

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
Joint Meeting of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 3:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE:

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – Co-Chairman, Les Baynes, James Carter, Robert Coad, Nedine Cunningham, Steve Jordan*, Paul Pertile

SELECTBOARD (SB)

Margaret E. Serpa – Housing Trust Member, Arthur Smadbeck, James Hagerty – Town Administrator (TA)

*Members that arrived later.

Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt called the FINCOM meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Margaret E. Serpa called the SB meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).

FOLLOW UP AS NECESSARY – VOTE ON BUDGET:

Co-Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt welcomed everyone and said the task for this meeting was to make recommendations as follows: 1.) to recommend, 2.) not to recommend 3.) neither/nor if there was no dollar value.

A few updates had been made to the Town Budget; James Hagerty shared the information for each of those changes:

1. The Building Department: A building inspector position (currently at 10 hrs/week) would increase to a position with benefits of either 35 or 40 hrs/week.

PAUL PERTILE MOVED TO RECOMMEND THIS BUDGET WITH THE 40 HOUR POSITION. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LES BAYNES. THE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES—AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. CARTER—AYE, MR. COAD—AYE, MS. CUNNINGHAM—AYE, MR. JORDAN—AYE & MR. PERTILE—AYE.

2. The Parks Department: The Supervisor accepted a friendly amendment to reduce the original budget of \$390,836 to a revised number of \$381,606.
3. The Library Department: Hours were updated to ensure all employee “duty free paid” lunches were accounted for in the budget.
4. The Zoning Department: Lisa Morrison requested an increase to 20 or 25 hours. Members discussed the pros & cons, including the additional benefits at this level.

JAMES CARTER MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE 25 HOUR POSITION. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL PERTILE. THE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES—AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. CARTER—AYE, MR. COAD—AYE, MS. CUNNINGHAM—AYE, MR. JORDAN—AYE & MR. PERTILE—AYE.

J. Hagerty said there would be a few variables to come, including impacts of cost of living adjustments (COLA's); he recommended voting on the core operating budget at this time.

LES BAYNES MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE OPERATING BUDGETS AS PRESENTED, WITH THE CHANGES AS ADDRESSED TODAY (ABOVE). SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL PERTILE. THE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES—AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. CARTER—AYE, MR. COAD—AYE, MS. CUNNINGHAM—AYE, MR. JORDAN—AYE & MR. PERTILE—AYE.

VOTE ON WARRANT ARTICLES:

**Nedine Cunningham said she would abstain from the Edgartown School

**Co-Chair Lowell-Bettencourt said she would abstain from the Police Department

**James Carter said he would abstain from the Parks Department

J. Hagerty screen-shared the worksheet, which included all of the warrant articles with notations and recommendations (as to where the money would come, e.g. free cash). He explained the free cash that was available for FY23 was higher due to conservative estimates during COVID-19, a significant balance remaining from the previous year because of COVID-19 and some turn-ins in the budget.

Co-Chair Lowell-Bettencourt reviewed each line, giving the opportunity for further discussion; there was none.

The articles, as presented:

Requested: \$8,861,918 Free Cash: \$5,381,859 Water Surplus: \$128,000 Levy: \$775,000

JAMES CARTER MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE WARRANT ARTICLES AS PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL PERTILE. THE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES—AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. CARTER—AYE, MR. COAD—AYE, MS. CUNNINGHAM—AYE, MR. JORDAN—AYE & MR. PERTILE—AYE.

Co-Chair Lowell-Bettencourt said the recommended COLA was [2.272%] 2.3%. She said the budgets reviewed did not include the COLA but would be voted on at Town Meeting, once decided, as a warrant article.

LES BAYNES MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE COST OF LIVING INCREASE AT 2.3%. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STEVE JORDAN.

After a lengthy discussion, it was recommended to increase the COLA to 2.5%. J. Hagerty would run a comparison of the 2.3% and 2.5%, as well as provide the percentage of employees in Town who were at the top step and therefore would not get the increase, as everyone felt it was important for people to see the numbers.

A friendly amendment was accepted by Les Baynes and Steve Jordan, to increase the COLA recommendation to 2.5%

LES BAYNES MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE COST OF LIVING INCREASE AT 2.5%. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY STEVE JORDAN. THE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES—AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. CARTER—AYE, MR. COAD—AYE, MS. CUNNINGHAM—AYE, MR. JORDAN—AYE & MR. PERTILE—AYE.

★ The next meeting was scheduled on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY ARTHUR SMADBECK AND SECONDED BY MARGARET E. SERPA, THE SELECTBOARD MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 3:46 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY PAUL PERTILE AND SECONDED BY NEDINE CUNNINGHAM, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 3:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator