

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee  
at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building  
6:30PM, Wednesday, September 21, 2016**

Present: Chair – Jeff Kristal, Pamela Brock, Barbara Fortes, Nancy Gilfoy\*,  
Tom Keller, Jynell Kristal, Mary Ellen Larsen, Lesley Segal;  
Town: Treasurer – Jonathan Snyder, Schools – Colleen McAndrews,  
MVCS – Julie Faye,  
Others: Minutes – Marni Lipke                      \* Late arrivals or early departures

**Call to Order**

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:32PM. In view of the success of the the All Island FinCom protocol Chair Jeff Kristal declared the Tisbury FinCom meetings would be an hour and a half, ending at 8:00PM sharp.

*(Some discussions have been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

**• Member Comment**

Jeff Kristal talked with County officials, Selectmen and Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) Director Julie Faye. The Healthy Aging Task Force Martha's Vineyard/FirstStop was transferred to the MVCS for benefits savings (see 2/17/16 Minutes p. 3), and as a good companion to the Counseling Outreach and Referral for the Elderly (CORE) program.

- CORE worked with homebound seniors who were having mental health, medication, self-neglect, or mobility issues, with a goal of transferring them to the MVCS Counseling clinic for further support. Unfortunately Medicare only paid for mental health services if there was a physician in the building (whether treating the client or not). This limited both scheduling and services for homebound seniors.

- FirstStop was a website of resource and referral contacts for seniors, and particularly useful for off Island caregivers. One full time staff also worked by phone and updated the site. Seniors sometimes moved on to the CORE program from FirstStop, Councils On Aging or Emergency Medical incidents.

• The FinCom would consider whether to fund these programs through warrant articles or include them in the Councils On Aging budgets.

**• Member Discussion of Dates and Deadlines for Budgets**

The Personnel Board agreed to use an earlier Consumer Price Index (CPI) in its labor rate increase formula, so Department Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Budget Forms will be due two weeks earlier than last year (see documents on file).

- An attempt to coordinate Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Islandwide was likely to encounter difficulties because of Towns' different financial and collective bargaining status.

- The FinCom considered tighter restrictions on late-filed articles.

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**• Member Discussion of Dates and Deadlines for Budget Review**

Suggestions included:

- one large (Dept. of Public Works-DPW, Police, Fire/Ambulance, Library, Schools) and then two smaller departments per FinCom meeting;
- skipping departments presenting 1% or less increase, or examining all departments line-by-line for savings and to gain budget familiarity;
- departments of interest included:
  - ° Information Technology (IT) as a new department likely to gather other departments' technology costs under its budget;
  - ° the new Facilities Manager assembling a municipal building maintenance budget;
- The FinCom discussed municipal building maintenance funding mechanisms, revolving funds, stabilization funds, etc. as well as the Facilities Manager's job description and duties.
- The schedule would be set next meeting and Town Accountant Suzanne Kennedy invited to the meeting(s) (see below: Action List).
- FinCom agendas/schedule could be sent to the Selectmen so they could attend if interested. The Selectmen each chose a Town committee/board to attend; Larry Gomez – the FinCom, Melinda Loburg – Tisbury School, etc.

**Quarterly Budget Update** - will be available as soon as completed.

**• Public Comment**

Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Chair Colleen McAndrews explained the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) timeline:

- Owners Project Manager (OPM) on board,
- choosing and contracting with an Architect Designer in November,
- feasibility phase polling the community and facilitating the TSBC decision among four options: renovation, renovation/addition, new building on existing site, new building at new location.
- A placeholder article could be filed for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) if all went smoothly, otherwise a Special Town Meeting (STM) might be required.

**• Member Comment**

- As DPW mechanic Russell Maciel was now working half-time, there was some consternation about Town vehicle maintenance and repair since use of private garages would likely blow out department budgets.
- The FinCom again urged that mooring fees be raised, at least in accordance with previous agreement (see 2/10/16 Minutes p.1). It was noted that Vineyard Haven \$300-500/yr. mooring fees were minimal, and commercial companies re-leased the moorings for \$3,500/yr.

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- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE TO SEND A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON MOORING FEES.
- The old fire station/Beach Rd. lot was proposed as a good candidate for a new credit card charged/cellphone app system linked to police monitors that allowed flexible paid parking. The Planning Board expressed interest in turning the space into a small park. There were concerns about entering and exiting into traffic. The lot currently earned about \$25,000 per year as Tisbury business owner parking—projections of future revenues would be helpful.
- The Oak Bluffs business owners sent a letter to the Steamship Authority (SSA) proposing it shift more ferry landings to Oak Bluffs. The Tisbury Business Association sent a letter advocating for the status quo which individual were invited to sign. Noting the impact not only on Tisbury businesses but also on Town Embarkation revenues:
  - *BARBARA FORTES MOVED TO SEND LETTER TO THE STEAMSHIP AUTHORITY STATING THE TISBURY FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF SHIFTING ANY FERRY SERVICE TO OAK BLUFFS; JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- The FinCom discussed a lack of traffic enforcement: parking, running stop signs, speed limits, etc.
- Nancy Gilfoy reported on the controversy over wastewater issues: new nitrogen mitigation regulations that would result in heavy burdens for homeowners in the watershed, difficulties with individual septic systems and sewer capacity, Town versus user payment and experimental wick connection (see below: Action List).
- All the Island Community Preservation Committees (CPCs) advertised with the same deadline schedules.
- The All Island Finance Committee would be examining non-profits and regional budgets at its next meeting.
- **Adjourn**
  - *MARY ELLEN LARSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:54PM; BARBARA FORTES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Meetings/Events:**

- **All Island FinCom – 7:00PM, Wednesday, September 28, 2016 – Edg. Fire**
- **FinCom - 6:30PM, Wednesday, October 12, 2016 - Tisbury EMS Bldg**

**continued >**

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**Action List:**

- Jeff - ask Suzanne K. for budget, vs. actuals for all Town Depts.
- Jeff - contact Jon Snyder for end of year transfers.
- Jeff/Marni - send Dept./FinCom schedule to Selectmen.
- October Agenda:
  - Minutes - 6/15/16-TFC, 9/21/16-TFC  
8/24/16-AI/TFC, 9/13/16-AIFC, 9/28/16-AIFC
  - Department Review Schedule
  - Wastewater Issues/Nitrogen Mitigation Regulations

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 9/21/16
- Kristal/Grande et al emails re: Electric Vehicles, LEAF Program (4 p.) 8/5/16
- Tisbury Finance Director memo re: Recommendation to lease three electric vehicles 8/8/16
- Tisbury CPC letter re: artificial vs. natural turf debate (2 p.) 6/20/16
- Draft letter to Steamship Authority Board of Governors 9/21/16
- Draft FY2017 Budget/ATM & STM Calendar (2 p.) 9/7/26
- October 2016 through May 2017 calendars (8 p.)

Minutes approved 1/11/17.