

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee,
6:30PM, Wednesday, February 2, 2022
by Zoom Cloud Conference due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

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Present: Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Louise Clough, Mary Ellen Larsen,
Rachel Orr, Sarah York,
Town: Treasurer – Jonathan Snyder,
Schools – Supt. Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. Richie Smith,
MVPS Bus. Admin. - Mark Friedman,
Tis. Sch. - Prin. John Custer, Asst. Prin. - Melissa Ogden,
MVRHS – Prin. Sarah Dingley, Fin. Dir. - Suzan Cioffi,
Special Projects Coord. - Sam Hart,
Others: Sheriff Of. - Peter Graczykowski, 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. Roll was called and School-based friends and colleagues welcomed.
(Recorder’s note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Review of Tisbury School Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget – John Custer, Principal, Amy Houghton, Chair, Tisbury School Committee (TSC)

(See documents on file.)

Budget: The FinCom repeatedly thanked Principal John Custer and the TSC for bringing in a 2.38% increase (under 2.5%).

- A further reduction of the \$29,000 Information Technology (IT) increase depended on the status of the construction project.
 - Components included ongoing security costs (firewalls, Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) aka ransomware and malware protection, etc) being instituted in all Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) which were increasingly dependent on the internet.
 - Some one-time expense (such as fiber-optic upgrade) were only necessary if the school remained in the original building. The goal was to be in the temporary school (which included all necessary technology) by September 2022. However, the TSC understood the uncertainty of current construction and supply chain delays.
- In a similar vein there was a discussion on other line items that might be reduced or shifted for the two years in the temporary school:
 - \$225,000 Preventive Maintenance—critical for the completed “new” school,
 - Heating fuel versus electricity,
 - contingencies for unknown expenses.

Principal John Custer would bring this to the attention of the TSC Chair.

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Some expenses were built into the School Construction contract.

- The School received CARES Act funds and was in phase II of the three phase Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) grants. These grants could supplement but not supplant School spending.
- Lane changes denoted staff educational levels (bachelors, master, PHD, etc.) which triggered pay increases.
- A placeholder was included because this was a negotiations year for the next 3-year contract for the MVPS Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) (teachers, assistants, secretaries, food workers, custodians).

Review of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) FY2023 Budget – Sarah Dingley, Principal, Suzanne Cioffi, Chair, Finance Director (See documents on file.)

Due to population increase and building issues the FY23 operating budget was up 5.65%, assessed at 4.65% after revenues and Excess & Deficiency (E & D). Tisbury was down 3 students but its assessment rose 2.30% in relation to other Towns' enrollment proportions.

- Per-pupil cost had decreased from \$33,000 to \$29,000, but there were a number of ways to calculate the statistic and State numbers were slightly skewed down because the MVRHS was the fiscal agent for all MVPS grants. (By the same anomaly Tisbury per pupil costs were slightly skewed upward.)
 - MVPS per pupil costs were driven by the high Island cost of living, teacher salaries and economies of size (small districts).
- 1.24% were contractual increases including a negotiations placeholder and a substitute teacher raise—to attract subs during the nationwide shortage.
- Fixed costs (e.g. health, property, student insurances) etc. accounted for another 1% (see below: p.4 Supt. Shared Services).
- 1.1% were new positions.
 - A new English Language Learner/English as a Second Language (ELL/ESL) teacher and Education Support Professional (ESP) (or assistant) were needed to cover a jump in “Newcomers” numbers (students without any English) from 1 to 3 sections—with more possible during the winter months.
 - A grant covered a 10th Grade PhysEd/Health (included in this budget) for counseling and programs on: mental health, peer support, substance use, suicide prevention, etc.
 - A specialized grounds keeper was re-instated for better playing field and garden maintenance.
 - Incredible Islandwide need prompted the hiring of an Early Childhood Education teacher so students could be certified and work in the daycare field.
- The FinCom suggested a bonus or lane change be added for teachers learning Portuguese. Principal Sarah Dingley agreed this was a good suggestion,

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although the MVRHS was not technically a transitional bilingual school. All ESPs advertising were tagged as Portuguese preferred.

- Transportation – Bus Vehicles (\$349,500) involved complex attempts to green the fleet as gas/diesel buses were ~\$100,000 and electric buses ~\$380,000 each. The electric buses from the FY22 articles were made affordable by State grant matching funds. The MVRHS was looking for other resources possibly federal grants or Green Community funding from the towns.

- This budget included a consultant to help navigate electrification of fleet and an increase to promote bus driver retention.

- As a separate municipality the MVRHS would require cooperation to achieve the Island's environmental sustainability goal.

- Although they added up to a sizable amount, capital improvements were a number of smaller projects, which the MVRHSC chose to fund with E & D instead of warrant articles (see 2/10/21 Minutes p.2):

- \$50,000 for ongoing rotating shingling of the entire bldg;

- \$50,000 Career Technology Education (CTE or Vocational) wing roof engineering/design (on a different lifespan from the 2013 roof replacement);

- floor replacements (from carpet to engineered wood), girls locker room, hot water design, doors and frames, 1998 mower replacement;

- culinary dining room (heavily used by the community) and cafeteria equipment update—the final replacement of aging equipment.

- Although the FinCom appreciated the building cost breakout, there was disappointment about incurring costs which could become redundant in the larger renovation/construction project.

- This raised the issue of reconfiguring the capital formula for the much needed renovation/construction project. The FinCom expressed regret over the failure of previous attempts by the: FinComs, MVRHSC and Towns, including attempts to call in mediation. Each delay increased the project cost.

- Towns' differing needs and configurations were acknowledged from the very small Aquinnah and Wampanoag Tribe issues, to the wealthier Edgartown. It was agreed that the current formula was unsustainable for Tisbury.

- School Administrators appreciated the discussion and assured continued work towards a compromise. The FinCom offered their help and support.

- Thanks were exchanged for the attention and conversation.

Review of Superintendent's Office and Shared Services Programs FY2023 Budget – Matt D'Andrea, Superintendent, Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator (See documents on file.)

This budget covered the central office and various shared services:

- Bridge, Compass and Project Headway for the most challenged Special Education (SpEd) students,

- ELL/ESL administration and

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- the Strings program.

The total increase was 3.96% working out to 3.5% assessed increase for Tisbury (shown within the Tisbury School budget).

- A level service budget would be \$258,970 increase, (including a \$98,000 negotiations placeholder).
- The Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) set FY23 health insurance increase at 3% however the one-time FY22 monthly premium holiday was not repeated adding another 8% for an 11% increase. All MVPS budgets projected 7.5% increase, however it was hoped the difference could be absorbed so they would not have to be re-certified.
- The budget was reviewed line-by-line for a number of reductions.
- The additions were:
 - \$10,500 for a Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) consultant to review, organize, update and post school policies.
 - \$92,672 for a fourth school psychologist to reduce currently unmanageable caseloads to State guidelines for student/psychologist ratios.
 - \$19,765 additional half time Project Headway ESP to complete staffing for 4 classrooms—serving the preschool 3-4 yr. old population at need.
 - \$13,923 to increase the Strings teacher from 1 to 2 days/wk to meet program interest.
- The FinCom discussed several issues.
 - Project Headway classes were limited to 15 students: 7 SpEd and 8 peer models (see below: Actions).
 - The Office assessment was based on the October 1st census with school choice and shared services students counted in their towns of residence (not their attending school).
 - MVRHS numbers of students in residential placements had increased. Currently there were no Tisbury School students in placement.
- Towards the end of the meeting it was decided to table the school budget votes pending possible changes and greater FinCom attendance.

Review of Dukes County Sheriff's Warrant Article to Fund the Regional Communications System – Peter Graczykowski, Chief Administrative and Fiscal Officer (See documents on file & 2/20/19 Minutes p.3-4.)

- Peter Graczykowski thanked Tisbury Treasurer Jon Snyder for his time and help on the Communication financial committee.
- FY20 and FY21 spending had been substantially under-budget but FY22 was on target. FY23 moved from the development stage to maintenance as planned, adding the maintenance contracts (ACSI radio, backhaul system and generators). These covered warranty and inventory of parts as well as travel to the Island for fixes.

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- If the Edgartown tower could be better located, backhaul contract cost could be halved to backup services only. Other year-to-year costs should stabilize.
- The assessment formula was: 50% 6 Towns flat rate and 50% call volume.
- The FinCom thanked the Sheriff's Office for the clear narrative and towards the end of the meeting:
- *RACHEL ORR MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE **\$57,223.86 DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH SERVICES ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE FOR** AS PRESENTED; LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION **PASSED; 5 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, SARAH YORK—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

Vote on Late-Filed Article for Financial Assistant (See documents on file.)

- *MARY ELLEN LARSEN MOVED TO ACCEPT **LATE FILED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON TO ESTABLISH AND FUND A FINANCIAL ASSISTANT POSITION**; LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, SARAH YORK—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

Vote on Regional Programs Budget Requests (See 1/12/22 Minutes.)

- *SARAH YORK MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE **\$18,786 HEALTHY AGING MARTHA'S VINEYARD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES** AS PRESENTED; RACHEL ORR SECONDED; MOTION **PASSED; 4 AYE, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—ABSTAIN, SARAH YORK—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*
 - *SARAH YORK MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES AS PRESENTED*
 - **VINEYARD HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM (VHCAP) AT \$76,043;**
 - **DUKES COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AT \$9,023,**
 - **HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM AT \$10,109,**
 - **MARTHA'S VINEYARD CENTER FOR LIVING AT \$90,033,**
 - **COUNSELING AND REFERRAL FOR ELDERS (CORE) AT \$17,955,**
 - **FIRST STOP AT \$1,644,**
 - **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COALITION \$8,739, AND**
 - **DUKES COUNTY OVERHEAD FEES \$11,486;**
- MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED **UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, SARAH YORK—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

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Future Meetings (See below: Meetings/Events & Actions.)

- Adult Community Education Martha's Vineyard (ACE MV) was level funded with FY22 so the FinCom only requested background documents.
- February 9th - Harbor, Shellfish, Housing Bank, Information Technology (IT), and maybe the Department of Public Works (DPW).
- February 16th – joint meeting with Select Board re: their budget and articles.
- The STM/ATM date was still pending State legislation.
- The Animal Control bylaw warrant article was referred to the Town Administrator and Town Counsel.

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Adjournment

- *RACHEL ORR MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:22PM; SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, RACHEL ORR—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, SARAH YORK—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.*

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesdays, February 9, 16, 23, 2022 – Zoom**
- MVPS Vacation – February 28 – March 4, 2022
- STM/ATM – TBD - Saturday, April 30, 2022 – PAC

Appendix B: Actions

Supt. Office/Nancy – report on Shared Services programs student population.

Nancy – request and distribute ACE MV background documents.

Nancy – monitor Animal Control bylaws article progress.

Agenda – Minutes: 11/3/21, 12/8/21, 1/12/22, 1/19/22, 1/26/22, 2/2/22

\$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 2/2/22
- Tisbury School FY'23 Budget Analysis Version #2.0 Tisbury Certified January 11, 2022
- Tisbury School Budget for 2019-2020, Version #2 – January 11, 2022 (Shared Services revised on 12-02-21) (6 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District Budget for Fiscal Year'2022, Certified: 1/04/21 (11 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District Budget for Fiscal Year'2022, Certified: 1/04/21 (11 p.)

continued

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Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.):

- MVRHS, FY23 Budget Highlights, January 3, 2022 (2 p.)
- MVRHS, FY23 Budget Percentages – January 3, 2022 (2 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District January 3, 2022 Budget Example of Regional Formula Calculations (2 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District, Fiscal Year 2023, Version 2 Certified 1/3/2022
- MVRHS Capital Project, Impact on real estate taxes by town, Oak Bluffs Assessing Department January 25, 2022 (13 p.)
- MVYPS FY23 680 Shared Services Budget, Budget Highlights Version #3 December 2, 2021 (3 p.)
- Superintendent's Shared Services FY'23 Proposed Budget Listed by School District, Version #3 A.I.S.C December 2, 2021 - Approved (3 p.)
- Dukes County Sheriff MVPSCS FY23 Budget Request (6 p.)
- 57,223.86 Town of Tisbury ATM Proposed FY23 Article re: Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications System 12/10/21
- Article Submission Form Annual Town Meeting Article To Establish and Fund Financial Assistant Position 1/27/22

Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

Date

Minutes approved 2/2/22