

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee  
6:30PM, Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
by Zoom Cloud Conference**

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**Present:** Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Louise Clough, Ruth Konigsberg, Rachel Orr, Louis Pashman,

**Others:** Lynn Fraker, Recorder – Marni Lipke,

**Town:** Treasurer Jon Snyder,  
Sheriff's Office - Peter Graczykowski, Jack Reagan,  
Oak Bluffs Administrator Deb Potter, Wendy Brough,

\* TFC members late arrivals or early departures.

**Call Meeting to Order**

- The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:36PM.

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

**Revised Embarkation Committee Recommended Warrant Articles,**

**Jon Snyder, Embarkation Committee Chair**

(See documents on file & Minutes: 1/17/24 p.3-4, & 1/24/24 p.3.)

The following had been changed:

- A) the police generator (now funded by American Recovery Program Act – ARPA) is replaced by B – 17 new police taser devices; (The TFC raised the issue of the high number of tasers—to be discussed at the Police Dept. budget interview)
- B) Gateway improvements, now A, typo reconciled to \$35,000; and
- K) Odor control was sponsored by the Wastewater not the Ambulance Dept.

Later in the Meeting:

• LOUISE CLOUGH MOVED TO REVISIT AND RESCIND ALL PREVIOUS VOTES ON THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FISCAL YEAR 2025 EMBARKATION WARRANT ARTICLES; RACHEL ORR SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RUTH KRONIGSBERG—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUIS PASHMAN—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

• RACHEL ORR MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FISCAL YEAR 2025 **EMBARKATION WARRANT ARTICLES** AS PRESENTED:

**A) GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS (\$35,000),**

**C) SEASONAL POLICE OFFICERS (\$70,000),**

**D) MV LAW ENFORCEMENT TACTICAL TRAINING (\$6,225),**

**E) HARBOR DREDGING (\$136,000),**

**F) HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (\$10,000),**

**G) OWEN PARK DOCK PERMITTING (\$25,000),**

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**H) SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (\$23,519),  
I) AMBULANCE 2 LIFEPAK MONITOR/DEFIBRILLATOR (\$45,100),  
J) STYKER CHAIR-PRO STAIR CHAIR (\$5,000),  
K) WASTEWATER ODOR CONTROL SYSTEM (\$14,950);**

LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED **UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:** RUTH KRONIGSBERG—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUIS PASHMAN—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

**Hospital Road Resilience Grant Warrant Article** (See documents on file.)

**Deborah Potter Oak Bluffs Town Administrator**

**Wendy Brough, Oak Bluffs Assistant Town Administrator**

This new initiative for improved access to the Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) was an excellent trial for a regional application—the more entities, the better the application's chances.

- Oak Bluffs was committed to the full grant match on its Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant. This request covered Tisbury's highest possible share which could be reduced as more entities signed on—Oak Bluffs' share would pick up the portion of any entity(s) not participating.

- The grant was in partnership with the MVH and had been submitted to all 6 Town ATM warrants.

- Working with Fuss & O'Neill Engineers on planning/construction for Barnes, County and Temahigan Roads as alternate routes under Oak Bluffs' control during storm flooding/sea-level rise, as well as nature-based amelioration of Beach Rd. flooding.

- Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highways renovation of Beach Rd. was bureaucratically very slow—witness the ongoing 10 year Farm Pond culvert project.

- In addition, Beach Rd and 2 other Island “pinch” points were being addressed by a large Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) grant application.

- The FinCom praised the initiative as a vital move towards much needed cooperation on a number of issues that should be addressed regionally: wastewater, embarkation, vendor costs, etc.

- Thanks were exchanged and both Towns appreciated having good neighbors.

- Later in meeting:

- **RACHEL ORR MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FISCAL YEAR 2025 \$10,000 HOSPITAL ROAD RESILIENCY GRANT WARRANT ARTICLE** AS PRESENTED: LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED **UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:** RUTH KRONIGSBERG—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUIS PASHMAN—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

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**Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications System Warrant Article**

**Peter Graczykowski and Jack Reagan, Dukes County Sheriff's Office**

(See documents on file & Minutes: 9/25/17 p.1-3, & 2/2/22 p.4-5.)

The FinCom had not interviewed the Sheriff's Office last year as the Public Safety Communications maintenance budget was level or decreased—this year an overall decrease of \$4,500 was due to a one-time cost elimination.

- The Office was working on a capital improvement issue with Edgartown and Chappaquiddick towers.

- The assessment formula continued to be 50% flat fee per Town and 50% call volume. (If 2 services were sent (i.e. fire and police) it was counted as 2 calls.)

- Some Island Towns were including this charge as a line item in their Budgets (see below: Actions), a protocol that improved efficiency in long-term contracts and more stable vendor prices.

- Later in meeting:

- *LOUIS PASHMAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FISCAL YEAR 2025 **\$47,447.83 MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WARRANT ARTICLE** AS PRESENTED: LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED **UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**: RUTH KRONIGSBERG—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUIS PASHMAN—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

**Discussion of Superintendent's Shared Services Census**

**Mark Friedman Business Manager, Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS)** (See documents on file & 2/7/24 Minutes p.2-3.)

There was some discrepancy in the October 1<sup>st</sup> Shared Services Programs census, as to 16 rather than 33 children in the 3 Compass and Bridge class sections. 33 Children resulted in the more reasonable \$67,000 per pupil costs but would also change the Supt.'s Shared Services Office FY25 budget assessments. MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman thanked the FinCom for pointing out the problem.

**Committee Reports**

- The Tisbury Select Board (TSB) voted to establish the Capital Planning Committee to work with the Mass. Dept. of Revenue Division of Local Services (DOR/DLS) (see below: Actions, & Minutes: 12/13/23 p.1-2, & 1/10/24 p.4.):

- 2 TSB appointments (not necessarily a member),
- 2 FinCom appointments (not necessarily members),
- 1 Planning Board appointment (not necessarily a member),
- 1 Moderator appointment
- Town Administrator and Treasurer ex-officio.

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The FinCom preferred 1 member appointee (Alex Meleney expressed interest) and 1 outside appointee (see below: Actions).

- The TSB would continue to discuss a possible transition from Town Administrator to Town Manager (see 11/8/23 Minutes p.2-4), which would require the lengthy process of special State legislation, as well as some voter education/information and Master Planning meetings. Town Administrator Jay Grande's contract was up for renewal in Spring 2025. The FinCom was interested in representation on the Town Manager Transition Committee.
- The TSB was seriously considering a Fall 2024 Special Town Meeting (STM) to vote on the Library repair project which would not have solid price quotes in time for the May ATM (see 2/22/23 Minutes p.1-2).
- The FinCom speculated on the withdrawal of articles for new staff positions and the union compensation/classification study (see documents on file).
- The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was canceled due to weather and all items except invoice approval were postponed until March.

**Future Meetings**

The Finance Department only received department budget drafts today. Chair Nancy Gilfoy expressed her frustration, hoped the process would move more smoothly and that the FinCom could get the necessary information to proceed.

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

**Adjournment**

• LOUIS PASHMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:47PM; LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RUTH KONIGSBERG—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUIS PASHMAN—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events**

- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – Zoom**–DPW, Police?
- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – Zoom**–EMS, Fire, Ambulance
- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – Zoom**–WW,
- **Special/Annual Town Meeting – 7:00PM, Tuesday, May 28, 2024 – PAC**

**Appendix B: Actions**

Jon S – correct Embarkation article K sponsor.

All – recruit Capital Planning representative and email Nancy,

**continued**

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**Appendix B: Actions (cont.)**

Future Agendas

- Minutes: 1/24/24, 2/7/24, 2/21/24
- Votes – Embarkation B) 17 Police tasers (\$85,000).  
MVRHS  
Tisbury School  
MV Public Safety Communications as Town Budget line item

Budget Season Notes

- No new positions in FY25
- FY25 salaries/budgets will be higher due to classification raises.
- Request data on how much each Department turned back in FY23.
- Request projects for grant funding.
- Request capital projects

Budget Season Notes

- attach budget/narrative modules to agendas.
- request/demand foundational information, levy, free cash estimates, etc.
- include 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.

\$100,000 FY24 Reserve Fund spending tally – Balance: \$29,650.25

- 10/4/23 – Ambulance - \$43,000 – monitor/defibrillators

- 11/29/23 – Select Board - \$6,518 – salary step 2 & on-call stipend

- 11/29/23 – DPW - \$20,831.75 (\$10,000) – Police Dept. generator rent

**Appendix C: Documents on File**

- Agenda 2/21/24
- Article Submission Form ATM, Article – Revised 2/15/2024, Embarkation Fund Expenditures (2 p.) 2/15/24
- Annual or Special Town Meeting 2024 Grant Match – Hospital Roads Resilience 1/22/24
- Gilfoy/Grande emails re: General Union Contract Excerpts 2/20/24
- Gilfoy/Friedman emails re: FY25 Tisbury Budget 2/20/24
- Tisbury School FY'25 Budget Analysis, Version #4.1, February 13, 2024
- Tisbury School Budget for 2024/2025, Version #4.1, February 13, 2024 (6 p.)
- Town of Tisbury ATM, FY25 Article, To Fund Maintenance Costs of the Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications System (4 p.) 12/1/23

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Minutes approved 3/20/24