

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
FY24 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 – 3:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE:

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – Chair, Leslie Baynes – Vice-Chair (VC), Robert Coad, Nedine Cunningham, Paul Pertile, Julia Tarka *To be acknowledged at the next meeting: Kelly McCracken*

SELECTBOARD (SB)

Margaret E. Serpa – Chair, Arthur Smadbeck

OTHERS:

James Hagerty – Town Administrator (TA), Allan DeBettencourt – Highway Superintendent, Charles J. Blair, Jr. – Harbormaster, William Burke – Wastewater/Facilities Manager

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

Chair 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).

Documents on file as referred to during the meeting: FY24 Edgartown Budget Book 20230113.pdf

Warrant Articles pgs. 8 - 9; Warrant Article Rankings pg 7.

TA James Hagerty screen shared the appropriate pages as each agenda item was presented/reviewed.

SELECTBOARD / TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

TA James Hagerty reviewed the presentation [books] for the FY24 Budget and said the layout of information was arranged for efficiency; he explained how the FY24 Operating Budget requests related to the overall five year forecast. TA Hagerty said this was a balanced budget with a \$2.4M surplus and the suggested Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 5%; \$1,000,000 remained in Levy Capacity.

Members discussed the newly created Facilities Manager position [that remained open until approval], how it would be funded and if 20 hrs/wk was enough; TA Hagerty said the position would be reviewed as it unfolded.

Chair Lowell-Bettencourt said the cost of utilities was going up across the board, she didn't see that reflected in these pages; TA Hagerty indicated there was a process in place to manage any fluctuations.

TA Hagerty said the four Warrant Articles were similar to last year

4 Warrant Articles:

1. \$75,000 Fireworks
2. \$20,000 Rodent Control
3. \$350,000 Stabilization Fund
4. \$1,000,000 Capital Stabilization

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Allan DeBettencourt said there was a 2.5% increase to the Operating Budget, similar to last year (LY) or \$6,030.

10 Warrant Articles:

1. \$27,000 purchase and install a plow frame
2. \$200,000 rebuild town streets/resurfacing
3. \$200,000 bike paths, sidewalks, drainage & culverts and parking lots
4. \$30,000 to clean catch basins
5. \$75,000 stormwater drainage study for downtown area
6. \$245,000 to replace one large truck multi task vehicle
7. \$45,000 to purchase material spreader
8. \$134,000 to purchase a tractor
9. \$8,000 to repaint the Main Street Lanterns
10. \$240,700 for Chapter 90 money

Mr. DeBettencourt said replacement parts for much of the equipment was not made any longer due to age; he said the process/ordering needed to begin now due to the lengthy lead times and to get locked-in pricing.

Chair Lowell-Bettencourt reviewed the list of priorities and the rankings of importance for the Town, as determined by the Capital Programs Committee.

HARBORMASTER / N. WHARF:

Charles J. Blair, Jr said the budget changes were driven by step increases and reclassifications for salaries and wages (as seasonal wages were not part of the LY budget). Other increases were for insurance, electric and phone; the rest of the budget was flat.

Mr. Blair said his number one worry was having enough staff for the summer; he anticipated a very busy season with projected revenues of \$800,000. He said he was working toward getting MVRHS juniors involved in the program; the hourly rate increase really helped to get enough staffing last year. Mr. Blair said the chain of supply crippled the department as there was uncertainty when deliveries of the necessary equipment would arrive.

4 Warrant Articles:

1. \$78,000 Mooring/Buoy Maintenance and necessary Marine Operations
2. \$28,000 new outboard motor
3. \$4500 disposal of abandoned boats
4. \$2,600,000 N. Wharf Restoration; a prior Town Meeting vote of \$900,000 was approved, but was never followed through with a bond; \$3.5M was the total cost; Childs Engineering did an existing conditional survey with divers – Mr. Blair said the rating in the majority of the categories was POOR. Juliet Mulinare outlined the grant opportunities and processes they were undertaking, which could help offset these costs. Members discussed whether the Wharf estimate was adequate as costs were rising.

AIRFIELD COMMISSION:

TA Hagerty said a 40% increase for fuel was listed; he would reach out to them as he didn't think this was necessary.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT:

William Burke said changes included step increases and the addition of one new person, the cost of electricity and sludge disposal. The facility was 27 years old; the engineers of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) recommended replacement of outdated equipment.

4 Warrant Articles:

1. \$1,565,000 replace rotary press
2. \$465,000 replace effluent pump station
3. \$216,000 replace influent and effluent samplers
4. \$134,000 tractor and mower

★ The next meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY LESLIE BAYNES AND SECONDED BY NEDINE CUNNINGHAM, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:22 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MARGARET E. SERPA, THE SELECTBOARD MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator

Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder