29<sup>th</sup> concerning my decision to put forward Sergeant Habekost. You should be aware that the Police Department expressed a strong preference for an internal candidate to serve as Interim Police Chief. I would note that Sergeant Habekost is already viewed as a leader in the department. I am in full agreement with them.

Now that the new Select Board is in place, you as the appointing authority can hear from Sergeant Christopher Habekost. This is an opportunity to ask him questions. Today, I would request a conditional appointment of Christopher Habekost for Interim Police Chief for a period of up to six months. I would further request that you authorize me to draft an employment agreement subject to your review and approval at a future meeting. I would also recommend the effective date of your decision to be July 30, 2021. I spoke with Chief Saloio today and he informed me that his office is ready when needed for the Interim Police Chief to occupy. Once Christopher Habekost is appointed Interim Police Chief, that you request his recommendation for a second in command, Interim Lieutenant, for your review and approval. A housekeeping motion would also be in order to place the current Chief of Police on paid leave until the end of his current term and retirement.

Respectfully Submitted

John W. Grande  
Town Administrator