

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
at the Katherine Cornell Theatre
6:30PM, Wednesday, July 3, 2019**

Present: Chair – Mary Ellen Larsen, Seth Gambino, Nancy Gilfoy,
Lolly Hand, Jynell Kristal*, Lesley Segal,
Others: Recorder Marni Lipke, * Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order

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

Minutes: Review and Approval of Minutes June 5, 2019

• NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2019; JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Distribution of Binders Containing Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB), Open Meeting Law and Town Financial Management (See documents on file)

Binders were handed out with financial background information and space for the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget documents. The FinCom thanked the Chair for her work.

Committee Assignments with New Committee Structure

The Selectmen would announce a new Committee structure at their next meeting (see below: Meetings/Events), eliminating and/or consolidating some (Wastewater Planning Board, Dept. of Public Works (DPW)) and creating new ones (Natural Resources, Open Space and Parks, Short Term Rental Task Force). There was some confusion about possible merging of Town departments too, (Facilities and DPW).

- Mary Ellen Larsen resigned from the Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee (vacancies available) in protest of its rubber-stamping for all Island Housing Trust (IHT) projects, including what she considered an IHT reserve fund. She applied to join the Tisbury Municipal Housing Trust and the Short Term Rental Task Force.

The following remained or were appointed:

- Nancy Gilfoy – Energy Committee (vacancy available),
- Sarah York – Tisbury School Building Committee, Finance Committee,
- Jynell Kristal – Embarkation Committee Chair, (Harbor representative required)
- All appointments and resignations should be by written notice (either letter or email) to Town Hall (e.g. Pam Bennett or Alex Kral).

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- Lesley Segal reported with consternation that the focus of the All Island Planning Board meeting was to push forward the Housing Bank issue. Despite its failure to win approval of 4 of 6 Annual Town Meetings, most Planning Board representatives maintained that the voters were for it but the Selectmen against it. The FinCom discussed:

- Edgartown, Tisbury and West Tisbury strong advocacy for a Housing Bank;
- the persistent search for other funding;
- a previous historic Island vote to support the concept of a Housing Bank;
- lack of MVTV coverage of the meeting;
- the AI Planning Bd. push to circumvent Selectmen opinion;
- All Island and Tisbury Planning Board unresponsiveness re: coherent Capital needs planning.

Preview of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Assessment Formulas for the All Island FinCom (AIFC) – Jon Snyder, Treasurer (See documents on file & below: Actions.)

As Treasurer Jon Snyder was not available (he was commended as an excellent information source for FinCom questions) so the FinCom discussed more global all Island issues.

- Alternate assessment proposals were prepared by MVRHS Financial Director Mark Friedman and the Oak Bluffs FinCom was preparing its own proposal.
- Lolly Hand strongly advocated for regionalization, to save funds, improve efficiency and promote better education, including an Islandwide junior high/middle school.
- The FinCom regretted the failure of the shared Building Commissioner warrant article (see 2/20/19 Minutes p.12).
- The MVRHS Regional Subcommittee membership was MVRHS members (Tisbury – Janet Packer) and one Selectmen appointee (Tisbury – Jon Snyder) from each town. However, the meetings had so far been contentious and unproductive, with a certain amount of stonewalling for the status quo.
- Tisbury was facing a number of new projects including a new Tisbury School (a Dept. of Public Health report failed the Schools air quality).
- Regional assessment formulas were contended throughout the State (e.g. Dennis/Yarmouth), however the wide range of Island Town tax rates presented a particular challenge—also complicated by the default State Statutory formula which was triggered by a single Town dissenting vote.
- The MVRHS was in need of extensive renovation, so in failing the MVRHS Feasibility Study warrant article, Oak Bluffs forced the conversation on the assessment formula.

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- The FinCom emphasized the need to present the proposals as a means of opening and continuing discussions on the assessment formula, as when communities meet to form governments, compromising to resolve and address societal necessities. Finance Committees were a good venue for the discussion.
- Summer meetings were always a challenge and AIFC expected attendance was reviewed.

No Further Meetings Scheduled Except the All Island FinCom on July 10, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Emergency Services (EMS) Building Meeting Room

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

• Adjourn

- *LOLLY HAND AND LESLEY SEGAL MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:38PM; SETH GAMBINO SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Meetings/Events:

BOS (Committee Appointments) – 5:00pm, Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at the KCT

AIFC –7:00PM, Wednesdays July 10, 2019 at the EMS Building

TFC – TBD 6:30PM, First and Third Wednesdays at the EMS Building

Action List:

- All – bring finger food to AIFC.
- Mary Ellen/Nancy – prepare binder for Marni (official record filing).
- Mary Ellen – email Housing Production Plan to the TFC.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 7/3/19
- Snyder Email re: High School Funding Formulas (10 p.)
- Gilfoy cover email re: Vineyard Gazette – Martha's Vineyard News/Property Taxes Rise, Along with Town Budgets 7/4/19
- Property Taxes Rise, Along with Town Budgets Vineyard Gazette excerpt (3 p.) 1/21/16
- Financial background binders:
 - Budget Index
 - Strategies to Consider OPEB Costs Escalate (8 p.)
 - A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials (52 p. plus blanks)
 - Open Meeting Law Guide 10/6/17 (24 p.)

Chair Mary Ellen Larsen

Date

Minutes approved 11/20/19.