

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
at the Emergency Services Building
6:30PM, Wednesday, February 7, 2018**

Present: Chair – Jeff Kristal, Pamela Brock, Nancy Gilfoy, Tom Keller,
Jynell Kristal, Leslie Segal,
Town: Administrator Jay Grande, Treasurer Jonathon Snyder,
Accountant Suzanne Kennedy, Moderator Deborah Medders,
Others: Dukes County: Commissioner Christine Todd,
Manager Martina Thornton, CFL Director Leslie Clapp
Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Robert Ogden, Peter Graczykowski
OB FinCom: Chair Jason Balboni, Steve Auerbach,
Maura McGroarty, Richard Weiss,
Recorder Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

• Call to Order

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:36PM. *(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

• Warrant Article Review

Sheriff's Department

(See Minutes: 9/25/17 p. 1-3, 9/28/17 p.2-4)

- Sheriff Bob Ogden reported most towns rejected the proposed subsidy, and consequently this article was on the warrant to document the Island's stance to State authorities, and to raise public awareness of Sheriff's/Communications Center's Dept. financial straits. The Dept. budget was submitted to all the Towns for transparency.
- The Sheriff continued due diligence with the State and was optimistic that they might re-evaluate the funding formula.
- In the next step, the Department hired the Collins Center for a technical survey as a preliminary to State grants for infrastructure development. Unfortunately as an outdated wreck, Martha's Vineyard was listed behind communities with newer technology problems (Worcester, Essex, Western Massachusetts, etc.) and would have to demonstrate critical need/catastrophic failure to move to the second tier. First year development grants had a \$1,000,000 cap for a point-to-point, backhaul microwave system that would solve all the Island's public service needs (police, fire, etc.).
- The Oak Bluffs FinCom voiced their objection to the proposed subsidy population/call-volume-based formula because it unduly penalized Oak Bluffs, which hosted a number of high call volume institutions: Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH), YMCA, Skating Rink, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), etc. Sheriff Ogden replied this was standard State formula (which in most instances ignored the Island's geographical isolation) but he thought the Island might be able to draft its own formula.

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• Budget Review/Discussion

Dukes County Manager

(See documents on file 1/17/18 & below: Actions.)

- The FirstStop, Counseling Outreach and Referral for the Elderly (CORE), Healthy Aging MV, and the Center for Living (CFL) budgets were updated to account for the 6% health insurance increase.
- Dukes County itself (County Manager, County Treasurer, State Beach Management, Veterans' Affairs, Court House, etc.) was assessed by equalized valuation set by the Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue (DOR) every two years.
 - (As advocated by the County Advisory Board (CAB), Dukes County would return a \$170,000 Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) residual, to the Towns earmarked for tourism and economic development.)
- However the CAB and Towns agreed that programs for which the County acted as fiscal agent (CFL, Vineyard Health Care Access Program (VHCAP), Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) FirstStop, CORE, etc.) be assessed at 50% equalized valuation and 50% population.
 - The FinCom noted the CAB equalized-valuation-weighted vote granted Edgartown 38% of the power allowing it the opportunity to dictate policy.
- Dukes County Commissioner Christine Todd had been tirelessly active and promoted an initiative to improve Martha's Vineyard Substance Use Treatment in collaboration with other groups such as MVCS, Aids Alliance, Town Health Agents, MVH, and the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS):
 - travel/training for health providers and social workers—14 additional recovery coaches already trained;
 - public service campaign with posters and cards de-stigmatizing addiction;
 - establishment of an Island treatment or drop-in center to reduce Aids, Hepatitis C, addiction, etc.;
 - jump starting school health and wellness curriculums—\$20,000 spent in FY18 for a consultant survey;
 - coordination with Attorney General's Office and Department of Public Health (DPH).

A recent Dukes County Health Council (DCHC) estimated alcohol/opiate addictions cost the Island \$18,250,000 in losses and services. Currently Ms. Todd was the active and unpaid worker but the job needed full-time staff. The FinCom members recognized the need and agreed this was a good program but raised a number of financial issues.

- Why couldn't the County use its annual residuals? Although some FY18 funds were used, the CAB directed Ms. Todd to request further program funding from the Towns.
- The FinComs objected to the proliferation of non-profits, some with overlapping goals and/or duplication of services. The program coordinated law enforcement, MVH, MVCS, Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC), schools,

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etc. on actions' effectiveness. On the other hand, institutions failed to provide needed resources; for example MVH declared at least a year delay re: housing a drop-in clinic while it re-evaluated space needs; and refused to allow an Emergency Room physician certified to prescribe for opioid addiction, in fear that the need was so great it would overwhelm the resource.

- There were also objections to non-profits applying to the Towns instead of fundraising for grants and private donations. It was noted the program cost \$20,000 in FY18 and was asking for \$50,000 in FY19 and projected hiring full time staff. Consequently the FinCom requested a business plan regarding future resources and requests as well as program evaluation mechanisms.

- The County was in contact with State Representative Dylan Fernandes about a \$95,000 grant for a medically assisted program.

- The FinCom acknowledged the passion and need, thanked Christine Todd for her fine work, and would take the matter under advisement. County Manager Martina Thornton requested that any decision be sent to her in writing for transmittal to the CAB.

- The Center for Living office moved into its building before Christmas and the Supportive Day program started its move in mid-January and would complete it in mid February (see 1/3/18 Minutes p.3-4). The public was welcome to visit anytime from 9AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. Since plans had been so unsettled, the five-day program had only been budgeted for 6 months in FY17 and FY18 but was billed for a full year in FY19. The operating budget would be level funded; salaries would increase in line with Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and increased hours to cover the additional day.

- The program now served 18 clients and had a daily capacity of 25 people—(there were 5 new referrals) but could expand depending on the mandated space and staff ratios (4 clients/1 staff) and as clients attended on alternating days. In addition the Memory Café had been moved to the building, with 25-30 additional clients who were still independent or attended with a caregiver. CFL provided service to the families struggling with dementia/Alzheimer's in addition to the actual clients (reaching ~ 90 people) as well as administering the Meals on Wheels program to about 250 elders and the off-Island medical transport.

- Client fees were raised from \$40 to \$45 for a full day and \$30 to \$35 for a half day. The fees had to be affordable to families and in case of hardship were subsidized by the Town Councils On Aging (COA). However the COA subsidy encompassed all services, so if a client was in Meals on Wheels, Supportive Day reimbursement was diminished. Long-term care insurance was very restrictive and rarely covered the supportive day program costs. Other suggestions included sliding scales and Medicare reimbursement.

- The remainder of the bequest (after building renovation) was being carefully managed and augmented with ongoing fundraising and grants. The CFL would

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use grants and donations to expand family support services, including a clinician, without further taxpayer funding.

- The County paid its two CFL employees directly including a 25/75% health insurance split. The CFL paid its other staff (6 moving to full time but 2 or 3 not taking health insurance) and submitted a payroll invoice to the County for reimbursement. The County paid all other expenses directly.

- The County viewed all CFL bills and invoiced the Towns twice a year by written agreement, so that Towns were billed for expenses 6 months in arrears (see below: Actions).

- The kitchen was licensed for service but not for preparation and two staff had Serve Safe certification. Food costs were pieced together from restaurants, Island Grown Initiative (IGI), churches, schools, staff donations, etc.

- Ms. Thornton joined the Cape and Islands Community Actions Committee Board, which then granted the County \$20,000 that was used for a part-time Social Services position (under 20 hours and without benefits) along with funding from the South Shore Community Action Committee and Univ. of Massachusetts, augmented by some County funds. The County was now applying to the Towns for \$33,500 to increase hours and add benefits. The position used a dedicated line to the Hyannis Social Services office to facilitate Island residents applying for:

- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), i.e. food stamps,
- fuel assistance for residents under 60 yrs. (COAs administered it for elders);
- social security disability, and
- transitional assistance.

However the County was not the best location for the program.

- The FinCom asked about partnering with other County Depts. or non-profits.
- State funding was restricted to governmental agencies and the grants were not transferable to other organizations such as MVCS.

- Ideally the position would be located at the New York Avenue VHCAP office however there was no space available and regulation changes to the insurance industry was burdening VHCAP staff.

- There were no responses to comprehensive County outreach on renting the second floor of the CFL building:

- offered to the Towns for archiving or offices,
- advertised at Fair Market Value;
- advertised again with a discount to tenants providing public benefits,
- sent to all real estate agents, artists collaboratives, etc.

Consequently Martina Thornton requested permission to utilize the space (e.g. for the Social Services Office) until a renter could be found. The second floor had a separate entrance but disability access was through a central elevator.

- The FinCom thanked Ms. Thornton for her time and presentation.

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- The Dept. of Revenue (DOR) certified Free Cash at just over \$6,000,000 in a one-time confluence of:

- regulation changes in the Municipal Modernization Act: (abatement for prior year taxes, reserve fund releases, etc.);
- conservatively over-budgeted line items such as health insurance;
- Charter School tuition audit and rectification;
- \$945,000 in last year's Free Cash residual.

Free Cash was usually in the \$2-2,500,000 range. The FinCom discussed late-filed article(s). It was generally agreed that it not be used to artificially lower the tax rate but rather for one-time expenses or remediation:

- retirement of debt (reducing the burden of the new School);
- full funding of the sick and vacation liability fund (\$250,000);
- paving the Town/School parking lot (\$314,000);
- purchase of 55 West Williams St.

- Town Accountant Suzanne Kennedy reported the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) had requested:

- retirement annuities retroactive to 2017 at 8% of salaries, in lieu of joining the Dukes County Retirement System;
- reimbursement for the audit and a classification/compensation study under legal fees.

She found salaries to be slightly higher than reported and anomalies in employee health insurance contributions. Ms. Kennedy noted the audit did not comment on the budget and there were no illegalities, only conflicting numbers. Consequently she paid them one quarter of actual salaries and benefits within what was budgeted, but no annuity funds, and no audit or compensation/ classification reimbursement—as not actual legal fees.

- Chair Jeff Kristal objected to the Tisbury School Building Committee vote on a Construction Manager at Risk for \$1,800,000.

Approval of Minutes – Tabled

Meeting Dates (See below: Meetings/Events.)

February 14th - Dept. of Public Works (DPW) and Selectmen (BOS) warrant articles, late filed articles, and Information Technology (IT) budget.

February 20th – BOS joint meeting re: new School

February 21st – BOS joint meeting re: Schools & warrant article review;

March 7th – vote all articles.

Adjourn

• *TOM KELLER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:07PM; NANCY GILFOY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

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Meetings/Events:

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

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

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

AIFC - TBD

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

Action List:

- Jeff/Marni – send letter to County Manager on County program votes.
- Martina – send FinCom July-October 2017 CFL actuals vs. budget.
- Jeff – contact David Vigneault re: Budget.
- Agenda Items
- Minutes 1/24/18, 1/31/18,

Documents on file:

- Agenda 2/7/18
- Town of Tisbury, Town Clerk memo re: STM (4/10/18) (3 p.) 2/5/18
- Dukes County Social Services Department (4 p.)
- Dukes County Social Services FY2019 DRAFT Budget Fund 555, 1/30/18
- Dukes County Asking for Community Support for Substance Use Disorder Prevention Initiatives (3 p.)
- Kristal/Thornton cover emails re: Amended Warrant Article Numbers for VHCAP, Center for Living and DC Social Services
- FY2019 County Request for Funding 1/30/18
- FY2019 County Request for Funding (Christine Todd markup) 1/30/18
- FY2019 VHCAP Budget Draft
- Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Budget Worksheet FY2019 Draft

Minutes approved as amended 2/20/18.