

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee/
Board of Selectmen
at the Katherine Cornell Theatre, Tisbury Town Hall
5:30 pm, Tuesday February 18, 2020**

Present: Chair- Mary Ellen Larsen, Nancy Gilfoy, Laura Rose, Larry Gomez, Leslie Segal, Jynell Kristal
Selectmen: Chair Jim Rogers, Jeff Kristal, Melinda Loberg observing by phone
Town Staff: Town Administrator Jay Grande
Administrative Assistant Alex Kral
Town Treasurer Jon Snyder
Others: Elaine Miller, Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA)
Angela Grant, Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority
Martina Thornton, Dukes County Manager John Cahill, County Advisory Board

Call to Order

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Board was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority Warrant Article discussion

Elaine Miller read the letter sent to the Tisbury selectmen explaining the VTA request for \$168,000 from Tisbury. This amount represents the town's share of the estimated \$667,848 required to restore service back to FY19 levels. The funding formula is based on ridership, with Tisbury paying 25.06% because of the number of routes that go through town. Currently, Tisbury contributes approximately \$228,000 to the VTA operations budget which is assessed through the Cherry Sheet. If the voters pass the additional \$168,000 this year, that amount would automatically be rolled into the amount coming from the cherry sheet going forward, raising Tisbury's yearly contribution to VTA to approximately \$395,000. The VTA is facing a number of financial challenges. Ridership has been down dramatically and with the growth of Uber and Lyft on the island, it is unclear how that will impact ridership in the future. Insurance costs have gone up and there is a potential 200-300% increase of the rent paid to the airport. The VTA cannot deficit spend so they will be forced to reduce in-season service.

Dukes County Warrant Articles Discussion

Martina Thornton explained the needs for the two warrant articles. One is for \$7,968 to fund the town's share of the Dukes County "budget shortfall". Since the County does not collect funds for the programs it is the fiscal agent for until after the first quarter, there is a potential cash flow issue since they are paying bills for those programs before receiving funding. She pointed out that the town's will be receiving a significant refund from the County this year, so Tisbury will still come out ahead. The other warrant article is for \$6,694 to fund the town's share of the Dukes County Stabilization Fund. The fund has been created for unforeseen expenditures such as with the County Courthouse last year.

Adjournment

Jynell Kristal moved to adjourn at 6:35 pm; Larry Gomez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Minutes approved 2/26/20