

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee,
6:30PM, Wednesday, May 5, 2021
by Zoom Cloud Conference due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

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Present: Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Jynell Kristal, Mary Ellen Larsen,
Kelley Metell*, Allan Rogers, Laura Rose,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke,
Town: Select Board – Larry Gomez, Jeff Kristal,
Town Administrator – Jay Grande, Treasurer – Jonathan Snyder,
Planning Bd. – Pat Harris, Fire – Greg Leland,
Historic Com. – Chair Harold Chapdelaine, Christina Redfield,
* TFC members late arrivals or early departures.

Call Meeting to Order

- The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:30PM.
- (*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Approve Minutes from 2/20/21 as Amended, 2/17/21, 2/24/21, 3/3/21 as Amended, 3/10/21, 3/17/21 as Amended, 3/24/21, 3/31/21, 4/7/21, 4/14/21, 4/31/21

• JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO APPROVE THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF:

- FEBRUARY 10, 2021 AS AMENDED,
- FEBRUARY 17, 2021 AS WRITTEN,
- FEBRUARY 24, 2021 AS WRITTEN,
- MARCH 3, 2021 AS AMENDED,
- MARCH 10, 2021 AS WRITTEN,
- MARCH 17, 2021 AS AMENDED,
- MARCH 24, 2021 AS WRITTEN,
- MARCH 31, 2021 AS WRITTEN,
- APRIL 7, 2021 AS WRITTEN,
- APRIL 14, 2021 AS AMENDED,
- APRIL 30, 2021 AS WRITTEN,

LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

Review and Vote on Warrant Articles (See documents on file.)

Fire Mandatory Retirement Legislation – Greg Leland, Fire Chief

(See 4/30/21 Minutes.)

*During this conversation Kelley Metell joined the meeting at 6:32PM.

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- If voted at Town Meeting the Select Board would request special legislation from the State—a process that took 1-2 years.
- The Department invested substantial training and equipment in firefighters so proposed that those who were healthy and fit for duty after age 65 (carrying experience and institutional knowledge) should be allowed to work at the truck (not on the front lines/hoses).
- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON AUTHORIZING FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT AFTER MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE*; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED *UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

To Obtain Official Bonds

To Authorize Treasurer Collector to Enter into a Compensating Balance Agreement

To Authorize the Treasurer to Borrow in Anticipation of Revenue

To Elect a Fish Committee

All the above were standard, annual, housekeeping measures.

Payment Plans for Tax Liens

Although the Town worked with residents on payment plans this would formalize the process under State law.

- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES ON*:

- *OBTAIN OFFICIAL BONDS,*
- *AUTHORIZE COMPENSATING BALANCE,*
- *AUTHORIZE BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF REVENUE,*
- *ELECT FISH COMMITTEE,*
- *AUTHORIZE PAYMENT PLANS FOR TAX LIENS;*

LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED *UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

Amendment to Vacant Buildings/Property Bylaw – Harold Chapdelaine, Chair, Historic Commission

The Building Inspector requested this change to address occupied (as opposed to vacant) houses/properties that had fallen into serious disrepair. It would authorize enforcement by the Inspector and Board of Health (BOH) including a small per-diem penalty. Sometimes such problems affected properties and property values of abutters. There were multiple programs available to provide guidance and subsidies for those unable to afford repairs. The FinCom:

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- requested that public assistance resources be provided, and
- commended the action as advancing beautification of the Town.
- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON VACANT BUILDINGS/PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AMENDMENT*; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 5 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—NAY, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments

- The Lagoon Pond Landing amendment corrected an earlier omission of the Town Landing on Beach Rd. from a district list.
 - JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT FOR LAGOON HARBOR PARK*; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.
 - JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT SWIMMING POOL ENGINEER SEAL AND SIGNATURE*; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.
- The Building Inspector found that people were using accessory apartments with a door into the primary dwelling to circumvent the Bylaw on expanding primary living space. This amendment would require a wall be built.
 - The FinCom suggested the issue be taken on a case-by-case basis because many such accessory apartments were used for caretakers who should be able to access the primary dwelling without going outside and back in again.
 - JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT ON ACCESSORY APARTMENT DIRECT ACCESS*; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 1 AYE, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—NAY, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—NAY, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—NAY, LAURA ROSE—NAY, NANCY GILFOY—NAY.
 - JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT TEMPORARY SIGNAGE*; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED

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UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

- The flood plain language amendment complied with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) requirements (see 4/14/21 Minutes p.3).

To Hear or Receive Reports

- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE TO HEAR REPORTS*; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED *UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Operating Budget

Treasurer Jon Snyder attested the Warrant was within the tax levy limit but was very tight.

- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON THE TOWN OF TISBURY FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET*; KELLEY METELL AND LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED *UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

Transfer from Unreserved Fund Balance to Reduce Tax Rate

This was a Town practice of many years and gave some buffer to the tax levy limit—needed to address unknowns in actual spending and revenues.

- The Town was beginning to register short term rentals for all Tisbury properties—to verify and enforce the short term rental tax/revenue (collected by the State then distributed to local shares.

- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE*; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED *UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

- JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE *ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE THE FINAL PRESENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL CLASSIFICATION COMPENSATION*; MOTION PASSED: *5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION* due to appearance of *conflict of interest: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—ABSTAIN, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

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Technology Infrastructure at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS)

In support of the Tisbury request to get the Tisbury School project passed, the MVRHS Committee agreed to split the technology upgrade and spread the cost over two years, reducing the Article on Town Floor to ~ \$91,000 for FY22. FinCom protocol was to vote the original article (not the amended amount) with the issue explained in the Voter Guide (see below: Actions).

- The MVRHS had further reduced their ask by pulling the Other Post Employee Benefits article (see Minutes: 2/20/21 p.2-3 & 3/17/21 p.6).

- Possible obstacles were:

- The original assessment amount had already been voted by Oak Bluffs ballot;
- The Warrant was closed and the language might not be amenable to change.

- The FinCom debated the following issues.

- If Tisbury failed the article, the upgrade would not go forward.

- The Town could not afford it.

- If the Town could afford a wildland vehicle (see Minutes: 2/17/21 p.4, & 3/24/21 p.5. & 3/31/21 p.2) it could afford adequate educational technology.

- Parents and teachers were forced to invest personal funds to compensate for poor MVRHS internet connections.

- There was a controversy over high MVRHS per pupil costs caused by paying teachers comparable salaries to compensate for the Island high cost of living.

- It was hoped that CARES Act funding might subsidize part of the expense.

- The continuing controversy over the MVRHS assessment formula was raised.

- There was some protest on MVRHS capital planning.

- *JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE WARRANT ARTICLE FOR MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE (\$180,762.78); MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; KELLEY METELL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—NAY, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—NAY.*

- The FinCom saluted Executive Assistant to Town Administrator Alex BenDavid for her work on the many warrant drafts.

Vote on Revised Ambulance Budget (See documents on file.)

Earlier in the meeting:

- *JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE AMBULANCE/ EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES #231 FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET AS PRESENTED; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

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Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

(See 5/1/19 Minutes p.2 #4.)

• JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT AND TREASURER TO MAKE FISCAL YEAR 2021 INTERDEPARTMENTAL AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW, CHAPTER 44 SECTION 33 B; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

Committee Reports

• Indefatigable Energy Committee Chair Bill Straw had resigned (see below Actions).

Future Meetings

The next meeting would review the Voters Guide.

Adjournment

• Chair Nancy Gilfoy thanked everyone for their attendance.
• MARY ELLEN LARSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:51PM; JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events

- **TFC – TBD 6:30PM, Wednesdays – by Zoom**
- STM/ATM – TBD 12:00N, June 12, 13, 2021 4:00PM June 14, 2021

Appendix B: Actions

- Warrant edits:
 - STM Historic Com. - change Board of Selectmen to Select Board.
 - STM Planning Bd. Flood Plain - (strike-thru's, bolding, etc.) are not shown.
- All: consider new Chair for Energy Committee.
- Nancy: explain reduced MVRHS Technology amount in voter guide.
- Jay Grande/Alex: send final warrant to FinCom.
- Minutes: 5/5/21

FY21 Reserve Fund spending tally – Balance: \$75,000
1/13/21 – Selectmen/TSBC Voter Education - \$25,000

continued >

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Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/5/21
- Town of Tisbury Special Meeting Warrant, Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 1:00PM
- Town of Tisbury Special Meeting Warrant, Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 1:00PM (35 p.)
- FY 2022 Budget Plan Town of Tisbury Department 231 Ambulance/EMT (5 p.)

Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

Date

Minutes approved 11/3/21