

Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee
6:30PM, Wednesday, April 6, 2022
Emergency Services Facility Training Room

1

Present: Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Louise Clough, Jynell Kristal,
Mary Ellen Larsen, Rachel Orr, Allan Rogers, Lesley Segal,
Sarah York,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke,
Town: Treasurer – Jonathan Snyder,

* TFC members late arrivals or early departures.

Call Meeting to Order

- The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:31PM. (*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Voter Guide Review (See documents on file & 3/23/22 Minutes p.4-5.)

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SENTENCE ON LATE RECOMMENDATIONS.
- About 200 copies (\$1/copy) would be ordered on yellow paper.

Prepare for Town Meeting (See documents on file.)

- After a meeting with the Town Moderator, Town Administrator and Town Clerk, Chair Nancy Gilfoy would report the following changes or updates on Town Meeting Floor:
 - Later FinCom votes on:
 - Special Town Meeting (STM) Articles #5 Personnel Bylaw,
 - STM Article #12 Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Bylaw,
 - ATM Article #4e Embarkation – Police Tactical (recommendation inadvertently left off the Warrant).
 - Annual Town Meeting (ATM) #8k – Trash Truck revote,
 - ATM #29 – Town Operating Budget,
- Town Moderator Deborah Medders would read:
 - ATM #15 Quinquennial Real Estate Certification – decreased amount,
 - ATM #25 – amendments to Shared Fire/Emergency position,
 - ATM #26 – amendments to Town Accountant Assistant position,
 - Tisbury School Budget – decreased amount.
- Several Articles would be announced as “No action at this time.”
 - ATM #13 & #14 Mud Puddle/Short Hill land swap – withdrawn until deeds and deed restrictions (only for septic purposes) were clarified (see also documents on file).
 - ATM #20 Bayliss Woods – owners had not met some outstanding conditions.

Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
April 6, 2022

2

- A Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) \$241,314 reduction in Tisbury's 4th quarter assessment due to Excess and Deficiency (E & D) over the 5% limit (see documents on file), would show up in next year's Town Free Cash, but could not effect the need for a FY23 override.
- The FinCom liked the Voter Guide summary on the Housing Bank Article (ATM #24). Chair Nancy Gilfoy would speak to it if called on, leading off with the FinCom support of affordable housing but reporting concerns. Members could speak to the Article either as individuals or FinCom representatives.
- The FinCom had the advantage of examining the Article and the State legislation in detail. They questioned whether there was another Massachusetts region as financially and real estate diverse as the six Island towns.
- Reiterated concerns included:
 - another bureaucracy,
 - alternate funding,
 - avoiding the FinCom reputation for not supporting social services.
- Any FinCom member could explain any of their votes on Town Meeting floor such as objections to shifts away from Community Preservation funding.
- The override would raise the tax rate about \$0.075 per \$1,000. Assessed values were almost impossible to project due to many factors, for example the pandemic driven, out-of-control real estate market spike. Tisbury shifted from a pre-pandemic year-round population just under 50% to post-pandemic year round population just over 50%.
- The FinCom emphasized the importance of explaining the override ballot question in Financial Director Jon Snyder's ATM report.

Discussion of Ways to Improve Finance and Advisory Process During Budget and Warrant Review

Although the budget timeline put pressure on the FinCom, the draft budgets, articles and the STM/ATM dates were pretty standard.

- To accommodate not repeating discussions but allowing time for reflection, it was decided to discuss an item (budget, article, etc.) and then (barring outstanding issues) vote on it at the next meeting.
- There was a suggestion to meet twice a week, but this put pressure on the Chair, and Recorder Marni Lipke could not commit to it.
- A number of standard articles (Hear Reports, Fish Committee, etc.) and small or level/low funded department budgets could be voted earlier in the process.
- Both the CPC and Embarkation articles involved finite funding and could also be voted as soon as they were set and presented/discussed.
- It would be helpful if the preliminary FinCom letter include a deadline timetable and be sent to Committees and Boards as well as Departments.

Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
April 6, 2022

3

- The Town Clerk's Warrant Article Summary List updates were very useful.
- Mr. Snyder commended the FinCom and Chair Nancy Gilfoy's leadership for this year's phenomenally well done budget season. The FinCom thanked him for all his support and help.

Committee Reports - None

Future Meetings - TBD (See below: Meetings/Events.)

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Adjournment

• *MARY ELLEN LARSEN AND ALLAN ROGERS MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:32PM; JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesdays, TBD – ESF Building**
- STM/ATM – 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – Tis. School Gym
- Election – Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Appendix B: Actions

Jon Snyder – report on Override in Town Financial status,

Nancy – talk to Deb Medders re: ATM #8b, #8c, & #11

Next Budget Season –

- contact Town Clerk re: Article List updates;
- vote items the next meeting after they are presented/discussed;
- redraft FinCom letter to include deadlines and send to Committees/Boards;
- possible early votes:
 - ° standard articles,
 - ° smaller/level funded department budgets,
 - ° CPC & Embarkation.

Next Agenda

Minutes: 3/23/22, 4/6/22

End-of-Year Transfer Authorization Vote,

\$100,000 FY22 Reserve Fund spending tally – Balance: \$75,000

8/25/21 – Selectmen Other/Finance - \$25,000 Insurance shortfall

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/6/22
- Gilfoy/Grande emails re: Land Exchange Information from Jay Grande (3 p.)
3/29/22

continued >

Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
April 6, 2022

4

Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.):

- Gilfoy/Grande/Silber cover emails re: Act to Establish the MV Housing Bank, Updated (2 p.) 3/31/22
- Act Establishing the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank Draft 3/24/22 (19 p.)
- Act Establishing the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank Draft 3/24/22 (27 p.)
- Gilfoy cover email re: Voter Guide Addition for Consideration (2 p.) 4/5/22
- Gilfoy/Friedman emails re: MVRHS E&D money explained 4/6/22
- Town Warrants 2022, 350th Anniversary, Town of Tisbury, (45 p. not counting blanks)

Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

Date

Minutes approved 10/19/22