

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee,  
6:30PM, Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
by Zoom Cloud Conference due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

1

**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, Select Board – Jeff Kristal,  
Building Inspector - Ross Seavey,  
**Others:** Russ Hartenstine, Recorder – Marni Lipke,  
Dukes County Manager – Martina Thornton,  
CFL – Leslie Clapp, VHCAP – Sarah Kuh, MVCS - Beth Folcarelli,  
HAMV – Cindy Trish, SUD – Victor Capoccia,  
\* 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.*)

**Review of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Regional Programs Budgets**

(See documents on file & 1/6/21 Minutes p.2-5.)

**Cindy Trish, Executive Coordinator, Healthy Aging Martha's  
Vineyard (HAMV)**

- \* Louise Clough recused herself due to conflict of interest as a HAMV employee.
- HAMV was the elder services planning/piloting organization. Its Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget was level-funded. FY22 accomplishments were reported.
  - 15 Island agencies participated in the home safety modification/fall prevention project, a high impact/low cost home improvement program to promote aging in place. The pilot had already served 10 Tisbury residents at an average cost was \$1,700.
  - 11 Tisbury residents were served by the Go Go Grandparents pilot exploring on and off Island transportation alternatives.
  - The most recent survey was providing great data.
- The FinCom asked about a lack of publicity for the programs. HAMV worked behind the scenes letting established elder service organizations deal with outreach and publicity.
- Town funding (~ 45% of the budget) brought funds in from off and on Island sources, e.g. a Farm Neck grant paid for survey printing and postage. Other sources included: Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH), Elder Services, Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation, Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation, and anonymous and/or private donations.

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee  
January 12, 2022**

2

**Beth Folcarelli, Chief Executive Officer, Martha's Vineyard  
Community Services (MVCS)**

\* Louise Clough returned to the meeting.

- All these programs were level-funded and worked closely with HAMV.

First Stop – At \$9,316 an internal shift from 1 to 5 hrs./wk. allowed sufficient maintenance/updating of information on the website's 700 resources.

Counseling, Outreach and Referral for Elders (CORE) - Client numbers (65-70) continued steady however the level of required services intensified—possibly due to the Covid pandemic. Of 40 hrs. of service, 15 hrs. were practical matters (transportation, visits, prescription pickup, etc.) and the remainder was counseling. Clients were referred by primary care physicians, but there was a continuing effort to coordinate with other agencies such as MVH.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Coalition – This non-profit was founded by a coalition of stakeholders and service providers during the early opioid crisis. It worked with many organizations (MVH, MVCS, Vineyard House, Recovery Coaches, etc.) for seamless support for those struggling with the disorder. The Coordinator position had 3 functions:

- meeting arrangement and logistics,
- communication/education by social media, posters, etc.,
- technical/expert research.

- It was privately funded until recently; the previous Coordinator changed jobs and the grant funding was withdrawn, causing communications to drop substantially. Victor Capoccia was a volunteer interim Coordinator. A similar County position (see 3/7/18 Minutes p.4 #41 & below p.4 Harbor Homes) transitioned to homeless support—often caused by substance disorders.

- The pandemic had doubled opioid incidents.

- SUD asked for 3 years of support, considering that if they could not find alternate funding (State, Federal, private, grants, etc.) they might close-up.

**Sarah Kuh, Director Vineyard Health Care Access Program (VHCAP)  
and Dukes County Social Services**

Social Services – provided support for the Island population under 60 yrs. old. The Department helped people navigate complex bureaucracies and the economic turmoil caused by the pandemic: facilitating public benefits, unemployment insurance, utility and food subsidies. The MV Community Foundation (previously the Permanent Endowment) and the Cape and Islands Community Act contributed gift cards for groceries, personal care products, automobile repair, etc. There were no operational changes. The slight increase was for fixed costs for the one full-time case worker—Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), health insurance rates, etc. CARES Act funding expanded the position from 30 to 40 hrs.

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee  
January 12, 2022**

**3**

VHCAP – helped individuals get and keep health insurance (medicare counseling, open enrollment, etc.), a particularly important resource during the pandemic, especially in the face of the constant governmental changes, such as the CARES Act.

- The Office adapted its methods going mostly remote with some in-office time. The CARES Act funds supplied the County with masks, ventilation, etc.
- The County extended its benefits and Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) policy to all employees including VHCAP.
- VHCAP was about 66% Towns funded. Other sources included: Island Healthcare, an MVH Service Agreement, and Navigator.

**Leslie Clapp, Director Center for Living (CFL)**

CFL Supportive Day Program worked with those with moderate to severe memory loss, serving ~23 families. They moved entirely to Zoom/remote for much of the pandemic but opened their doors in April 2021 4 days/wk. for 7 clients per day, now expanded to 15 clients. Slots were immediately filled, although there was no waitlist. CFL was working with HAMV and the Vineyard Transit Authority to provide transportation. There were strict Covid prevention measures for staff, visitors and clients. Leslie Clapp reviewed CFL history from its 2006 start at the Edgartown Council on Aging (COA) to its current building.

- The work was demanding and staff were experts. CFL preferred a 4-5 to 1 client/staff ratio. They requested a 4<sup>th</sup> position in the FY23 budget to expand the Supportive Day capacity to 20 clients per day to meet growing demand.
- Client mix was 50% private pay, 50% Elder Services subsidized. Rates were raised to \$60 per day—eliminating half day rates.
- Local grants covered specific programs, music, exercise, etc.
- Island Healthcare used the 2nd floor, and paid 25% of building maintenance, utilities, etc.
- County fee methodology is addressed below (see p.4).
- CFL sponsored a dementia and a caregiver support group(s) for people coping with behavioral changes and other pressures; Zoom expanded both groups.
- A FinCom comment showed a budget breakdown of \$16-18,000 per year per individual client. Ms. Clapp noted that better options were hard to find. For example home caregivers were \$35 per hour which most could not afford. All of the 30-40 supportive day programs in Massachusetts were attached to COAs—but the 4 Island COAs could not individually sustain such a program.
- There was no national move towards universal elder care and the pandemic had forced a number of vital closures.

**Martina Thornton, Dukes County (DC) Manager**

**Harbor Homes** – Maura Morrison not present

Harbor Homes – In FY22 this position was very successfully shifted from the County to a non-profit. They owned 2 houses, partially supported by Community Preservation Committee/Act (CPC/CPA) funding.

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee**  
**January 12, 2022**

**4**

- There was a FinCom comment about continual asks for Town support for social services in general.

Dukes County Fees – The County Advisory Board (CAB) requested these be put in a separate warrant article. Previously the County estimated administrative fiscal agent costs at 5%. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandated a formula for County Airport services that had to be universally applied; it approved the County formula which was based on: personnel costs, square footage, and number of work hrs/yr.

- Tisbury share of the general Dukes County assessment was 17.65% which should include VHCAP and Social Services which were County Departments.
- Non-profits using the County as a fiscal agent were based on 50% equalized value and 50% population by the January 1<sup>st</sup> census—Tisbury share 13.6%.

**Committee Reports**

- The Climate Committee took a 3 week break, having met with a number officials and experts including: Tisbury Water Supervisor, Town Administrator and Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, and Anna Edey.
- Harold Chapdelaine had to step down from chairing the Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) which was a great loss. Michael Watts was the interim Chair. The project had not yet broken ground, despite a very aggressive timeline—hoping for the temporary school trailers by February or spring school breaks. The Architect and Owners Project Manager (OPM) cost estimates remained close with moderate inflation parameters.
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) certified a \$24,000,000 budget with over 300 line items. The special needs population continued to grow raising Superintendent's Shared Services Office costs. The FinCom representative felt some ancillary positions such as administrative assistants could be cut.
- The track debate on artificial turf remained a large issue. CPC commitments required that no artificial turf be used.

**Future Meetings**

- Town Accountant Suzanne Kennedy sent out a number of budgets.
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Fire, Emergency Management, Ambulance and Embarkation
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – Police, Sheriff, Animal Control
- The Housing Bank representative was scheduled for February.
- Special/Annual Town Meeting (STM/ATM) date was still unknown pending State legislation allowing it be held outside Town boundaries—hopefully at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on April 30<sup>th</sup>. All other deadlines were set in relation to the STM/ATM date.

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee  
January 12, 2022**

5

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

**Adjournment**

• LOUISE CLOUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:14PM; ALLEN ROGERS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, LOUISE CLOUGH—AYE, DAN SEIDMAN—AYE, SARAH YORK—AYE, LESLEY SEGAL—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, NANCY GILFOY—AYE.

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events:**

- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, January 19 & 26, 2022 – Zoom**
- **TFC – TBD 6:30PM, Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022 – Zoom**
- **STM/ATM – TBD**

**Appendix B: Actions** - None

[\\$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 1/12/22
- Town Clerk memo re: Articles Received Prior to the Deadline for Submission of Appropriating Articles for the Annual Town Meeting to be Held ? (6 p.) 12/22/21
- Martha's Vineyard Community Services overview of services 2023 (12 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Substance Use Disorder Coalition, November, 24, 2021 (3 p.)
- FY2023 County Request for Funding 12/23/21
- FY2023 9 Funding Requests Submitted by Dukes County 12/15/21
- FY2023 9 Funding Requests Submitted by Dukes County 12/15/21 - 1/3/21
- Vineyard Health Care Access Program, FY2023 Budget, Fund 550 (4 p.)
- Dukes County Social Services, FY2023 Budget, Fund 555 (5 p.)
- MV Center for Living, CAB 12-9-21
- Harbor Homes 11/21/21
- FY2023 County Request for Funding (Allocation of Overhead) 12/10/21
- Rooms Tax...Meals Tax
- Chat: [Thank you Fin Com members for your interest and consideration of the SUD Coalition 0.5 fee coordinator position. Happy to discuss any specific further questions. \[vcapoccia@gmail.com\]\(mailto:vcapoccia@gmail.com\)](#)

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Minutes approved 2/2/22