

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building
6:30PM, Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

Present: Chair – Mary Ellen Larsen, Nancy Gilfoy, Larry Gomez,
Lolly Hand, Jynell Kristal*,

Town Staff: Selectman Jeff Kristal*, Melinda Loberg*,

Others: CFL – Leslie Clapp
Recorder Marni Lipke,

* Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) heard reports until a quorum was present. *(Recorder's note: discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

Committee Reports

CPC

Deliberations were completed, final warrants and follow up letters were being drafted and they hoped to present to the TFC in early January.

Energy – would meet tomorrow.

- The Committee was looking at purchasing backup batteries with the residual from the Emergency Services Building solar project.

- They were also working with the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) on an Islandwide non-binding warrant article to address climate change in keeping with Massachusetts guidelines for a 50% reduction in fossil fuel use by 2030. The goal applied to municipal, commercial and residential use of all fossil fuels including gasoline and propane. MVC Task Force Chair Ben Robinson's discussion of the issue with the Dukes County Commission was available on MVTV. Lolly Hand testified to the financial benefits of her residential solar investment.

- The Selectmen were disappointed in the Landfill solar array financial returns, currently assigned to the General Fund. Energy Committee Chair preferred that all such revenues be re-invested into energy reduction so that energy projects would not have to be warrant articles.

- Jynell Kristal entered and the FinCom meeting was called to order at 6:49PM.

Embarkation

About \$277,000 worth of applications were received for \$230,000 in funds, so the Committee whittled down most awards but gave all of them some funds.

Budget Martha's Vineyard Center for Living (MVCL/CFL) – Leslie Clapp,
(See 11/20/19 & 12/4/19 documents on file.)

The program had expanded to five days a week with a capacity of about 30

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clients. Currently they served 22 clients, some coming for partial weeks or half days. Staff was working hard to reach prospective clients, however participation was hampered by the difficulty of the disease and the diagnosis.

- On a rough basis, not counting building expenses, this worked out to \$27,000 per client per year. However, individual home care for such patients would be considerably more expensive.

- Director Leslie Clapp and other staff were attending a grant funding support group and non-profit classes, and Board training was contemplated.

- Staffing changes included:

- combining two 35 hr./wk. supervisory positions (previously under Dukes County) into one 40 hr./wk. position;

- adding a 15 hr./wk. mealtime assistant;

- adding 0.5 hr. per day to assistant salaries to cover transportation changes.

- The CFL was working with the Board of Health to upgrade to a commercial kitchen and was serving lunch 5 days a week. Island restaurants still regularly donated meals.

- Solid waste (trash) had been separated from Janitorial services.

- A steep insurance increase prompted Dukes County Manager Martina Thornton to ask for insurance rates review.

- Island Integrated Public Health Collaborative (see 2/6/19 Minutes p.3) was occupying the second floor, paying a portion of building utilities/costs calculated by square foot. Building expenses were in the County budget.

- Miscellaneous Contractual covered small honorariums for visiting musicians, artists, etc.

- The Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) cut back CFL transportation daily runs: one morning for full day clients, one midday for half-day clients and down from two to one end of day runs to client's homes—i.e. now one bus made two trips delivering Tisbury clients and returning for others—stretching the day by half an hour (at this time of year in the evening dark).

- In addition the VTA declined to provide transportation in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), proposing the following arrangement instead:

- VTA leases a van to the CFL, providing insurance, fuel and maintenance;

- CFL provides drivers (stipends, volunteers, etc.), which the VTA will train—training but no additional certification was needed.

A CFL van could also be used for field trips.

The FinCom asked about:

- private/family transportation (~ 2/3 to 3/4 of clients used the VTA);

- other examples of stipended or volunteer drivers;

- \$5/day fee paid by those not income eligible;

- \$10,000 operational costs and \$40,000 estimated driver costs;

- grant and State funding opportunities;

- whether there was a Plan B (no).

The TFC thanked Ms. Clapp for her presentation.

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

Counseling and Outreach for the Elderly (CORE) - Tabled

The FinCom briefly discussed the tight budget calendar and coming deadlines.

Committee Reports

Natural Resources –

Laura Rose was appointed as a non-voting alternate.

- Later in the meeting the Selectmen reported that \$266,000 of the Harbormaster patrol boat cost was covered by insurance (see 11/6/19 Minutes p.1-2) and the Harbormaster was researching a fully outfitted previously-owned \$145-165,000 replacement.

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS)

Lolly Hand reported on a difficult meeting.

- Some capital projects were being moved into warrant articles for better transparency, however there was a decision to put the most urgent into the budget to insure passage.

- In consideration of Town requests, the MVRHSC target was a 2.75% assessed increase and consequently the Principal was being asked to cut beyond what was comfortable, moving into program and staff cuts (Reductions in Force—RIFs). Consequently there were a number of teachers at the meeting.

- Budget Subcommittee Chair Kris O'Brien requested that warrant articles be reconsidered with the idea of moving some into the budget further increasing the shortfall, and delaying the Budget Certification vote (see below: Meetings/Events). In the meantime the Budget Subcommittee would continue to meet.

- MVRHS budget increases were driven by having to address 30 years of facilities neglect, resulting in direct tension between teaching/learning and maintenance funding.

- The FinCom discussed a number of related factors:

- Superintendent's Shared Services budget;
- unfunded State mandates;
- Oak Bluffs, Tisbury and West Tisbury difficulty with growing assessments;
- failure of the All Island FinCom (AIFC) negotiations.

Planning Board

Chair Mary Ellen Larsen was receiving agendas and minutes while liaison Lesley Segal was away.

Tisbury School Committee (TSC)

Remediation was on track and the School Committee presented the Education Program to the Selectmen.

* Selectmen Jeff Kristal and Melinda Loberg entered the meeting at 7:59PM.

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Wastewater

- There would be a joint Wastewater/Sewer Advisory meeting with the new Operator.
- Seth Gambino requested a two-month leave of absence (see documents on file) due to health and family issues. Wastewater representative Nancy Gilfoy would be at the joint meeting, and agreed to fill in on the Wastewater January meeting. Seth Gambino hoped to return at the end of January/beginning of February and requested agendas and minutes during his absence.

Minutes – Review and Approval – Minutes of November 20, 2019

- *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2019 AS AMENDED; LAURA ROSE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION LOLLY HAND* due to absence.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair – None

Adjournment

- *LARRY GOMEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:04PM; NANCY GILFOY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- Warrant Article Deadline – 4:30PM, Monday, December 16, 2019
- **TFC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the EMS Building**
- MVRHSC Budget Certification – Monday, January 6, 2020 - LCR

Appendix B: Actions

Future Agendas:	Minutes: 12/4/19
HAMV - <i>Paddy Moore,</i>	CPC – <i>Heidi Dietterich, Paul Munafo,</i>

FY20 Reserve Fund spending 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 12/4/19
- Martha's Vineyard Center for Living FY2021 Budget Narrative 50/50 Formula (County)
- Larsen/Dietterich emails re: 2020 CPC Recommendations (2 p.) 12/4/19
- Gambino memo re: Leave of Absence from Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee and Sewer Advisory Board 12/4/19

Mary Ellen Larsen – TFC Chair

Date

Minutes approved as amended 1//8/20.