

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building
6:30PM, Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

Present: Chair – Mary Ellen Larsen, Nancy Gilfoy, Seth Gambino,
Larry Gomez, Jynell Kristal, Laura Rose, Sarah York,
Town Staff: Selectman Jeff Kristal, Town Administrator Jay Grande,
Town Treasurer Jonathon Snyder,
Others: Dukes County Manager Martina Thornton,
MVCS – Julie Faye, VHCAP – Sarah Kuh,
Recorder Marni Lipke, * Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:34PM. *(Recorder's note: discussions are summarized and re-grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

Minutes – Review and Approval

- July 3, 2019 **- September 4, 2019** **- November 6, 2019**

• NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF:
- JULY 3, 2019 AS WRITTEN,
- SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 AS WRITTEN, AND
- NOVEMBER 6, 2019 AS AMENDED;
LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

**Municipal Agreement with the Town of Tisbury and the County of Dukes
County for provision of Health and Human Services - Martina Thornton
County Manager**

**Discussion, Evaluation and Recommendation as Per Request of the Board
of Selectmen** (See documents on file.)

Without adding staff or changing the warrant process the County proposed grouping County Departments (Vineyard Health Care Access Program—VHCAP, Social Services, Substance/Homeless Prevention) and sponsored non-profits (Center for Living—CFL, First Stop, Healthy Aging MV—HAMV, and Counseling and Outreach for Elders—CORE) into a single Health and Human Services Department with a common inter-municipal agreement to provide a legal and financial framework, and Town oversight.

• The assessment formula for the Department would be 50% population/50% equalized value.

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- The Agreement mandated that any remaining funds be returned to the Towns each year.
- Tisbury Town Counsel reviewed the Agreement but made no recommendation.
- The Oversight Board with six Town representation could improve communications and allow constant Town input on programs, duplication of services, finances, etc.
- There was a discussion on why the Dukes County Health Council (DCHC) could not provide oversight. DCHC was advisory and reported to the Dukes County Commission, not to the Towns.
- Currently County Manager Martina Thornton felt the Towns would benefit from the information and feedback she heard when presenting budgets to all six Towns' FinComs and Town Meetings.
- The TFC argued that the Agreement would cede Tisbury control, and objected to signing another inter-municipal agreement.
- Ms. Thornton reiterated that the current budget and warrant process would still be in place, but the Agreement would allow Towns prior input to the budgets. For example the Agreement stated a program would not go forward without Town Meeting approval.
- She also noted the numerous Towns' existing inter-municipal agreements with separate non-profits which this would replace.
- Oak Bluffs removed one sentence and approved the Agreement for a single year. The Agreement could be amended from year to year.
- *NANCY GILFOY MOVED NOT TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT; LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- Later in the meeting the FinCom debated the issue:
 - the agreement could be seen as a response to last year's feedback,
 - some liked the idea but not the wording,
 - others were adamant that it was the Manager's move for total control,
 - the rising number of non-profit pop-ups had been predicted.

County Budget (See documents on file.)

Ms. Thornton then reviewed the County financial status and how it came to charge a 5% Administrative fee, which would be placed on a separate warrant article.

- The County had no ability to increase revenues except for a 2.5% per year rise in the Town assessments—although for many years it had level funded its Town assessments. It was currently struggling from two losses of income:

- Sheriff Dept. taking ~ \$130,000 in alarm fees (see 2/6/19 Minutes p.2-3),
- and possible Airport re-assessment of overhead costs.
- Increased Register fees would go to Community Preservation Act/Committee (CPA/CPC) funding, not to the County.
- Parking ticket funds were returned to the Towns, but as the County Parking Office was currently operating in deficit Hearing notice fees would be raised. The Parking Clerk's software was a major expense.
- Income from the Cape and Island license plate was distributed for economic development and tourism—some of which might be used for beaches.
- Expenditures were examined.
- After many years of level funding its Town assessments the Budget was at bare bones and further cuts would involve staff that delivered direct services.
- The Senior Services (CFL) building insurance invoice increased \$7,000 due to the occupation of the second floor by tenant, Island Integrated Public Health Collaborative, (as approved by the six Towns), but who paid no rent except partial utilities.
- Ms. Thornton suggested the local Boards of Health fund the Tick and Mosquito programs.
- The Miscellaneous line covered audit expenses and legal fees.
- The Treasurer's Office requested additional hours to process Airport finances.
- In an effort to keep the FY21 Budget at a minimum the County did not include Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) funds (also noting some Towns were less able than the County to contribute to their own liability).
- A \$7,000 placeholder would cover any pay changes from a classification/compensation study.
- Massachusetts General Law (MGL) mandated that the County credit Towns for Free Cash over 10% of the previous year's assessment, leaving the County with about minimal reserves. The County Advisory Board proposed an article requesting \$50,000 Islandwide for a County Stabilization Fund.
- The total FY21 Islandwide ask was for:
 - \$516,000 in assessments (including a 2.5% increase),
 - a warrant article for the 5% administrative fees, and
 - a warrant article for a \$50,000 stabilization fund.

County-Affiliated Non-Profits (See documents on file.)

1. Vineyard Health Care Access (VHCAP) - Sarah Kuh

- The Program activity and operating expenses were fairly stable, with fixed costs and a lean budget.
- There was a "rent" decrease as no major building repairs were planned.
- The Assistant Director's partial retirement and resultant personnel changes should save money without reducing services by combining two positions.

- The Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) was the fiscal agent for a longstanding Federal grant for two employees, which the County would like to consolidate.
- Savings also came from a staff member waiving health insurance—a gamble if they changed their mind.
- On the other hand VHCAP lost the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) ten year grant at \$40,000 each year. Director Sarah Kuh was re-applying and looking at expanding other grant funding. BCBS might be a “conundrum” situation regarding reducing the grant due to Town support. Other grants included the Island Health Care contract, and Massachusetts Health Connector.
- The FinCom commended VHCAP for the number of people it served.
- The Program Director also oversaw Social Services. This budget increased only \$200. Lack of available staff precluded expansion from 20 to 40 hrs. per week, and instead the County helped fund the Oak Bluffs Catholic Church walk-in center with supplies, bus passes, recovery coaches, etc. It was hoped that this year the Department would be fully staffed.
- The Substance Use Prevention funded recovery coaches, local Police Narcan supplies, brochures, resource cards, etc. In FY21 services would expand to Homeless Prevention with a grant from the United Way. A U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant was lost because of a lack of year-round units on the Island.

2. Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard (HAMV) – Paddy Moore - Tabled

3. Center for Living (CFL) - Leslie Clapp - Tabled

2. Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) - Julie Fay,
Counseling and Outreach for the Elderly (CORE), First Stop,

MVCS provided services such as mental health services, Island Wide Youth Collaborative, etc. funded with State and Federal grants that were renewed every five years with Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs). As examples Ms. Faye gave two highly successful and much needed services: the Island Wide Youth Collaborative, and a well-negotiated availability of regional beds in methadone clinics for substance emergencies. Therefore it did not ask for any Town funds. However, all State and Federal funds for elder services were tied up in Medicare funding and unavailable to the Island due to economies of scale—the Island's population did not sustain regulations designed for large cities. Consequently the MVCS requested Town funds for elder non-profits such as CORE and First Stop. Staff continued to research, apply for and receive other grants, however these were usually for short-term projects with limited shelf-life and not for sustained operating costs.

- HAMV researched elder care planning, partnering with Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) on statistical research. It started as a volunteer organization including 10-15 hrs./wk. by pro-bono Executive Coordinator

Paddy Moore. However, in keeping with a restructuring consultant recommendation it was looking to shift to a full time Director (including benefits as required) with Paddy Moore continuing as Chair.

- CORE required 4-5 good-hearted, skilled clinicians able to persuade people to allow them into their homes. MVH agreed to continue their five-year grant as it reduced the Island's emergency needs.

- First Stop required someone skilled in phone consultation/referral and a technician to update and maintain the website.

- The FinCom commended Ms. Faye for her incredible work and thanked everyone for their attendance and presentations.

Committee Reports

CPC - Deliberations were completed. The State match was only 17% (~\$77,000) so applications were not fully funded. Island Housing Trust (IHT) deferred their Kuehne's Way and Perlman House requests. The Tisbury Housing Trust was recommended for \$30,000.

Embarkation – The letter was drafted and sent. Requests were due by November 22nd.

Energy – would meet tomorrow.

Natural Resources – Laura Rose was appointed as a non-voting alternate. An increase in mooring fees was reluctantly adopted, and the Committee discussed the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard marina project.

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) – The Budget Subcommittee was meeting tomorrow morning and the Public Hearing was scheduled (see below: Meetings/Events).

Planning Board – Nothing to report.

Tisbury School Committee (TSC) – Remediation had started from the third floor down with updates every Friday posted on the School website and emailed to parents and staff. Radon testing was in process. Relocation expenses were shown from September to December (see documents on file).

- A possible FY20-FY21 residential placement (\$150-200,000 tuition/yr.) was discussed with questions on funding sources.

Wastewater – Nothing to report.

Capital – Nothing to report.

All Island FinCom (AIFC) – Nothing to report.

• **Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair** – None

Adjournment

• *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:33PM; LARRY GOMEZ AND LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

continued >

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- MVRHSC Budget Hearing – Monday, November 25, 2019 – MVRHS LCR/PAC
- MVRHSC Budget Certification – Monday, December 2, 2019 - PAC
- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the EMS Building**
- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, December 19, 2019 at the EMS Building**

Appendix B: Actions

December Agendas:

Minutes: 11/20/19

CFL - *Leslie Clapp*,

HAMV - *Paddy Moore*,

CPC – *Heidi Dietterich, Paul Munafo*,

FY20 Reserve Fund tally = \$14,825.55

10/16/19 – BOH landfill monitoring application \$3,500

11/6/19 – Harbormaster – patrol boat invoices \$11,325.55

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agendas (3 p.) 11/20/19
- Larsen/Bennett cover email re: Message from KM_C45e
- Agreement Between the Town of Tisbury and the County of Dukes County (5 p.) 10/31/19
- Larsen/Thornton cover email re: FY21 Regional Budgets
- County of Dukes County Budget Summary 11/15/19
- County of Dukes – UnAudited Unreserved Fund Balance as of 6/30/19 (3 p.) 11/14/19
- Dukes County Social Services Annual Report FY19 (5 p.) 11/15/19
- County of Dukes County, Vineyard Health Care Access Program (5 p.)
- MV Center for Living (6 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Community Services Town Funding Request 2021 (10 p.)
- Tisbury School Relocation Expenses September Thru December 2019

Mary Ellen Larsen – TFC Chair

Date

Minutes approved as amended 12/4/19.