

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**By Zoom Cloud Conference due to**  
**Gov. Baker's Covid-19/Corona Virus Executive Order**  
**6:30 pm, Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

Present: Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Jynell Kristal, Mary Ellen Larsen,  
Kelley Metell, Allan Rogers, India Rose, Laura Rose, Lesley Segal,  
Others: Recorder Marni Lipke  
Town: Select Board: Larry Gomez, Jeff Kristal,  
Town Administrator – Jay Grande  
\* Late arrivals or early departures of FinCom members

**Call to Order**

• The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:32PM. Attendance was called to establish quorum. *(Recorder's note: discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

**Introductions**

Chair Nancy Gilfoy welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that FinCom members introduce themselves. Several jokes were made about the controversy of members related to each other or Town staff (see documents on file).

- Allan Rogers retired and moved here from Texas. He had a part time job with the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA). He felt the FinCom was a stimulating occupation and hoped to contribute something to the Town.
- Third term member Mary Ellen Larsen was a retired nurse, and loved learning how government worked.
- Kelley Metell was a Special Education teacher in Oak Bluffs and married to Tisbury Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Kirk Metell. She loved history.
- Lesley Segal was an audiologist. This was her second term and she was fascinated by Town government, inspired to give back to the Town and thrilled to have three new diverse members.
- India Rose (Laura Rose's daughter) was a non-profit start-up and strategic planning business consultant. She had been on Boards but this was her first governmental committee.
- Jynell Kristal owned the Crocker Inn. Her children went to Tisbury School and her husband was a Selectmen. She had learned a lot and noticed that communications was the key to good government.
- Laura Rose worked at the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard. She wanted to do something active in government and this was a great place to learn how it works.
- Nancy Gilfoy was an acupuncturist. She liked to use her skills to give back to the community.

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**Review of Guidance Memo to Department Heads**

(See documents on file.)

Treasurer Jon Snyder drafted this letter requesting containment and caution in response to the unknown financial forecast. As the year progressed and more was known the budget could be changed. The largest impact would be on salaries/benefits

- The FinCom comments focused on the impact on salaries/benefits, which comprised 70% of the budget. Usually between steps and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) increases were 3-4% each year. Town Administrator Jay Grande was committed to level funding pay across the board for both management and unions—although he could not speak for the schools.

- The FinCom raised the issue of Police Quinn Bill payments (see below: Actions). Police contract would expire June 30, 2021.

- The FinCom felt the situation was fluid including State funding, meals/lodging revenues, etc. and expressed some reserve when talking about people paychecks.

- The flat salary idea was introduced at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and the letter could be a follow up as a reasonable continuation of the idea. The FinCom wanted some assurance that adjustments could be made if revenues increased.

- The Select Board had committed to pay all employees during the Spring 2020 Covid-19 shutdown. However, when positions became vacant they were not filled, saving the Town about \$300,000.

**Report on All Island Finance Committee (AIFC) Meeting**

**- Financial Aspects of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Fields Project** (See below: Meetings/Events.)

Several members attended the first meeting. The concern was over maintenance costs of an artificial turf field. It was clear that the initial presentation was biased in favor of anti-artificial turf advocates. The MVRHSC had declined to attend in consideration of due process in its current hearings before the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and Oak Bluffs Planning Board.

**Committee Report and Assignments** (See below: Actions.)

The FinCom sent appointed representatives or volunteer liaisons to a number of Town committees.

- The Energy Committee, working with Cape Light Compact, was awarded a \$63,000 Green Community for two hybrid police cruisers, a charging station and a DPW heat pump. Once funds were spent the Committee would re-apply for the next grant.

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- The schools now had a reopening plan, but the situation remained changeable. The Tisbury School heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) was repaired in fall 2019 (see 9/18/19 Minutes). Reopening and Covid-19 costs and/or savings were currently unknown.
- The Natural Resources Committee was dissolved.
- The FinCom was required to appoint a representative (not an elected official or Town employee) to the Personnel Board (see documents on file).
- The Planning Board met at a similar time to the FinCom.
- The Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) was including town emergency shelter planning in the renovation/addition design.
- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) first application deadline was September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Meetings** (See below: Actions.)

- Next meeting Jon Snyder would give an introduction to Town finances.
- An informal poll showed that the 6:30PM second and fourth Wednesdays time was amenable to everyone.
- The FinCom and Select Board welcomed the new members.

**Adjournment**

• LAURA ROSE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:24PM; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS: NANCY GILFOY—AYE, LAURA ROSE—AYE, ALLAN ROGERS—AYE, MARY ELLEN LARSEN—AYE, KELLEY METELL—AYE, INDIA ROSE—AYE, JYNELL KRISTAL—AYE, LESLEY SEGAL—AYE,.

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events:**

- **AIFC - 4:00PM, Thursday, September 11, 2020 by Zoom**
- **TFC - 6:30PM, Wednesday, October 14, 2020 by Zoom**

**Appendix B: Actions**

- All – please contact Nancy if you can't make a meeting.
- All – send questions for October meeting to Nancy.
- All – send Nancy suggestions/recruits for Personnel Bd. representative.
- Jay Grande – contact OB Bob Whritenour re: Finn Bill.
- Jynell Kristal – send school reopening plan to Nancy for distribution.
- Lesley Segal – call Pat Harris re: Planning Bd. meeting notification.
- Marni Lipke – send updated contact sheet.

**continued >**

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

- October Agenda –
- Minutes: 7/1/20, 8/19/20, 9/9/20
- Town Finances – *Treasurer Jon Snyder*
- Personnel Bd. Appointment

FY21 \$100,000 - Reserve Fund spending tally

**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- Agenda 9/9/20
- Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee memo re: FY2022 Town Department Budgets 10/14/20 Draft 200902
- MVTimes excerpt Familial Ties Multiply on Finance Committee 8/27/20
- Gilfoy letter re: The article in last week's MV Times 7/6/20
- Zoom Chat: Jay Grande re: Personnel Board Creation

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Zoom Chat: From Jay Grande to Everyone: (7:19 PM)

Section 7 Creation: The Personnel Board shall consist of three members, one appointed by the Finance and Advisory Committee, one appointed by the Board of Selectmen and one appointed by the Town Clerk. No appointee shall be an full time employee of the Town during his term of office nor shall an appointee have been an full time employee of the Town within the thirty days prior to appointment. No member shall be eligible for membership on the Personnel Board who holds any other elective office, is a full time Town of Tisbury employee, or who holds any appointive office for which a full time salary is received. Members shall serve for terms of three (3) years, commencing at the start of the fiscal year.

Minutes approved 10/14/20