

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee  
at the Council On Aging  
6:30PM, Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

Present: Chair – Jeff Kristal, Paul Cefola, Nancy Gilfoy, Jynell Kristal,  
Mary Ellen Larsen, Leslie Segal, Sarah York  
Town: TSC Chair Amy Houghton, Principal John Custer,  
Superintendent Matt D’Andrea, Business Manager Amy Tierney,  
MVRHS Finance Manager Mark Friedman,  
Town Moderator Deborah Medders,  
Others: Recorder Marni Lipke \* Late arrivals or early departures

**• Call to Order**

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:35PM. *(Recorder’s Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

**• Budget Review/Warrant Article Review**

**Tisbury School** (See documents on file.)

- The School budget was at a negative position (-0.11%) due to:
  - elimination of an obsolete cafeteria line,
  - Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP and the Title One grants, and
  - \$100,000 commitment of School Choice funds.

Starting in October the School Advisory Council (SAC) Principal and financial staff discussed the budget line-by-line, and made recommendations to the Tisbury School Committee (TSC). The TSC made adjustments and voted the budget at their December meeting—recertifying this February re: health insurance rate reductions.

- The Tisbury share of the Superintendent’s Shared Services Office was \$1,294,000. This budget was up 3.92% mostly from contractual raises (10 teachers, 28 Education Support Professionals (ESPs), and other support personnel—psychologists as well as speech/language, physical and occupational therapists, etc.) but also including some technology and payroll expenses. Shared Services Programs were listed:

- Project Headway - Special Education (SpEd) & peer participant preschoolers;
  - Elementary and Middle School Bridge Programs - students with autism and multiple disabilities;
  - Elementary and Middle School Compass Programs – students with severe behavioral problems;
  - Strings – Suzuki method violin/cello lessons - access to Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) students—in addition to in-school music classes;
- FinCom discussed reasons, expenses and benefits of the program.

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**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS)**

MVRHS budget process started with working meetings in September and continued through the recent reductions in health/dental insurance (\$215,000). MVRHS Finance Manager Mark Friedman highlighted the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) changes.

- Residential placements were expected to drop for FY19.
- Positions were eliminated by attrition (e.g. Business/Computer Science, Physical Ed/SpEd) rather than by target, and new hire costs balanced between savings and increases.
- Cape Light Compact installed LED lights, reducing utility costs.
- The MVRHS was pleased with the switch to the lower priced Harper Payroll Services (see Minutes: 9/6/17 p.1 & 11/29/17 p.3).
- Contractual increases included steps, lane changes (Masters, Doctorates, etc.), longevity, and Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB).
- OPEB liability planning was as follows: \$289,000 in FY18, \$350,000 in FY19 and \$350,000 in FY20 to achieve \$1,400,000 in annual normal costs—i.e. enough to stop the liability from growing. As yet there was no proposal for reaching the \$2,300,000 Annual Required Contribution (ARC) that would pay down the debt. The MVRHS was mindful of the burden this laid on the Towns.
- The MVRHS continued to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) but had not yet been invited into the process. Preventive maintenance and upgrades was prioritized according to health and safety of students and staff. Current projects were the playing fields and greenhouse.
- The FinCom and school representatives discussed several factors.
- Student population was expected to grow slightly next year after a fairly steady decline from 682 in 2015 to 643. Tisbury enrollment was projected to drop from 166 to 160 in FY19. The FinCom discussed population factors: Montessori or Falmouth private schools, Brazilian immigration, status of the economy, etc.
- The best way to keep costs down was firm collective bargaining. Supt. Matt D'Andrea urged Town representation and participation in negotiation starting in September 2018 (see below: Actions).
- Cafeteria services containing administration and management costs were bid every 3-5 years—currently awarded to Chartwell. Student meals were \$2.75 for lunch and \$1.75 for breakfast—with some State reimbursement for Free and Reduced designated students (the Island had one of the lowest median incomes in the State). The program carried a structural deficit of about \$20,000 per year. Conflicts between mandated (healthy) menus and student tastes was an ongoing issue. Jeff Kristal suggested that local restaurant vendors take over the contract to fill the off-season business gap.

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- The MVRHSC established a Regional Agreement Subcommittee to consider changes; including to the assessment, such as three-year enrollment averaging or a universal tax rate.
- The MVRHS placed an article on all six Town Warrants to create a stabilization fund for facility upgrades to avoid having to go out to bond for mid-sized projects.

**Approval of Minutes**

- *MARY ELLEN LARSEN MOVED TO APPROVE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE JANUARY 24, 2018 MINUTES; JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*
- *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO APPROVE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE JANUARY 31, 2018 MINUTES; MARY ELLEN LARSEN AND SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*
- *JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO APPROVE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 7, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED; LESLIE SEGAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*

**Update on Warrant Article and Joint Meeting w/Selectmen**

- The Warrant continued to be reviewed and updated by the Selectmen and Dept. of Public Works (DPW). Chair Jeff Kristal planned to review the warrant in tomorrow's joint Selectmen/FinCom meeting—to be televised on MVTV.
- The FinCom discussed recent developments in non-profits—particularly the proliferation of organizations serving elders. There was a suggestion to have the Tisbury Council On Aging (COA) move into the Center For Living building and merge with the organization.

**Meeting Dates** (See below: Meetings/Events.)

February 21st – joint Selectmen meeting - School Project & warrant review

March 7th – vote all Articles & Budget

**Adjourn**

- *PAUL CEFOLA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:53PM; MARY ELLEN LARSEN AND SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Meetings/Events:**

**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

**continued >**

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**Action List:**

- Jeff/Jay – cc FinCom on letter requesting Town representation on MVPS Negotiations Team.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 2/20/18
- Kristal email re: Update on School Building Meeting Budget 2/12/18
- Tisbury School FY'19 Budget Analysis Draft #4 February 13, 2018
- MVRHS FY19 Budget Change Select Highlights, FY19 Certified Budget vs. FY18 Budget (Recertified Budget 2/15/18)
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District Budget for Fiscal Year'2019 (8 p.)
- Superintendent's Shares Services Budget (5 p.)

Minutes approved as amended for typos 4/10/18.