

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

Present: Co-Chairs – Paul Cefola & Jeff Kristal, Pamela Brock,
Tom Keller, Jynell Kristal, Mary Ellen Larsen;
Town: Selectmen – Larry Gomez, Administrator – Jay Grande,
Treasurer – Jonathon Snyder, DPW Interim Director – Paul Wohler,
CPC – Chair Paul Munafo, Trip Barnes, John Best, Abbe Burt,
TSC – Colleen McAndrews,
Minutes – Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

The Co-Chairs convened the Tisbury Finance Committee (FinCom) meeting at 6:36PM.

Community Preservation Act/Committee (CPA/C) Discussion with Paul Munafo (See documents on file, & 12/9/15 Minutes p. 1-2.)

- The CPC expressed consternation that the FinCom had submitted a warrant article reducing the surcharge to 1% without notifying them as the FinCom had promised. Jeff Kristal explained that the lack of notification was due to confusion over the warrant deadline, which required quick action, despite no formal FinCom vote having been taken.
- The FinCom argued:
 - They supported affordable housing and could find other funding resources.
 - CPC applications had ballooned.
 - The State match decreased from 100% to ~40%—and it was not “free” money.
 - Taxes were up significantly two or three years in a row.
 - They objected to regional projects.
 - They felt an obligation to the taxpayers to let them vote it again.
- CPC members spoke strongly about the value of the revenue and projects.
 - ~ 50% went to affordable/community housing and this would be a fatal blow.
 - It supported big Town projects: Owen Park, Town Hall, etc.
 - Regional projects comprised only 9.5% of the recommendations.
 - A decision to reduce/eliminate should be discussed regionally.
 - The tax accounted for about \$90 on the average tax bill.
 - The 2013 State match was 75%.
 - The CPC performed its due diligence.
 - 40% of 1% was considerably less revenue.
 - Every single CPC recommendation was a Town Meeting vote.
 - If it was only to give the taxpayers a chance to vote why reduce it to 1%.
- The FinCom would inform the CPC when the article was discussed and voted.

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- After the DPW discussion below, the FinCom remarked on:
 - the CPC reduction in the context of increased DPW budget;
 - the “sexy” CPC projects in relation to needed municipal maintenance.

Department of Public Works (DPW) / Paul Wohler (See documents on file.)
Interim Director Paul Wohler explained that the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) DPW Budget proposal included a 20.17% increase as a start to bringing the Department in line with trended expenses and normal standards, as well as what a new director would consider appropriate budgeting. In general Mr. Wohler found the Town infrastructure to be woefully underfunded and poorly maintained: solid waste, sewers, buildings, roads, parks, playgrounds...The FY16 delta of budgeting to spending was projected at about \$100-125,000 (see below: Action List). He warned that the new director was likely to request a similar FY18 increase. Other Town officials strongly supported Mr. Wohler’s request, noting the complete, transparent, detailed and well-justified budget. As one of the largest Departments, DPW was ~8% of the total Town Budget.

- The FY17 proposed salary differential (for s) comprised: elected official stipend reduction, increased training, steps, union negotiations, classification/compensation study results, and the increments from vacant or filled positions. (Lifeguard pay (currently unspent) was increased in the hopes of attracting candidates.)
 - Mr. Wohler estimated the 17 position Department could use two more people.
- New and simpler computers and networking were ordered in collaboration with the Town Information Technology (IT) Director (see below: Task List).
- Lines increased to approach actual spending included: Tree Warden, seasonal cemetery help, building repair (especially library and police station), police cars, elevators, municipal building alarm systems, generator maintenance, parks, Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC), advertising, instruction/training/licensing/certification, telephones, custodial supplies, municipal grounds, road signs and lines, sidewalk/curb repair, travel (Steamship Authority), equipment (weed-whackers, mowers, etc.) and safety equipment.
- Roads/paving were a separate urgent item not addressed here since the Town was in poor shape and Island asphalt costs were at least twice what they were on Cape Cod.
- Storm/drainage catch basins were definitively cleaned this year and could now be maintained at a regular expense—although some problem areas needed re-grading followed by road repair/redesign.
- The new director would need Office supplies and furniture, but the Water Dept. office furniture would be reduced to \$0.

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- Mr. Wohler proposed maintenance for the Town tennis courts, and playground supplies.
- Petty Cash was eliminated to prevent pilfering.
- In addition a \$500,000 Warrant Article was proposed to repair/maintain various municipal projects: police station, library, drainage, vehicles, cemeteries, equipment, master plans, etc.
 - The FinCom asked about consolidating other departments' maintenance lines into the DPW, but the lines were too small for it to be feasible.
- The FY17 Solid Waste Budget was also increased in line with actual spending along with a \$55,000 request for FY16 funds re: Main St. pick-up/ recycling.
- Wastewater salaries would shrink due to some staffing shifts, and because Mr. Wohler was not (and did not intend to be) certified since staff certification was sufficient. Software costs were minimal.
 - A \$160,000 Warrant Article would fund a sewer control system and a new sludge vehicle (the current truck didn't meet minimum speed standards).
 - A rate hike was being studied – default expenses reverted to taxpayers.
- Water Department Salaries and fixed costs (benefits) showed standard increases. State Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulation was also increased. Some line items (such as the chemical conversions) would decrease.
 - A \$780,000 capital expense warrant article covered the Sanbourne Well Replacement Phase II, a distribution system and new equipment.
 - Water rates would be explored, especially those for Mink Meadows.
- The ground was stumped and cleared for the new building, which would be pre-cut eliminating the need for an architect and a clerk of the works.
- The FinCom thanked him with a round of applause, acknowledging that:
 - although living off-Island Mr. Wohler was committed to Tisbury,
 - while painful this was a more realistic budget, and
 - suggesting Town Meeting be educated to that effect.
- The Town had excellent borrowing capacity.

Shared Services Formula Discussion with School Committee Representative (See below Meetings, & 1/6/16 Minutes p. 3.)

The FinCom discussed the All Island School Committee workshop on the assessment formula:

- Edgartown advocacy for Tisbury;
- Up Island School Committee (UIRSC) Chair declaration of responsibility for their own budget;
- discontent with proposed formula changes;

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- *PAUL CEFOLA MOVED TO INSTRUCT THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO ADVOCATE THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED SERVICES FORMULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017; PAMELA BROCK AND JYNELL KRISTAL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED SERVICES FORMULA CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018, INCLUDING ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION ISSUES.*

Adjournment

- *TOM KELLER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:06PM; MARY ELLEN LARSEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Meetings/Events:

- **FinCom - 5:00PM, Wednesday, January 27, 2016 - EMS**
- AISC - 7:00PM, Wednesday, January 27, 2016 - MVRHS
- **FinCom - 6:30PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2016 - EMS**
- Special Warrant Article Deadline – Late February 2016
- Election - Tuesday, April 26, 2016
- Special & Annual Town Meetings - 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Action List:

- All - consider new FinCom member.
- All - consider Union Negotiations rep. alternate for Mary Ellen.
- Paul Wohler – email FinCom year to date FY16 actual spending by line.
- send all documents to FinCom Co-Chairs.
- shift computer purchase to IT budget.
- contact MVRHS Track Coach Joe Schroeder re: potential lifeguards.
- contact Angie Grant/VTA re: town vehicle maintenance.
- Jeff/Paul – inform CPC of 1% article discussion & vote.
- Paul will be away from 2/17/16
- Agenda Reminders
- 1/6/16, 1/20/16 Minutes
- Exploring New Revenue Sources
- New Member or Vote to Reduce FinCom to Eight Members

continued

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Documents on file:

- Agenda 1/20/16
- Town of Tisbury Community Preservation Revenues
- Tisbury CPA Project History Completed Projects April 2007-December 2015 (2 p.) 1/16
- Tisbury DPW FY2017 Budget Requests (4 p.) 1/12/16
- Tisbury Department of Public Works Warrant Articles for Town Meeting FY 2017
- Tisbury Water Works Warrant Articles for Town Meeting FY 2017
- Tisbury Wastewater Warrant Articles for Town Meeting FY 2017
- Tisbury Solid Waste Warrant Articles for Town Meeting FY 2017

Minutes approved 3/23/16.