

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee  
6:30PM, Wednesday, September 14, 2022  
Emergency Services Facility Training Room**

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**Present:** Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Louise Clough, Mary Ellen Larsen,  
John Oliver, Rachel Orr, Allan Rogers, Dan Seidman\*, Sarah York,  
**Others:** Recorder - Marni Lipke,  
**Town:** Treasurer – Jonathan Snyder, Planning Bd. – Ben Robinson,  
\* 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.*)

**Discussion of Finance and Advisory Committee Statement for Special Town Meeting (STM)** (See documents on file.)

The FinCom discussed various edits of the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft including:

- cut paragraph 1
- paragraph 3 - add “and meets State Guidelines;”
- paragraph 3 - replace “The current building is past its useful life” with “In order for the current building (including the gym wing) to remain useful, complete renovation and hazardous material abatement is required”;
- Some liked “This is a big ask for Tisbury voters.”
- The FinCom debated the statement format in terms of:
  - majority and dissenting opinion proportion,
  - personal additions versus FinCom statements,
  - issues likely to be raised at STM by voters,
  - statements by those who could not be present at the STM,
  - length and detail, stated or written in relation to previous Voter Guides.
- Town Meeting protocol was the purview of the Town Moderator.
- In support of each member voting their opinion (see 9/7/22 Minutes p.5):
- *DAN SEIDMAN MOVED TO RESCIND THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 VOTE ON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE #1; ALLAN ROGERS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Dan Seidman thanked the FinCom.
- *ALLAN ROGERS MOVED TO RECOMMEND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING **ARTICLE 1 (\$25,610,841) TO FUND THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE TISBURY SCHOOL**; LOUISE CLOUGH AND SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 2 NAYS—RACHEL ORR, DAN SEIDMAN, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- The general consensus was to abbreviate the statement to possibly the initial 3 paragraphs followed by brief summaries of assenting and dissenting opinion.

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Chair Nancy Gilfoy would meet with Town Moderator Deborah Medders Friday.

- Majority points included:
  - testimony that the project was much needed and long delayed
  - the Project must be completed—the current building could not be “patched”;
  - known price, shovel-ready, contracted, Town supported project, with modular school in place;
  - \$18,000,000 already invested;
  - reluctance to delay further probably resulting in inflation and modular lease payments for \$40,000,000 instead of \$25,000,000 over-budget;
- Dissenting points included:
  - Building Committees had not listened to smaller, cheaper alternatives,
  - Town failure to maintain its buildings,
  - too high an ask for a high tax-rate/low income, officially disadvantaged community, particularly considering future capital projects.
- Treasurer Jon Snyder would present the same PowerPoint on ways to mitigate taxpayer impact (see 9/7/22 Minutes p.6) and crafted a letter of support (see documents on file).
  - Arbitrage was explained as possible penalties for borrowing funds not spent within the federally set 2-year timeframe.

**Committee Reports**

- Embarkation – Oak Bluffs FinCom Chair Sherry Countryman contacted Nancy Gilfoy about a push to raise the embarkation fee from 50¢ per person—where it had been set 18 years ago. This would involve State legislative action that would affect all port towns in Massachusetts.
- Climate Change – The Chairs were still working to coordinate a joint meeting.
- Master Planning – This meeting was a consultants to interview Town boards, staff and committees on the 2015 visioning process and action list.
- Community Preservation Committee (CPC) – The eligibility application process had begun. There was no information yet on other scheduling or 2023 funding.
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) – The MVRHSC altered the agreement between the Town Select Boards, delaying the submission process to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
- Sewer Advisory Board –
  - Owner, Ben Hall proposed a restaurant in the old Bowl and Board building.
  - The FinCom discussed the increasing flooding at 5 corners, which short circuited buses and electric vehicles, and was possibly worsened by a number of building sump pumps. There was speculation on sea rise effect on Town planning.

**Future Meetings**

(See below: Meetings/Events.)

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

**Adjournment**

• SARAH YORK MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:45PM; LOUISE CLOUGH AND ALLAN ROGERS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events:**

- Master Plan/TFC – 5:30-7:00PM, Wednesday, September 19, 2022
- STM – 7:00PM, Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – MVRHS PAC
- **TFC (Municipal Review) – 6:30PM, Wednesday, October 12, 2022 - TBD**

**Appendix B: Actions**

All – Reply to Nancy G. **ASAP** re: FinCom statement on STM Article

- Please remember not to hit “Reply All”.

John O. – send drone pictures to PTO or School Committee;

**Next/Future Agendas**

- Approve Minutes from: 3/23/22, 4/6/22, 5/11/22, 6/1/22, 6/29/22 as amended, 9/7/22 as amended, 9/14/22
- New School Maintenance Budget

**Notes for Next Budget Season**

- 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;
- possible early votes:
  - ° standard articles,
  - ° smaller/level funded department budgets,
  - ° CPC & Embarkation.

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

**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- Agenda 9/14/22
- Draft Finance and Advisory Committee Statement for Special Town Meeting 9/20/22 (2 p.)
- Draft #2 Finance and Advisory Committee Statement for Special Town Meeting 9/20/22 (2 p.)
- Snyder memo re: Update on School Borrowing 9/12/22

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Minutes approved 10/19/22