

**Tisbury School Committee/  
Tisbury Board of Selectmen/  
Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee  
6:30PM, Wednesday, September 18, 2019  
Tisbury Emergency Services Building**

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- Present: TSC Members:** Chair Amy Houghton, Janet Packer, Andrew Watts,  
**Selectmen:** Chair Melinda Loberg, Jeff Kristal,  
**FinCom Members:** Chair – Mary Ellen Larsen, Seth Gambino,  
Nancy Gilfoy, Larry Gomez, Jynell Kristal, Laura Rose,  
Sarah York
- Town/School Staff:** Matt D’Andrea – MVPS Superintendent,  
Jay Grande – Town Administrator, Alex Kral – Admin. Asst.,  
Deborah Medders – Town Moderator,  
Rachel Orr- TSBC Chair, Richie Smith – MVPS Asst. Supt,  
Jonathon Snyder – Town Treasurer,
- Others:** About 20 members of the public and other Town officials,  
Marni Lipke – Recorder
- Press:** George Brennan – MV Times, Heidi Carter – MVTV,  
Holly Pretsky – Vineyard Gazette,  
\* Late Arrivals or early departures.

Call to Order

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC), Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) meetings were called to order at 6:34PM.  
(Recorder’s note: discussions are summarized and re-grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Minutes – Review and Approval – July 10, 2019

- NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2019; SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

I. Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant Articles (See documents on file.)

II. Emergency Appropriations for Tisbury School Operating Expenses  
Review and Accept Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant Articles or Late-Filed  
Articles (See documents on file.)

- This Article was based on estimates from multiple modular vendors (given unknowns such as location, scope, etc.), as well as for possible remediation on a portion of the current facility—e.g.: two means of egress, lower level cafeteria and restrooms, etc. The Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) had toured the campus and would advise the Martha’s Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Administrators on the best options. The goal was to have all Tisbury students in a safe, healthy place as soon as possible.  
- Modular leases were likely to run \$200-250,000 per year. However after one year the State deemed the structures to be permanent and required sprinkler upgrades, etc.

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- The current Stabilization balance was \$2,900,000 and Town Administrator Jay Grande expressed concern at dropping it below \$1,500,000 but also understood that Stabilization was designed for such contingencies.

• *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE LATE FILED ARTICLE TO TRANSFER FROM STABILIZATION \$1,500,000 FOR THE LEASE AND/OR PURCHASE OF MODULAR TISBURY SCHOOL STRUCTURES AND SITE RELATED ACTIVITIES AND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION WORK AT THE TISBURY SCHOOL; LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• Emergency appropriations allowed expenditure of Town funds before appropriation votes, and reimbursement of said funds through this article. Consequently this Article would reimburse and current or near future expenditures covering the unforeseen expenses of operating in two sites, especially grades five through eight at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS)—e.g. transportation, staff, etc. Any residual would be spent on Tisbury School remediation.

• *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE LATE FILED ARTICLE TO TRANSFER FROM STABILIZATION \$450,000 FOR UNFORESEEN EXPENSES RELATED TO LOCATING GRADES FIVE THROUGH EIGHT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND OPERATING IN TWO LOCATIONS AND TO SEAL AND BEGIN REMEDIATION OF PORTIONS OF THE TISBURY SCHOOL; LARRY GOMEZ SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Adjournment

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 6:52PM.**

*Chair Melinda Loberg opened the Selectmen meeting at 6:54PM*

**Attend FinCom Meeting**

**Review Approved Late Filed Articles**

**Close Warrant and Approve Signing of Warrant**

(May Need to Include in Motion STM Date to Confirm it is on October 15th, Since Lots of Meetings and Delays)

• Motion: *Mr. Jeff Kristal moved to open and close the Special Town warrant; Ms. Loberg seconded; motion passed unanimously: 2 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.*

**Set Date for Signing Special Town Meeting Warrant**

• Motion: *Mr. Kristal moved to sign the Special Town Meeting documents when they became available; Ms. Loberg seconded; motion passed unanimously: 2 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.*

Sarah York asked about the protocol for amending language on Town Meeting Floor (with the understanding that appropriations could not be increased). She had been hearing much concern from other parents and wanted to make it clear that the articles had a narrow immediate scope. Moderator Deborah Medders pleaded that, for the benefit of voters and particularly young families, the word be spread that the STM was clearly defined as only 2 clear articles on immediate financial needs, not to open a wider discussion on future campus plans. She expressed her fear that parents/families would be disappointed on top of the burdens they were already shouldering.

- She would *not* give a preamble at the STM but if the discussion moved away from the articles she would speak to bringing it back to the matters at hand.
- The Selectmen were amenable and suggestions for publicity included: sidewalk conversations, school website, town website, any way that young families would get the message. It was also agreed that there be an informational session shortly before the STM (see below: Actions)

### Confirm Dates for Posting and Advertising Special Town Meeting (STM)

September 18 close Warrant

September 20 sign Warrant in the Office

Submit publication to Newspapers Tuesday, September 24

Publish Warrant MV Times September 26 and October 3

Publish Warrant Vineyard Gazette, September 27 and October 4

Special Town Meeting, School Gymnasium October 15

### Adjournment

- Motion: Mr. Kristal moved to adjourn at 7:04PM; Ms. Loberg seconded; motion passed unanimously: 2 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

### Reports from Town Committee Liaisons

CPC - Mary Ellen Larsen

Energy - Nancy Gilfoy

Harbor - Laura Rose

Board of Selectmen - Larry Gomez

Wastewater - Nancy Gilfoy

Dept. of Public Works (DPW) - Larry Gomez

*(The above assignments will have to be revised due to changes in the administrative structure.)*

Tisbury School Committee - Jynell Kristal MVRHS Committee - Lolly Hand

MVRHS Budget Subcommittee - Lolly Hand, Sarah York

- The new Town Committee structure was reviewed and liaisons reappointed as follows: (*Recorder's Note: those in bold are appointees; all others are liaisons*)
- Community Preservation Committee (CPC) – Mary Ellen Larsen
- **Embarkation** – Jynell Kristal,
- **Energy** – Nancy Gilfoy,
- **Natural Resources** – Laura Rose (merged: DPW, Harbor, Shellfish)
- MVRHS – Lolly Hand,
- MVRHS Budget – Lolly Hand, Sarah York,
- **MVRHS Building Committee** – Mary Ellen Larsen,
- **Personnel** – Bill McConnell (might resign),
- Planning Board – Leslie Segal,
- **Sewer Flow** – Seth Gambino,
- *Tisbury Affordable Housing* – unassigned,
- TSC – Jynell Kristal,
- **Wastewater Planning** – Nancy Gilfoy.

### All Island FinCom (AIFC) Status Report

The AIFC met weekly on the MVRHS financial formulas with increased participation by all six towns. MVRHS Financial Manager Mark Friedman supplied excellent and comprehensive information, however the conversation seemed to circle in on itself. It

was noted that all the Towns paid the same tax per student and all town MVRHS enrollment represented 3-4% of its population.

- The Edgartown FinCom attended the last meeting but walked out in protest.
- The Oak Bluffs FinCom voted to retain their recommendation on not funding the feasibility study, favored a universal tax-rate but was open to other formula suggestions.
- Supt. Matt D'Andrea and the MVRHSC proposed a facilitator either from Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) or Martha's Vineyard Mediation who would present proposals at a MVRHSC meeting (see below: Meetings/Events).
- The TFC was encouraged by Chilmark volunteering to host the next AIFC.
- The next TFC meeting would include an orientation working session (see below: Meetings/Events). The Chair agreed Sarah York could call in from a remote location.

• **Adjournment**

• *LAURA ROSE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:32PM; SETH GAMBINO SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events:**

- **TSBC - 5:00PM, Wednesday, September 25, 2019 - EMS Bldg.**
- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the EMS Building**
- **MARS/Mediation Presentation - 6:00PM, Monday, October 7, 2019 – MVRHS PAC**
- **Special Town Meeting – Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

**Appendix B: Actions**

TSC/Selectmen – schedule joint informational session (with OPM) before STM.

**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- TSC Agenda 9/18/19
- TFC Agenda 9/18/19
- BOS Agenda 9/18/19
- Draft late filed – To see if the town will vote to transfer from the stabilization fund one million five hundred thousand dollars... (8/28/19)
- Late filed – Article – To Fund Unforeseen Expenses for Tisbury Elementary School (9/13/19)
- Larsen/Grande emails re: Meeting on the 18th (4 p.) 9/16/19
- Larsen/Grande email re: Warrant Article for 1.5 Million Dollars (2 p.) 9/18/19

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

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Marni Lipke – Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Minutes approved 10/2/19*