

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
Joint Meeting of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Wednesday, February 2, 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.

Les Baynes 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).

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL:

Shelley Einbinder, Principal, said the proposed budget had an increase of 1.46% over the last year's budget.

Highlights:

\$70,000 increase in shared services programs

\$249,000 increase in salaries and contractual obligations

1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for a bilingual guidance counselor, the only new position

All other expenses were offset by the \$250,000 reduction in residential tuition.

S. Einbinder said one Town Meeting Article was submitted in the amount of \$53,000 for energy efficiency upgrades. Alan Strahler, Energy Committee Chair, underscored the benefits and long term savings for these upgrades. Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator/Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, said Cape Light Compact was contributing \$112,633 toward the project.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS):

Sara Dingley, Principal, reviewed the changes that were driving the budget increases as Suzanne Cioffi, Finance Director, screen-shared the worksheet. The overall increase to FY22 was 5.65%, the overall assessed was 4.65%.

Highlights:

Contractual Increases: 1.24%

New Positions (including Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)) 1.11%

Insurances 1.07%

M. Friedman said the OPEB contribution was level funded, there was a slight increase of \$36,000 to a line item due to an increase in positions.

Samuel Hart, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects, reviewed the FY23 Capital Equipment and Projects, which included Excess and Deficiency (E & D) offsets.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE (ACE/Adult & Continuing Education Martha's Vineyard):

Matthew D'Andrea, Superintendent of Schools, screen-shared the Shared Services Budget worksheet. The overall increase was \$293,593 or 3.96%.

Highlights:

Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

School Committees' Policies Review \$10,500

Psychologist (increase by 1.0 FTE to 4) \$92,672

Education Support Professional (ESP) Project Headway (increase .5 FTEs to 10) \$19,765

Strings Position (0.2 FTE to 0.4 FTE) \$13,923

M. D'Andrea said the ongoing challenges within the schools included the impacts of COVID-19; the increasing English-language learners (ELL) population, the ongoing building maintenance, the negotiations with the bargaining units and growth in the project headway population.

Richie Smith, Asst. Superintendent, said the school system had the long term commitment to provide continuing education to young adults; Co-Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt was in support of the ACE MV article.

Holly Bellebuono, Executive Director ACE MV, said a career navigation specialist was hired and was developing resources for junior and senior students at the MVRHS; she said it was a really nice partnership and was excited to see it develop.

COALITION TO CREATE THE MARTHA’S VINEYARD HOUSING BANK (CCHBMV):

L. Baynes said review of this article through the financial lens was appropriate. He outlined his concerns:

- It was fraught with danger and infrastructure impacts were unknown
- Revenue raised was astronomical, a great deal would be raised in Edgartown
- History taught him that regional entities did not work well
- Element of this being rushed
- Recommending this would be a dis-service to the community

Paul Pertile agreed and said more time was needed for review; it would be up to the voters to decide.

James Hagerty said there were minor changes to this article as follows:

The Town Advisory Board required a 2/3 vote (to allow property development within those caveats and segments of the language of the legislation) and a 2/3 vote for borrowing.

Laura Silber, Coalition Coordinator for the Coalition to Create the MV Housing Bank, said they did not anticipate any more changes.

L. Baynes said the motion was to approve, disapprove or take no action on the article before us.

PAUL PERTILE MOVED TO HAVE THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISAPPROVE. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DONNA LOWELL-BETTENCOURT. THE COMMITTEE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES—AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT—AYE, MR. COAD—AYE, MS. CUNNINGHAM—AYE, MR. JORDAN—AYE & MR. PERTILE—AYE. MR. CARTER—ABSTAINED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Hagerty said there were concerns for the road placement connecting the new Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club (MVBGC): they were working toward an “in the middle” compromise, trying to find a resolution without starting over.

Mike Biros, a Chappaquiddick resident, asked if the Committee had reviewed the proposal for an adaptation plan for the Chappy Ferry; J. Hagerty said it was reviewed/discussed about a week ago; there was general consensus it was an important step and would be put to the voters.

ADJOURNMENT:

Members were comfortable with the presentations and were ready to meet at the next scheduled meeting for the final steps.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MARGARET E. SERPA AND SECONDED BY ARTHUR SMADBECK, THE SELECTBOARD MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 3:56 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY DONNA LOWELL-BETTENCOURT AND SECONDED BY STEVE JORDAN, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 3:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator