

**FY22 Joint Board of Selectmen and Financial Advisory Committee
Budget Hearing
January 28, 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 3:02 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 budget analysis for Dukes County. Martina Thornton presented the budget.

Mr. Smadbeck clarified that the total finds requested and the total county taxes are yet to be determined. Mr. Hagerty noted that the county taxes are based on a state formula.

Proposed warrant articles included:

- Vineyard Healthcare Access — \$119,581
- Dukes County Social Service (fuel assistance, food stamps, unemployment assistance) — \$17,598
- Homelessness Prevention contract with Harbor Homes — \$17,965
- Center for Living — \$167,534
- Community Services contracts:
 - CORE — \$32,897
 - First Step — \$3,012
 - Healthy Aging MV — \$34,420
- Establishment of Stabilization Fund — \$21,024

Mr. Smadbeck highlighted that the County budget is restricted from retaining more than 10% in unreserved funds; and that there is precedent in Barnstable County for establishing a stabilization fund for unforeseen emergency expenses. The County Commissioners must approve requested expenditures from stabilization fund for the County Advisory Board to approve in a 2/3 majority vote.

The Stabilization Fund was approved by all island towns in the previous fiscal year except for Chilmark and Oak Bluffs.

The next item of business was the budget analysis for the Martha's Vineyard Commission. Adam Turner presented the budget.

There was a 5.97% increase in operating budget due to a replaced employee and an additional employee.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission confirmed they will assist the Town of Edgartown on their Master Plan project.

Mr. Hagerty sought clarity on the aggressive funding of OPEB.

Mr. Curt Schroeder explained that it was a policy decision to set the expense, and increase each year.

Mr. Hagerty noted that the towns are the entities ultimately required to pay the necessary funding, and that bond ratings and opportunity costs must be taken into account. Mr. Hagerty continued to explain that funding Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) to fulfill the Actuary Determined Employee Contribution (ADEC) is dependent on a wide variety of annually changing variables, such as discount rates, mortality rates, employees, town contributions, etc.

With no further questions, at 4:05 pm, Ms. Serpa made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Smadbeck seconded the motion. Unanimous.

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

Meeting adjourned.