

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
at the Emergency Services Building
6:30PM, Wednesday January 31, 2018**

Present: Acting Chair – Mary Ellen Larsen, Pamela Brock, Paul Cefola,
Nancy Gilfoy, Leslie Segal, Sarah York,
Town: Moderator – Deborah Medders, CPC Administrator Heidi Dietterich,
Others: Recorder Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

• Call to Order

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:32PM. *(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

• Warrant Article Review

Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

(See documents on file and

Minutes: 12/9/15 p.1-2, & 2/17/16 p.4, & 9/28/17 p.1-2.)

- The CPC requests were comparable to previous years. A more effective application required project eligibility, timeframe, planning and funding. Projects were required to “break ground” within two years of approval or funds were returned to the CPC—causing problematic issues with such long term projects the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) track.
- The CPC had discouraged regional projects.
- Of the \$979,000 available, CPC recommendations totaled \$972,500.
- This year's State match was only 23% following a steady downward trend. Next year 10 new communities, including Boston would enter the program, putting matching fund percentages in further jeopardy, although Governor Baker included \$10,000,000 CPC funding in his budget.
- The FinCom explored the recommendations.
- The Church Stone Tower had completed repairs on the originally requested \$7,500, however on CPC advice they bid and re-applied for \$37,500 needed to complete the work. (Two years ago CPC funded their window replacement.)
- There was considerable enthusiasm over the pickleball court and the CPC asked about cost efficiencies for two courts; however the recommendation failed when questions surfaced on whether it was a good location.
- Similarly the Veterans Field playground wheelchair access border was turned down since it continued to flood.
- Other projects were curtailed to accommodate funding for the Katherine Cornell Theatre steeple project, with the hopes the Selectmen would augment the recommendation with State and grant funding.
- The Dog Park request included fencing for a small dog area and supporting amenities (pick-up bags, benches, water, etc.). The FinCom asked how much the park was used and noted that animal control officers generally discouraged such parks as spreading packing behavior and diseases.

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- The Committee did not fund the Municipal Housing Trust since the funds remained unused. In a related article they funded only the foundation and access for the Habitat for Humanity application referring them to the Municipal Housing Trust for further funds. However this Trust was established to address time sensitive affordable housing opportunities, such as purchasing properties in foreclosure without having to wait for Town Meeting vote and consequently needed to accumulate a substantial dollar base.
- The MV Shellfish Hatchery stairs and dock pilings were funded under open space partly in view of the agriculture/aquaculture provision and Tisbury paucity of open space opportunities. The stairs and dock with public kayak and canoe moorings were part of a lovely walking path bounded by Sheriff's Meadow and The Trustees of Reservation properties.
- The CPC was very impressed with the pedestrian friendly Tashmoo Overlook protected view development (also getting funds from Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT) Highways). There was some concern over lack of pedestrian access to and from the site.
- Town records preservation covered marital and death records. The Records vault was completed and a similar request from the assessors was refused in as those records preservation were part of an unfunded State mandate.
- The Harbormaster had reservations about dinghy racks so only partial funding was granted to try a pilot set. The picnic tables application was also partially funded due to poor planning.
- The Veterans Field restroom rehabilitation (DPW and Facilities Manager) would be a great improvement.
- Spring St. Building pathway solar lighting was not considered historical.
- The Kuehn's Way (formerly Bridge) affordable housing project was still in court. Island Housing Trust (IHT) Director Philippe Jordi was satisfied with \$150,000 for the Greenwood Avenue project.
- The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) rental assistance allocation was reduced in line with past spending and last year's unencumbered funds.
- After a brief discussion on the State matching formula, the FinCom proposed waiting to see how the next year would shake-out, before considering reducing the tax percentage.
- The FinCom thanked Ms. Dietterich and the CPC for all their hard work.

Embarkation Committee Review Articles

The Steamship Authority funds were distributed according to formula for Hyannis, Oak Bluffs, Nantucket, Vineyard Haven, and Woods Hole, and were mandated to alleviate the impact of seasonal tourist expenses.

- Most of the articles were routine (Police, ambulance, fire, Dredge Stabilization, etc.).

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- Beautification and Complete Streets was to improve visitor access from the waterfront up Church St. to Main St., including signage and the bus circle—part of the Visioning Committee recommendations.
- The FinCom had questions about the Active Shooter Response Training and the Ambulance Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes

- *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO TABLE THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES; SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Meeting Dates (See below: Meetings/Events.)

- February 7th – Dukes County Manager and Sheriff;
- February 14th – IT Budget, Selectmen and DPW warrant articles
- February 21st – (Joint Selectmen meeting) Tisbury and High School and warrant article review.

Reports from Committees

Nancy Gilfoy reported on a Wastewater meeting with the leaching field consultant about implementing WICK function. The two current vertical leaching fields (on the Tisbury School site—requiring the new building be moved 12 ft.) would double the Towns effluent capacity. The hydrology science was impressive as the WICKs were designed to run on alternate cycles so that one was always fallow. This would contain the effluent flow to the harbor watershed (and not Tashmoo or the Lagoon). The request was for \$1,400,000 for sewer pipe extension and equipment (pumps, control panels, etc.). If successful, the project would reduce current nitrogen loading in the ponds and increase Town leaching capacity.

- WICK pilots in two other towns were showing excellent results—although there was one initial failure when both WICKS were run simultaneously and continuously.
- A joint meeting with the Selectmen and School Committee worked on collaborating with the two projects (e.g. housing the WICK control panel in the new school).

Meetings/Events:

TFC - 6:30PM, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the EMS Bldg.

TFC - 6:30PM, Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at the EMS Bldg.

TFC - 6:30PM, Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at the EMS Bldg.

AIFC - TBD - 5:00PM, Thursday, March 8 or 15, 2017

Tisbury STM/ATM – 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 10, 2017

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• **Adjourn**

• *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:32PM; SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Action List:

• Agenda Items

- Minutes 1/24/18, 1/31/18

Documents on file:

- Agenda 1/31/18
- Town of Tisbury, Town Clerk memo re: STM (4/10/18) (3 p.) 1/24/18
- Tisbury Community Preservation Committee Final Recommendations for FY2018-19 December 11, 2017 (3 p.).
- Kristal/Thornton cover emails re: Amended Warrant Article Numbers for VHCAP, Center for Living and DC Social Services
- Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Budget Worksheet FY2019 Draft
- FY2019 VHCAP Budget Draft (2 p.)
- FY2019 County Request for Funding (2 p.)

Minutes approved 2/20/18.