

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee  
Joint Meeting with  
Tisbury Select Board  
6:30PM, Wednesday, December 21, 2022  
by Zoom Cloud Conference due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

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**Present:** Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Louise Clough, Jynell Kristal,  
Mary Ellen Larsen, Rachel Orr, Allan Rogers,

**Select Bd:** Chair Roy Cutrer, John Cahill,

**Others:** Recorder – Marni Lipke,

**Town:** Town Administrator – Jay Grande, CPC – Heidi Dietterich,

**Press:** Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette

\* TFC & TSB members late arrivals or early departures.

**Call Meeting to Order**

- The Tisbury Select Board (TSB) was called to order at 6:32PM.
- The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:32PM. (*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

**Embarkation Fee Discussion and Recommendation**

(See 10/13/22 Minutes & 12/7/22 documents on file.)

Chair Nancy Gilfoy and Oak Bluffs (OB) FinCom Chair Sherry Countryman met with State Senator Julian Cyr's office on embarkation fee issues (see 10/13/22 Minutes). Sen. Cyr was enthusiastic, considered that doubling the fee to \$1 was an easy pass, hopefully within this session ending January 3, 2023, and even suggested asking for more as long as it was a unified two-town request. The OB FinCom, who initiated the action, voted for \$2.50 and the OB Select Board voted for a \$1.50-\$2 range. The push for this session put action on a tight time schedule.

- Embarkation fees applied to any Massachusetts port including Woods Hole and Hyannis having ferries taking more than 100 passengers (cruise ships not included), and with spending restricted to the impact of the terminal and traffic on the municipality: harbor, public safety, downtown upkeep, etc.

- Designated student trips, excursion trips and commuter books were exempt.

- The Steamship Authority (SSA) reported ~ 826,000 passengers of which ~ 301,000 were exempt, so Tisbury collected the 50¢ fee from ~ 525,000 passengers for \$262,648 in revenue. Fees were a SSA pass-through with 100% going to the port town.

• The FinCom and TSB discussed the issues and opinions on the fee level.

- There was divided opinion on "asking for the kitchen sink" some considering the possibility of legislative cutting/compromise, others hoping for swift, easy passage of a more modest increase.

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- Caution was advised about raising a red flag that would delay, or kill the bill or void the exemptions, by requesting too much and/or raising other issues such as expanded spending regulation or built-in fee increases.
- Some expressed concern over possible hardship for commuting workers and the publicity of a sharp ticket price increase.
- Embarkation Committee applications always exceeded available funds.
- It was a mistake to wait 18 years before asking for this first increase.
- There were larger implications and impacts of being a port in relation to climate change.
- It would be better to pass this session as the next legislative session would take up the Housing Bank transfer fee.
- ALLAN ROGERS MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE STATE LEGISLATURE RAISE THE EMBARKATION FEE TO \$1.50; MARY ELLEN LARSEN AND LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.
- Mr. Cahill moved and Mr. Cutrer seconded a motion to follow the vote and recommendation of the Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee and request the State Legislature increase the embarkation fee to \$1.50. The vote was 2 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions: Mr. Cahill—aye, Mr. Cutrer—aye.
- Member Cutrer made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:09PM. Member Cahill seconded. The vote was 2 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions: Mr. Cutrer—aye, Mr. Cahill—aye.

**Review of Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Recommended Warrant Articles** (See documents on file & 12/7/22 Minutes p. 3-4.)

The CPC articles were reviewed:

- a) \$125,000 – continued work on Tisbury Town Hall Roof Replacement;
- b) \$40,000 – continued Old Village and South End Cemeteries Gravestone Restoration;
- c) \$40,800 – Engineering for the Nathan Mayhew building which was seriously deteriorated – owned by the Preservation Trust;
- d) \$7,680 – Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond Kayaking “Blue” Water Trail
- e) \$200,000 – Owen Park Bandstand repair completion – added to FY23 funds;
- f) \$15,000 – Park & Recreation amenities (benches, picnic tables, etc.) for Lake St., Tennis Courts, and Tashmoo Springs;
- g) \$12,944 – Tennis Court equipment shed and secure gate lock to insure users paid had paid their fees;
- h) \$8,500 – Parks & Recreation website to publicize Town activities—linked to Town website; (FinCom suggested it be covered in the Town website cost);

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- i) \$100,000 – Municipal Housing Trust;
  - j) \$100,000 – Harbor Homes Homeless Shelter Development;
  - k) \$91,650 – Island Autism Center;
  - l) \$300,000 – Island Housing Trust Cat Hollow Project – two 2 bedroom units;
  - m) \$150,000 – Island Housing Trust Leland Ave. Project (one unit)
  - n) \$110,000 – Dukes County Regional Housing Rental Assistance Program;
  - o) \$25,000 – Administrative Expenses.
- The FinCom praised the new steeple and weather vane on Town Hall, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Kirk Metell for his oversight/coordination. They noted the slow accumulation of CPC funding over the years that finally culminate in a completed project—with hopes for Owen Park completion soon.
  - The refusal of the \$100,000 Tisbury School playground request and release of previous funds (now covered in the bond) disturbed the FinCom as a loss of taxpayer relief.
  - MARY ELLEN LARSEN MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING **WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SPENDING/DISTRIBUTION** AS PRESENTED;
    - A) TISBURY TOWN HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT (\$125,000),**
    - B) OLD VILLAGE & SOUTH END CEMETERIES GRAVESTONE RESTORATION (\$40,000),**
    - C) NATHAN MAYHEW CENTER ENGINEERING STUDY (\$40,800)**
    - D) TASHMOO AND LAGOON PONDS KAYAKING BLUE WATER TRAIL (\$7,680),**
    - E) OWEN PARK BANDSTAND REPAIR (\$200,000)**
    - F) PARK AMENITIES: TENNIS COURTS, LAKE ST., TASHMOO SPRINGS, (\$15,000),**
    - G) TENNIS COURT SHED & SECURE GATE LOCK (\$12,944),**
    - H) PARKS & RECREATION WEBSITE (\$8,500),**
    - I) MUNICIPAL HOUSING TRUST (\$100,000),**
    - J) HARBOR HOMES HOMELESS SHELTER DEVELOPMENT (\$100,000),**
    - K) ISLAND AUTISM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (\$91,650),**
    - L) ISLAND HOUSING TRUST – CAT HOLLOW PROJECT (\$300,000),**
    - M) ISLAND HOUSING TRUST – LELAND AVE. PROJECT (\$150,000),**
    - N) DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (\$110,000),**
    - O) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (\$25,000);**
- LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED **UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE. The FinCom and CPC Agent Heidi Diettrich exchanged thanks and holiday wishes.

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**Review of Embarkation Committee Recommended Warrant Articles**

The Committee recommended the entire \$266,000 FY23 revenue.

- a) \$100,000 for Harbor dredging—targeted for fall 2023 after permitting delays;
- b) \$60,000 for seasonal traffic Police Officers;
- c) \$5,725 for fire/emergency tactical training in enclosed spaces (ferries);
- d) \$51,00 to the DPW to resurface and line Water St.—see below: Actions;
- e) \$25,000 to the DPW for downtown beautification;
- f) \$23,519 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of self contained breathing apparatus purchase.

- The Police Dept. request for a harbor boat caused some hesitation.

- *RACHEL ORR MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING **EMBARKATION ARTICLES** AS PRESENTED*

- A) HARBOR DREDGING (\$100,000),***

- B) SEASONAL POLICE OFFICERS (\$60,000),***

- C) TACTICAL TRAINING (\$5,725),***

- D) WATER ST. RESURFACE/RE-LINE (\$51,000),***

- E) DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION (\$25,000),***

- F) SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (\$23,519);***

*LOUISE CLOUGH AND MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED*

***UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:** MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

**Committee Reports**

- The TSB voted to increase residential exemption to 22% but no commercial shift. The \$1,780,000 excess levy capacity was unusually large. The Tisbury tax rate jumped about 35%, higher than any of the other Island towns.
- The Water Resources Committee met to continue work on the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan. This would require a lot of work on nitrogen remediation and costs and effectiveness of new Environmental Protection Agency regulations on innovative alternative (IA) septic systems, etc.
- After repeated drafts the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) kept their operating budget increase at 2.65% but last year's Excess and Deficiency (E & D) offset would mean Town assessments would rise ~ 5%.
  - They were considering using E & D to offset the Feasibility Study cost (see documents on file).
- The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) was working on their budget. The temporary school was open; lunch would be at the American Legion Post, and physical education in the field behind the Emergency Services Facility (ESF).

**Future Meetings** (See below: Meetings/Events.)

The schedule depended on when budgets were available. Department budgets would reflect the 6.8% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

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**Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair** - None

**Adjournment**

• LOUISE CLOUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:40PM; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events**

- **TFC – TBD - 6:30PM, Wednesday, January 11, 2023 - Zoom**
- STM/ATM –Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – MVRHS PAC

**Appendix B: Actions**

Jynell – ask Kirk Metell re: Water St. drainage problems.

Nancy – schedule joint meeting with TSC re: School Project alternate funding.

All – Please remember not to hit “Reply All”.

**Future Agendas**

- Minutes: 10/13/22, 10/19/22, 11/16/22, 12/7/22, 12/21/22
- Dedicate some solar revenue to sustainability projects,
- Fund Energy Stabilization Fund
- New School Maintenance Budget

**Budget Season Notes**

- contact Town Clerk re: resuming Article List updates;
- vote items/dept. budgets next meeting after they are presented/discussed;
- redraft FinCom letter to include deadlines and send to Committees/Boards;
- include Building Dept. fee revenues (offsetting expenses) in budget interview;
- ask departments to project all needs 5 years out i.e. like a capital plan but on other factors—staffing, program changes, etc.
- possible early votes:     ° standard articles,  
  ° smaller/level funded department budgets,
- Ask departments: general energy efficiency and emergency preparedness:
  - ° insulation, window repairs,
  - ° turn down heat/air conditioning, turn off lights, motion sensor or timers,
  - ° under sink hot water heaters.

\$100,000 FY23 Reserve Fund spending tally – Balance: \$100,000

**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- Agenda 12/21/22
- Gilfoy cover email re: More warrant articles 12/18/22

**continued >**

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**Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.):**

- Article Submission Form, December 16, 2022, Community Preservation Committee (5 p.)12/15/22
  - a) Tisbury Town Hall Roof Replacement
  - b) Old Village and South End Cemeteries Gravestone Restoration,
  - c) Engineering for Nathan Mayhew School Building
  - d) Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond Kayaking “Blue” Water Trail
  - e) Owen Park Bandstand
  - f) Lake St. and Tennis Court Amenities
  - g) Tennis Court Equipment Shed
  - h) Tisbury Parks and Recreation Website
  - i) Municipal Housing Trust
  - j) Harbor Homes Homeless Shelter Development
  - k) Island Autism Center
  - l) Island Housing Trust Cat Hollow Project
  - m) Island Housing Trust Leland Ave. Project
  - n) Dukes County Regional Housing Rental Assistance Programs
  - o) Administration Expenses
- Warrant Article and Motion – Feasibility Study (3 p.)
- Article Submission Form ATM, Article – Embarkation Fund Expenditures 12/6/22
- Article Submission Form Revised ATM, Article – To Fund Salary Changes Under Management and Professional Compensation Study 12/16/22
- Article Submission Form Revised ATM, Article – To Fund Salary Changes Under Management and Professional Compensation Study 12/16/22
- Tisbury Water Works Warrant Articles for Town Meeting FY 2024 12/16/22
- Town of Tisbury Warrant Article to Support Continuing & Community Education on Martha’s Vineyard (2 p.) 12/16/22
- Planning Board Warrant Articles, 2023 Annual Town Meeting (2 p.) 12/16/22
- Wastewater Department, To Fund a Sewer Department Municipal Insurance Trust Fund 12/16/22
- Article Submission Form ATM, Article DPW Network Infrastructure 12/16/22
- Town of Tisbury Office of Select Board, Warrant Article, To Dispose of Surplus Equipment 12/16/22
- Town of Tisbury Office of Select Board, Warrant Article, To Authorize Negotiations to Acquire 14 Water St. and 15 Cromwell Ln. 12/16/22
- Department of Public Works Warrant Article: Underground Utilities on Union St., Veterans Park Rehabilitation Plan, Landfill (LDO) 12/16/22
- Article Submission Form ATM, (4 p.)12/16/22
  - ° Article – Hear or Receive Reports

**continued**

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**Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.):**

- Article – Bills of Prior Years
- Article – FY 2024 Budget
- Article – Reduce Tax Rate
- Article – Quinquennial Certification of All Real Estate and Personal Property
- Article – Amend Classification Plan for Managerial & Professional Employees
- Article – Amend Classification Plan for Non-Union, Part-Time, Seasonal, and Temporary Employees
- Article – To Establish Community Preservation Committee FY 2024 Budget Reserve Accounts
- Article – Sick/Vacation Trust Fund
- Article Submission Form ATM, Article Repair and Maintenance Public Library, 12/15/22
- Town of Tisbury, Animal Control Department, Animal Control Building Heating and Cooling System 12/14/22
- December 14, 2022, New Poll Place Scanner, 12/14/22
- Regional Agreement with changes (13 p.)
- Regional Agreement, Amendment and Restatement approved by School Committee... (11 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Regional School District, Regional Agreement Amendments, September 1, 2022 (3 p.)
- Town of Tisbury, Warrant Article, October 20, 2022 – To Fund Professional Services for Tisbury Town Hall, 10/20/22
- Tisbury Fire Department FY 2024 Expenditure Request SCBA Equipment 10/25/22
- Article Submission Form ATM, Article – To Fund Changes Under Management and Professional Compensation Study 11/21/22
- Article Submission Form, December 16, 2022 Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee Administrative Assistant position 11/28/22
- Town of Tisbury, FY24 Article – To Fund Maintenance Costs of the Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications System 12/9/22
- Department of Public Works Warrant Article: Town Hall/Police/Senior Center Exterior Painting, EMS Building, Sidewalk Snow Removal Machine, Sidewalk and Road Paving 12/9/22
- Gilfoy/DeFoe/Adelson emails re: Residential Exemption vs. Seasonal Property Taxes (2 p.) 12/20/22

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**Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.):**

- Tisbury Fire Department FY 2024 Expenditure Request – To Establish and Fund a Paramedic Supervisor Position for the Tisbury Ambulance Department 12/19/22
- Town of Tisbury, Harbor Department, FY2024 Warrant Articles: Maintenance of Town Owned Moorings, Owen Park Pier Engineering and Permitting, Refurbish Tashmoo Skiff, Enclosure for Lake St. Portable Toilet, Natural Resources Office Repairs 12/20/22

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Minutes approved 1/25/23