

**Town of Edgartown
Selectboard
December 12, 2022
4:00 pm**

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date via Zoom Teleconference. Members present were: Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman; Arthur Smadbeck and Michael Donaroma. Also present was the Town Administrator James Hagerty.

At 4:00 pm Ms. Serpa opened the meeting then recognized Mr. Hagerty.

Mr. Hagerty read out the following statement:

As a preliminary matter, this is James Hagerty, Town Administrator. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- *Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. State each members' name.*

Ms. Serpa, Mr. Smadbeck and Mr. Donaroma all answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Hagerty then continued:

Good afternoon. This Open Meeting of the Edgartown Selectboard is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus." In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment.

For this meeting, the Edgartown Selectboard are convening by via Zoom App as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join for "Zoom" Meetings.

Please note that this meeting is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. Accordingly, please be aware that other folks may be able to see you, and that take care not to "screen share" your computer. Anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

Meeting Business Ground Rules:

Before the meeting is opened by the Chair, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

- o Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking;*
- o Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes*

For Items with Public Comment:

After members have spoken, I will afford public comment as follows:

- *I will first ask members of the public who wish to speak to identify their names and addresses only;*
- *You will then be called upon one at a time to speak.*

Ms. Serpa then addressed the first item on the agenda which was a public hearing to discuss the Town's FY22/23 regional CDBG application including housing rehabilitation and childcare subsidies serving eligible residents of Edgartown, West Tisbury and Aquinnah. Present was Alice Boyd who is the Administrator for the CDBG for Edgartown.

Ms. Boyd stated that they are putting two years together this year. It is due in March, 2023. The Town is eligible for \$1.7 million. Edgartown is the lead town in the application. The CAREs Act monies that the town received helped 30 small businesses on island. She introduced Cassie Boyd Marsh who is in charge of the childcare portion of the grant.

Ms. Marsh stated that they currently have 9 families with 10 children participating. They welcome more families to inquire and gave the contact information.

There being no further comment or questions Ms. Serpa closed the hearing.

Mr. Smadbeck then made the following motion: Move to submit an FY22/23 CDBG grant for housing rehabilitation and childcare subsidies and to authorize the Town Administrator or Designee to sign the grant application and associated forms. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then made the next motion: Move to allocate \$50,000 from CDBG Miscellaneous Income to use as a contingency for the FY22/23 Housing Rehabilitation Program. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa thanked Ms. Boyd and then moved on to the next item. She opened the public hearing address the request of Chappaquiddick Ferry, Inc. to make increases to fares. She stated that the Board will hear from Peter Wells, owner of the ferry. They will then hear from those for and against.

Mr. Wells pointed out that the full list was available on the website. The bike book was not included and would remain the same. He briefly went over his reasoning for the rate increase and the Nardella and Taylor financial review. There was a financial review, revenue was equal to expenses in 2018 and 2019. In 2020 revenue was 16% less than expenses. In 2021 revenue was 7% less than expenses. Fuel has increased. Fuel was \$3,000 more this summer than the year before. Supplies and all other costs have also gone up significantly. There are now currently 150 people using the year rounder rate. This increase will enable more residents to be added. He finished by pointing out that the Consumer Price Index has gone up since the last increase. The Selectboard has been given the financials requested for review.

Ms. Serpa stated that Mr. Hagerty would be managing the comments.

Mr. Rick Biros didn't understand the decrease in revenues in the last two years with comparison to other entities. He didn't support or not support.

Ms. Ann Floyd wanted the Board to do fare and fiduciary responsibility. She spoke for Dorothy Dropick that she would like the Board to adhere to Chapter 88 of the MGL. She read her letter out loud in summary which is part of the record.

Mr. Lionel Spiro stated he was also not for or against. He agreed with Mr. Biros.

Mr. Bob Strayton agreed with Mr. Spiro and Mr. Biros. He has a hard time believing revenue is down.

Mr. Chris Halgren is against the rate increase until he is shown more data. He wants to see the books.

Ms. Melissa Thompson stated that the Ferry does a great job and she sees this a moderate increase. She'd like new members to be able to be added to the resident list.

Mr. Jeff Kontje stated that we pay for the privilege of living on Chappaquiddick. This rate increase matches how all other cost have gone up recently. There have been more people. This means increased traffic and having to use the second boat more often which increases the ferry's costs.

Ms. Sylvia Malm sees the ferry owners as responsible. She would like to hear the Board's criteria and reasoning for approving any rate increase.

There being no further comment, Ms. Serpa closed the hearing.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the Board have individually sat down with Mr. Wells and reviewed the financials. He has encouraged Mr. Wells to share his presentation with the Chappy Steering Committee. It was very helpful. As to criteria. The Board uses the Boston/Cambridge CPIU when figuring the cost of living raises for Town Employees. He thought he would look at this in this consideration. He stated that the increase since the last fare increase has been a little over 15%. He can see a justification. Inflation affects everyone. He doesn't take it lightly that this affects the Chappaquiddick residents. He takes the ferry often in the summer.

Mr. Donaroma agreed with Mr. Smadbeck. It takes a lot of skill and knowledge. He sees the CPI and the justification.

Ms. Serpa agreed that we all see our expenses going up.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the increases as stated in the public hearing notice and to have the resident program restart. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Mr. Ted Rosbeck.

Mr. Donaroma asked Mr. Rosbeck what his thoughts on the MVC increase in costs and expenses were as one of our previous representatives.

Mr. Rosbeck stated that he hadn't been part of the MVC in a year. When he was a member they expanded the DRI checklist and the increases in cost that would cause was discussed. It's a direct effect of making the DRI checklist cover more and more.

The Board thanked him for his input.

The Board then approved the following items:

A Block a Public Way Permit for Colonial Reproductions at 2 Morse St. with the restriction of staying off of the sidewalk and protecting the street.

The MV 20 Miler Road Race.

An Auto Dealer License renewal for Russel Swartz

The Minutes of December 5th and 7th

The weekly payroll and bill warrants.

Mr. Hagerty asked the Board to recommend the three amendments to the Housing Bank legislation.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to recommend the three amendments to the Housing Bank legislation. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

At 5:11PM Mr. Smadbeck moved to adjourn. Ms. Serpa seconded. The Board did a rollcall vote and all voted Aye. Unanimous

Approved:

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Administrative Assistant