

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
FY24 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Tuesday, January 31, 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

SELECTBOARD (SB)

Margaret E. Serpa – Chair, Arthur Smadbeck

OTHERS:

James Hagerty – Town Administrator (TA), Alexander J. Schaeffer – Fire Chief (FC), Bruce R. McNamee – Chief of Police (COP), Peter Graczykowski – Lieutenant Colonel (LC)/Asst. Superintendent, David Vigneault – DCRHA/Executive Director (ED)

VC Leslie Baynes called the FINCOM meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

Chair Margaret E. Serpa called the SB meeting to order at 3:02 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.

Chair Lowell-Bettencourt reviewed the list of priorities and the rankings of importance for the Town, as determined by the Capital Programs Committee, as each department presented their Warrant Articles.

FIRE /AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

FC Alexander J. Schaeffer screen shared the powerpoint presentation [that was shared with Members prior to this meeting] which detailed the significant asks of this department. He recapped the challenges of filling the night shifts and presented a plan to increase stipends; he provided reasons and justification of the needed/necessary position of the full time Assistant Chief at a salary of \$95,000/year. He said he would not ask for more than they deserved - the need was there.

FC Schaeffer said he was working in the most cost effective way while keeping community involvement; they were competing with the cost of living and competing jobs while maintaining the level of service that everyone was used to.

Members discussed the impact of COVID-19 and the current staffing issues; the types of calls and if age-based calls were trending upward; [reimbursement] rates for ambulance services; the age of the Fire Station building and the required equipment to support the department demands.

Arthur Smadbeck said he agreed with raising the rates as recommended by FC Schaeffer and would go along with the timing of raising those rates as advised by TA Hagerty, to be commensurate with the other towns.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

COP Bruce R. McNamee said there was not a big change in salaries, short of the cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase. The expense increases were in heating, gas, electricity and vehicle maintenance; advertising was increased to bring awareness for the two open positions, as they were finding it difficult to hire into those vacancies.

2 Warrant Articles:

1. \$7,670 to replace building sprinklers out of code
2. \$168,269 cruiser/vehicle replacement (3)

DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

LC Peter Graczykowski said the budget was lower this year eliminating one charge, as a new grant had been received to offset the costs of connectivity for FY24. The budget was decreased by \$36,000; maintenance contracts remained with two year commitments from each; Edgartown's contribution was \$56,176.12.

TA Hagerty asked about the radio coverage issues in the downtown area; LC Graczykowski explained the micro site was operational, the 'fix' would be completed by the end of this February. TA Hagerty said his recommendation would be, that until we know these issues were resolved, this would be the last year for approval. These issues were putting the chiefs in a liability position with the unions.

LC Graczykowski said this was a temporary fix; the Sheriff's Department needed help from the Town to identify a site for a proper tower (to be built at the State's expense) to provide the radio service as needed/expected. Members discussed next steps in the decision process for building the tower, as what was in place was not working.

DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY:

ED David Vigneault presented the budget and reviewed the staffing changes, salaries and benefits. Edgartown's contribution was \$141,177 or 33.13%; Members reviewed the abbreviated budget for overall income and expenses.

ED Vigneault went over the various properties and programs that existed and how they supported applicants looking for rental and/or purchase options; DCRHA was working to address the housing need as this issue continued to have a huge impact on employment throughout the Island.

- ★ The next meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 3:00 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 4:24 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY LESLIE BAYNES AND SECONDED BY JULIA TARKA, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator

Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder