

**Tisbury Finance & Advisory Committee
at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building
6:30PM, Wednesday, April 20, 2016**

Present: Co-Chairs – Jeff Kristal & Paul Cefola, Pamela Brock, Nancy Gilfoy,
Jynell Kristal, Mary Ellen Larsen;
Town: Treasurer – Jonathon Snyder,
Others: Minutes – Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) convened at 6:33PM

Approval of Previous Minutes

• *JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2016 AS WRITTEN AND APRIL 12, 2016 AS AMENDED FOR TYPOS; PAMELA BROCK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*

Town Meeting Recap

A number of comments and issues were expressed.

- Having both Special and Annual Town Meetings on the same night resulted in a long deliberation. It was, however, cost efficient (advertising/posting, printing warrants, custodial overtime, etc.).
- The Planning Board explanations of changes to Zoning Regulations on Town Meeting floor could be improved.
- Visioning pre-meetings to explain the Warrant were poorly attended, not televised and not helpful.
- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) had collected return funds for uncompleted projects, and put a package together detailing its current status. Although restricting regional projects to those applying to all six towns, the CPC did not vote to reject all regional applications.
- The retirement of some senior Town Hall staff resulted in a somewhat disorganized Warrant and Town Meeting; for example multiple articles on similar issues (Town Hall roof, Owen Park).
- CoChair Paul Cefola raised decided objections to the Tisbury School Feasibility Study.
 - The estimate was based on casual calls by Principal John Custer, instead of a list of researched estimates; by extrapolation this could be disastrous on a \$40,000,000 building project.
 - The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) would impose a school uniform to other State schools.
 - Prin. Custer should be more involved as the project manager.
 - School enrollment projections showed a drop in population.

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- Other FinCom members responded that this was not how the Article was presented, and the ensuing discussion mentioned:
 - well researched estimates plus a 10% margin,
 - MSBA emphasis on Town input,
 - reasonable guidelines and requirement for schools,
 - special education expenses;
 - MSBA as a supporting partner;
 - other unsatisfactory buildings with and without State partnership.
- Mr. Kristal praised Town Moderator Deborah Medders' handling of the first night of Town Meeting.
- Mr. Cefola objected to an email he addressed to CoChair Jeff Kristal being disseminated to the entire FinCom (see documents on file) and maintained the FinCom had not come together as it had in previous years.
- Mr. Cefola and Mr. Kristal debated this year's FinCom performance: dealing with retirements, changes in FinCom process, individual actions with collective effects, Nancy Gilfoy's excellent Voter Guide and hiring Marni Lipke as recording secretary.
- Mr. Cefola raised a personal issue on the residential exemption/abatement deadline and Selectmen discussion, objecting that FinCom members failed to keep him informed. Some members were unaware of the deadline. As a point of order Pamela Brock was uncomfortable discussing or advocating on personal financial matters in a meeting of a public body.
- Paul Cefola stated he would advocate for the abolition of the residential exemption. Mr. Kristal had also advocated for phasing it out.
- As a sidebar, open meeting law regulations were explained: restricting email among public committee members to agendas, minutes and background documents/reports, because email exchanges and responses constituted private deliberations of a public body.
- Other Town Meeting comments later in this meeting included:
 - failure of the underground utility article; and
 - a confused explanation of the residential exemption impact on the tax-rate.

Sub-Committee Reports

Tisbury Wastewater Planning Committee and the Joint Tisbury Lagoon Pod Wastewater Planning Committee Discussion

Nancy Gilfoy reported on current wastewater issues (see documents on file).

- Tashmoo and Lagoon Ponds were already overloaded with nitrogen, as determined by the Massachusetts Estuaries Program (MEP). Current levels had to be reduced, and additional construction was not advised. Septic system

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options were limited. The Tisbury Wastewater Planning Committee and Board of Health proposed a fee structure to cover nitrogen mitigation for any new construction.

- Mitigation fees had a 50/50 history of being discarded as illegal.
- It was unclear whether such fees were perpetual or aged out after 20 years.
- Town sewer connections would eliminate the fees.
- The Joint (Oak Bluffs/Vineyard Haven) Lagoon Committee had been invited into the second phase of a \$750,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to pilot the installation of a permeable reactive barrier (woodchips, plantings, etc.) for ground water nitrogen removal. The current challenge was location and Martha's Vineyard Landbank regulations.
- There would be an Innovative Alternative Septic Solutions Fair (see below: Meetings/Events).

Reserve Fund Transfer Request for the Harbor Department

The request had been tabled. The FinCom discussed, salvage law, Ancient Way regulations, and disposal costs.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics Wanting to Be Discussed

- FinCom topics of interest included (see below: Actions):
 - regional assessments over which the Town had no control;
 - Cherry Sheet/Chapter 70 education reimbursement;
 - Police staffing, boat traffic control, and Union St. orientation;
 - \$5-7,000 monthly in solar revenue deposited to the General fund;
 - landfill outdated fee structure;
 - Harbor Management Committee, Harbormaster retirement, Marina revenues, outdated mooring fees;
 - wastewater outdated fee structure, adding new customers and costs of expanding the system;
 - properties in tax default;
 - Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) liability solutions;
 - shortening the two-week Town Meeting/Town election gap;
- The FinCom discussed hiring delays and Town Hall staffing changes: Interim Harbormaster, new Facilities Manager, new Selectmen Administrative Assistant, etc.
- Members reviewed their terms and considered vacancies and candidates (see 3/30/16 Minutes p.4).
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE FINCOM TO MEET ONCE A MONTH.

• Adjournment

• MARY ELLEN LARSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:10PM; NANCY GILFOY, JYNELL KRISTAL ET AL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Meetings/Events:

- Town Election - Tuesday, April 26, 2016
- **FinCom - 6:30PM, Wednesday, May 4, 2016 - Tisbury EMS Bldg**
- CPC Orientation - Thursday, May 12, 2016 - Town Hall
- Innovative Septic Fair - 9:30AM-3:30PM, Thursday, May 12, 2016 – Grange

Action List:

- All – hit “Reply All” when responding to scheduling emails
- Jeff/Paul - research and draft article re: number of FinCom members.
 - follow up re: new FinCom candidates.
- Paul – contact Bd. of Health re: nitrogen mitigation and septic fee comments.
- Jon Snyder – add solar revenue to income reporting.
- Jon Snyder – send FinCom list of tax default properties.
- Jeff/Paul – invite MVPS Officials, Supt. Matt D’Andrea & Amy Tierney to informational FinCom meeting.
- Other topics of interest:
 - regional assessments;
 - landfill, wastewater, fee structures;
 - Harbor revenues & management;
 - OPEB liability solutions;
 - Town Meeting/election schedule.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 4/20/16
- Kristal/Cefola/Snyder/Brock emails re: Finance Wrap Up Budget Season (4 p.) 4/13-15/16
- Gilfoy cover email re: Draft Board of Health Regulation for Meeting 4/20 4/18/16
- Town of Tisbury Board of Health Regulation Section (##) Regulation of New Development within the Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond Watershed Nitrogen Overlay Districts (10 p.) 3/18/16

Minutes approved 5/4/16.