

Finance Advisory Committee

March 9th, 2022

4:00 pm

Present: Chair – Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Les Baynes*, Jim Carter, Rob Coad, Nedine Cunningham,
Select Board: Margaret Serpa,
Others: Town Administrator James Hagerty, Paulo DeOliveira

* Members late arrivals or early departures.

• Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt called the Edgartown Finance Advisory Committee (FinCom) meeting to order. (Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

1. Reserve Fund Transfer – Vacation and Sick Buy Back Account

This account covered different retirements, buybacks, replacements, etc. Several long service employees retired unexpectedly so the account was drawn down faster than expected. Three more retirements were expected this year (Lauri Mather, Melissa Kuehne ...) but funding would be determined during May end-of-year transfers.

• *Jim Carter moved to approve the transfer of \$2,583.81 into the Vacation and Sick Buy Back Account; Rob Coad seconded; motion passed unanimously: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.*

4. 2022 Warrant Advisory Book

There would be a change of a 100th percentile due to a Departmental calculation of its Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA).

• *It was the consensus of the Finance Advisory Committee to approve the Warrant Advisory Book with the slight amendment noted above.*

1. Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant

* During this discussion Les Baynes joined the meeting with apologies.

This was a copy of the final Warrant with FinCom recommendations.

- Town Administrator James Hagerty preferred to amend the fireworks article from \$50,000 to \$100,000 on ATM floor. There was a brief discussion on whether an article amount could be increased or only decreased.

2. Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant

Mr. Hagerty reviewed the STM Articles totaling \$225,000.

1. This was a non-binding articles on whether the nuclear power plant should release nuclear waste into Cape Cod Bay with a FinCom recommendation of neither/nor.

2. The publicized proposal to transition Meshacket Landfill to a solar field generate should net the Town \$10-12,000,000 over its lifespan.

3. An individual was gifting a piece of property and easement to the Town for boating/fishing access.

4. After some objections, the Boys & Girls Club project access road plans were shifted from cutting through a playing field to cutting through the parking lot—FinCom recommendation could be neither/nor if necessary.

5. After 2 years of holdups and debate the State billed the Town \$65,000 for Unemployment Insurance.

6. The Town applied for and received Covid relief funds, but after an audit the State determined that \$61,436 were ineligible expenses (from Free Cash).

7. This changed the Personnel Bylaw regarding a Sick Bank update. (Mr. Hagerty suggested that management should not be involved and that he appoint a Select Board representative to Personnel.)

8. The Article changed entry level position (already in the budget) to dispense with Commercial Drivers License (CDL) requirement.

9. The Town was responsible for \$40,000 of repairs for the restaurant at Katama Air Field. Attempts to circumvent the issue were blocked by procurement laws.

10. \$15,000 would cover methane gas capping and monitoring equipment at the MV Refuse District.

11. \$33,171.89 (Free Cash) would cover the unfunded portion of composite insurance for the Command Emergency Medical Response vehicle & equipment replacement. The vehicle was a total loss after an accident while responding. The matter was likely to end in litigation regarding an unlicensed driver.

12. \$10,489.50 for FY22 subscription for the online permitting software program.

13. \$409 was a prior year Shellfish Dept. bill for Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) fuel.

• The FinCom had considered most of this information before and had no further questions.

• *Les Baynes moved to recommend approval or designate neither/nor for the 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant; Rob Coad seconded; motion passed unanimously: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.*

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

The FinCom briefly discussed an exchange of emails regarding a citizen proposal for a Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) 3-5% COLA. Mr. Hagerty had responded that a large portion of Town staff were on steps that carried 3.5% annual increase, in addition to the COLA, so it was not in the Town's best long-term financial interest to be granting up to 10% increases. The individual was invited to attend this FinCom meeting and could also bring the issue up on ATM floor during committee reports. There was no response from the individual.

- This was Jim Carter's last meeting. He would miss seeing the members regularly. All FinCom and Select Board members present, Mr. Hagerty and former FinCom member Paulo DeOliveira thanked him for his time, expressed regret at losing his presence and praised his great knowledge, steady attendance, help and support.

- The next meeting was set for 4:00PM, May 11, 2022.

At 4:17 Mr. Carter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baynes seconded. Unanimous.

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt,
Leslie Baynes,
Robert Coad
Nedine Cunningham
Steve Jordan
Paul Pertile
Julia Tarka
Scott Morgan (Alternate)

Respectfully submitted,

James Hagerty
Town Administrator