

**FY22 Joint Board of Selectmen and Financial Advisory Committee
Budget Hearing
January 26, 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, and Paul Pertile. Also present was the Town Administrator James Hagerty.

At 3:01 pm Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt called the Financial Advisory Committee to order; subsequently Mr. Smadbeck called the Board of Selectmen to order.

Mr. Smadbeck assumed the Chair for the joint meeting.

The first item of business was the budget analysis for the Library. Lisa Horton Sherman spoke on behalf of the Library.

There was a 1.45% increase in the budget and no proposed warrant articles.

With no questions, the next item of business was the budget analysis for the Council on Aging (The Anchors). Lyndsay Famariss spoke on behalf of The Anchors.

There was a 2.35% increase in the budget and no proposed warrant articles.

Mr. Hagerty noted an increase in maintenance expenses; and the custodian position has proven difficult to fill. The town will prepare to incorporate The Anchors into the bid for the Town Hall's and Library's cleaning contract.

The next order of business was the budget analysis for the Board of Assessors.

There was a 4.04% increase in the budget, including \$10,000 in case the principal assessor requires more training.

There was a proposed warrant article of \$40,000 for revaluation updates.

The next item of business was the warrant article for the Energy Committee. Alan Straher presented on behalf of the Energy Committee.

There is a \$26,000 proposed warrant article for a 4-charger Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

Mr. Straher noted a new development in funding opportunities. There is a new state program that the town has already applied for that could result in \$14,000 of covered costs. There is also a \$50,000 grant opportunity for an additional Fast Electric Vehicle charger that would bring the new EV charging station to a total of 5 chargers.

Mr. Carter sought clarification whether this would be a purchase or a lease. Mr. Straher confirmed it would be a purchase.

The next item of business was the budget analysis for the Shellfish/Waterways Department. Paul Bagnall presented on behalf of the department.

There is a 1.96% increase in the budget due to salary step increases.

The proposed warrant articles included:

- Propagation program funding — \$44,000 (unused funds revert to Free Cash)
- Edgartown Share of Lobster Hatchery repairs — ~~\$51,476~~ \$36,000

Mr. Hagerty noted that the propagation funding could become part of the operating budget in the future.

Mr. Smadbeck confirmed that Edgartown received 1/6 of the Lobster Hatchery's product, but is paying based on the 50/50 determination formula. Mr. Bagnall noted that the other towns preferred the 50/50 formula because they were using Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding.

The Selectmen and the Financial Advisory Committee came to the unanimous consensus to cover 1/6 of the cost, roughly \$36,000.

At 3:27 pm, Ms. Serpa motioned the Board of Selectmen to adjourn. Mr. Smadbeck seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Mr. Baynes made a motion to adjourn the Financial Advisory Committee. Mr. Pertile seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.