

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee,  
6:30PM, Wednesday, August 25, 2021  
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, Lesley Segal\*,  
Dan Seidman, Sarah York\*,  
**Town:** Treasurer – Jonathan Snyder,  
**Others:** Recorder – Marni Lipke,

\* TFC members late arrivals or early departures.

**Call Meeting to Order**

- The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:32PM and roll was called. Louise Clough was not yet sworn in and so could not vote.

- *(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

**Reserve Fund Transfer Request from Jon Snyder, Treasurer**

- Thanks went to Rachel Orr for her excellent questions and to Town Treasurer Jon Snyder and Accountant Suzanne Kennedy for the information (see documents on file).

- A much larger than expected casualty insurance bill resulted in a substantial deficit which could be partially covered by other residuals (health insurance, worker's comp, etc.). As a once a year August invoice with no further draws or revenues to the line, Mr. Snyder requested a \$25,000 Reserve Fund transfer to cover the remaining shortfall and close the matter out.

- A number of issues were discussed.

- New acquisitions (e.g. the fire truck) were included in this year's bill. However the status and coverage of the imminent temporary Tisbury School was unclear since although the Project budget included some insurance, it was not clear what it covered.

- Mr. Snyder considered that insurance was simply a way of spreading the costs of unforeseen events over time, since premiums were raised to compensate accordingly. For example the Town's Watercraft and Marine insurance premium increased this year to compensate for last year's harbormaster boat loss.

- MV Insurance was the Town's agent and had done a good job finding carriers with terms the Town could accept.

- The FinCom in general was very hesitant about so large a draw so early in the Fiscal Year and suggested either paying the premium in installments (which incurred interest costs but stretched out payables) or deficit spending until later in the year to better judge the uncompensated shortfall.

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- It was suggested that the insurance cost of losses such as the harbormaster boat increase or a worker's compensation claim be included in the appropriate Department's budget, however Jon Snyder attested this would be monumentally difficult to do fairly.
- Unfortunately insurance estimates for the coming year were not available until July, making budgeting during the previous year's fall/winter difficult.
- The partial demolition/gutting of the current School building should reduce Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) coverage. The building was currently under-insured for \$20,000,000 however the new renovation/addition facility would be insured for cost at \$55,000,000 when completed. All Town buildings were discussed with the agents and insured at reasonable (but not necessarily replacement) value.
  - After the unpredictable FY21 effects of Covid, FinCom advised close monitoring of the FY22 budget.
  - *RACHEL ORR MOVED APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR \$25,000 FROM THE RESERVE FUND TO COVER THE INSURANCE SHORTFALL PENDING SELECT BOARD APPROVAL; LESLEY SEGAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, DAN SEIDMAN (reluctantly)—AYE, LESLEY SEGAL—AYE, SARAH YORK—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

**Committee Reports**

- Next year's Town Calendar was still in process. The Special and Annual Town Meetings (STM/ATM) were set (see below: Meetings/Events). The Personnel Board committed to making the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) decision by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Union contract (expires June 30, 2022) negotiations were just beginning. Department budgets should be due just before the winter holiday.
- The Energy Committee was being rolled into the Climate Committee which would consist of 7 members: 1 representative each from: the Planning Board, the Select Board (TSB) and the FinCom, with 4 more at-large appointees. Rachel Orr had expressed interest (see 7/7/21 Minutes p.3) and Louise Clough had independently sent a letter of interest in June.
- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) would meet in September to hear project status reports (see 7/28/21 Minutes p.2).
- The Planning Board was advertising for Town Master Plan consultants (see 4/14/21 Minutes p.1-2).
- The Water Resources Committee would review a plan of study in preparation for a working meeting with its consultants, Environmental Partners.
- The Tisbury Select Board (TSB) changed its regular meeting times to 4:00PM Wednesdays starting in September. This was at the request of staff for more

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lead time after long holiday weekends. However, it presented problems with the FinCom Wednesday meetings as well as compelling staff or Chairs to attend two lengthy meetings in a row.

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

- The FinCom was looking forward to Jon Snyder's annual presentation on Town Finances. Members attested they learned something new every time.
- The FinCom requested a preliminary meeting with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator Tracey Jones on the direction and planning for the EMS FY23 budget, since the FY22 ambulance budget showed a large jump and caused much discussion (see Minutes: 2/17/21 p.1-2, & 3/3/21 p.5).
  - The FinCom referred to long-ago conversations on an Islandwide ambulance system located at the Airport, which sparked a discussion on regionalization of various services; it being expensive to employ 6 police chiefs, 4 ambulance chiefs, 6 finance directors, etc. for so small a population. Issues included:
  - the politically charged nature of the conversation,
  - town autonomy,
  - the loss of jobs (albeit probably by attrition),
  - current competition for limited of resources, i.e. one town hiring away another town's personnel.

A small group of residents had begun to collect data on the very long struggle (see below: Actions). It would be best to present regionalization as a solution to a number of problems.

**Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair**

**Adjournment**

- *LESLEY SEGAL MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:22PM; JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SARAH YORK—AYE, DAN SEIDMAN—AYE, LESLEY SEGAL—AYE, ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events**

- **TFC - 6:30PM, Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – by Zoom**
- **STM/ATM – TBD Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

**Appendix B: Actions**

- All: contact Dan to participate in the informal regionalization working group.
- Dan/Louise/Rachel: arrange FinCom notebook pickup with Nancy

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

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

**continued >**

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**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- Agenda 8/25/21
- Orr/Snyder emails re: Fin Com mtg Wednesday (3 p.) 8/23/21
- Gilfoy/Kennedy emails re: Insurance Premium Comparison (4 p.) 8/25/21

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Minutes approved 11/3/21