

FY22 Joint Board of Selectmen and Financial Advisory Committee
Budget Hearing
January 13, 2021
3:00 pm

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Financial Advisory Committee was held on the above date via Zoom Teleconference. Members present were: Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman; Margaret E. Serpa, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Co-Chair; Les Baynes, James Carter, Robert Coad, Nedine Cunningham and Paul Pertile. Also present was the Town Administrator James Hagerty.

At 3:03 pm, Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt and Mr. Smadbeck called to order the Financial Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Smadbeck assumed the chair delegated from Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt.

The first item of business was the Water Department's budget analysis. Bill Chapman spoke on behalf of the Water Department.

There were increases based on inflation and previously underfunded line items. Also included was lease and lab-testing expenses.

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt sought clarification on the increase in wages, to which Mr. Chapman explained an employees shift in hours back from a reduced amount.

Mr. Chapman then explained the Water Department's proposed warrant articles:

- \$60,000 — Improvements for breakdown prevention
- \$100,000 — Water Quality Analysis

The next item of business was the budget analysis for the Harbormaster. Charlie Blair spoke on behalf of the department.

There was a less than 1% increase in overall budget. Mr. Blair explained the harbor is looking to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and is expecting more patronage.

Mr. Blair explained the proposed warrant article for the Harbormaster:

- \$75,000 — Necessary maintenance

Steve Ewing spoke on behalf of the Memorial Wharf Committee and their proposed warrant article:

- \$3.5 million — raise and repair the Memorial Wharf

Mr. Blair noted a Seacoast Economics grant opportunity that is still pending. He also noted the price is increasing each year.

Mr. Hagerty suggested that the feasibility study be conducted following the completion of the Memorial Wharf restoration. He noted the ongoing safety concerns.

Mr. Pertile asked how long the construction would be. Mr. Ewing explained that it would take one winter season to complete.

Mrs. Serpa highlighted the current and ongoing necessity of the project.

The next item of business was the budget analysis of the Beautification department, which featured no increase.

The next item of business was the budget analysis for the Christmas Decorations Committee. Juliet Mulinare spoke on behalf of the committee.

Ms. Mulinare explained an 11.19% increase based on the typical transfers required in a given year.

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt sought clarification on the increase in utilities. Ms. Mulinare explained that the utilities increase reflected a reallocation from the misc. section.

The next item of business was the budget analysis of the Dredge Department. Ms. Mulinare spoke on behalf of the department.

There is a 14.24% increase due to insurance, crane (de)mobilization, and salary increases.

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt asked why salary structures differed from other town employees.

Mr. Hagerty explained that dredge employees are contracted differently than regular town employees.

Mr. Smadbeck noted that the dredge employees are not included in the classification plan.

Mr. Baynes noted the difference and asked about potential revenue.

Ms. Mulinare projected a \$144,000 rough income estimate.

Ms. Mulinare explained the Dredge proposed warrant articles:

- Establish a revolving fund designed for projects outside of Edgartown, to return unallocated funds to the general fund
- \$100,000 — Revolving fund
- \$60,000 — Permit maintenance to identify future plans
- \$45,000 — Pick-up truck

Mr. Hagerty noted that the revolving fund would also use revenues to issue expenditures.

Ms. Tierny noted that there are upsides and downsides, and that special funds would be best utilized when there is constant revenue generated.

Mr. Baynes highlighted that the fund would provide flexibility and that it is his observation that the Dredge creates revenue.

The next item of business was the budget analysis for the Police Department. Chief Bruce McNamee spoke on behalf of the department.

There is a 1.22% increase in the budget due to contractual increases.

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt sought monitoring and reporting over the sufficiency of the allocated overtime budget. Chief McNamee explained that there will be proactive communication.

Mr. Hagerty noted that there will be a new collective bargaining agreement in the new fiscal year, and that the officers and staff are worth their salaries.

Chief McNamee explained the proposed warrant articles for the Police Department.

- \$122,548 — 2 police cruisers (Mr. Hagerty noted that one replaced vehicle will be used by the Building Inspector or Board of Health)
- \$77,151 — Updated Security Posture for Station based on auditor recommendation
- \$26,400 — Body Cameras on 5 year contract

Chief McNamee noted that there will be upcoming clarifications from the State of Massachusetts over incoming police mandates.

At 3:55 pm, Mr. Baynes made a motion to adjourn the Financial Advisory Committee. Mr. Pertile seconded the motion.

Unanimous.

At 3:56 pm, Mrs. Serpa made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Smadbeck seconded the motion.

Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.