

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
and All Island Finance Committee
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, Oak Bluffs, MA
August 28, 2019**

In Attendance

Tisbury Finance Committee: Mary Ellen Larsen, Seth Gambino, Nancy Gilfoy, Lolly Hand

Oak Bluffs Finance Committee : Bill Vrooman, Sherry Countryman, Robert Gaffey, Maura McGroarty, Richard Weiss, Bernadette Crossland, Mike Taus, Greg Thornton

Edgartown Finance Committee: Paulo DeOliveira, Les Baynes, James Carter,

Morton Fearey West Tisbury Finance Committee: Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin,

Jane Dreeben, Clark Rattet Chilmark Finance Committee: Vicki Divoll, Donald Leopold, Bruce Golden

Towns: James Hagerty, Edgartown Town Administrator; Gregory Coogan, OB Selectman; Jon Snyder, Tisbury Finance Director

Schools: Supt. Matt D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. Richie Smith MVRHS Finance Dir – Mark Friedman

MVRHS and OB School Committee: Kris O'Brien

Residents: Edgartown: Juliet Mulinare, John Merrow, Joan Lonergan, Fred Condon Oak Bluffs: Peter Palches

• The All Island Finance Committee (AIFC), and Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) were called to order at 6:03pm.

• **Opening Remarks – Doug Ruskin**

Mr. Ruskin suggested that we come together as a community and solve the problem without pointing fingers at each other.

• **Roll Call – see above**

• **Approval of Minutes (7/10/19)**

There was a motion to approve the minutes from July 10, 2019 as corrected, seconded by Ms. Gilfoy. Motion passed unanimously. The corrections were to add Jim Newman, Aquinnah to the list of attendees and to adjust the meeting location on last page to the OB Library.

• **Regional Agreement History – Mark Friedman**

Mr. Friedman gave a brief summary of his presentation from the last AIFC meeting on Equalized Property Values vs. MVRHS Assessments, including the history of the formulas. It was suggested

Mr. Friedman research the minutes from these meetings to find out the reasoning behind the calculations from years ago.

• **Urgency of Accord – Matt D’Andrea**

Mr. D’Andrea expressed his concern over the HVAC system and other serious infrastructure issues in the high school. He mentioned the potential for a grant from Mass School Building Authority, but that the towns would need some resolution or unity to be considered.

Discussion

Mr. Hagerty, Edgartown town administrator, asked to give a presentation. He passed around handouts of his slides and began talking about numbers. This inspired a very long discussion amongst the committee members and residents as to whether changing these formulas is fair, why everyone is in this predicament, which formulas are logistical and what formulas will work year over year for all 6 towns. Ms. McGroarty and Mr. Vrooman shared their findings on how OB’s proposed formulas would affect the average tax payer: Aquinnah, \$55/quarter; Chilmark, \$71/quarter; Edgartown \$28/quarter; Oak Bluffs, save \$40/quarter; Tisbury, save \$47/quarter; West Tisbury, \$13.55/quarter.

There were several motions discussed but not agreed on. The towns are willing to move the feasibility study forward but not with good faith that they’d support a formula change moving forward.

There was a motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Meetings/Events:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School.

Documents on file:

- Agenda (8/28/19)
- Minutes (7/10/19)
- Sign in Sheet
- Mr. Friedman presentation handouts
- Mr. Hagerty presentation handouts

Respectfully submitted, Carrie Blair

Administrative Assistant to the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen

Minutes approved 9/4/19.