

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
FY24 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Wednesday, February 1, 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, Kelly McCracken, Paul Pertile, Julia Tarka

SELECTBOARD (SB)

Margaret E. Serpa – Chair, Arthur Smadbeck

OTHERS:

James Hagerty – Town Administrator (TA), Reade Kontje Milne – Building/Zoning Inspector, Adam Darack – IT Manager, Donna L. Goodale – Board of Assessors Member, Alan Strahler – Energy Committee Chair/Climate Committee, Julia Livingston – Climate Committee Chair, Rick Schifter – Chappy Ferry Steering Committee Chair

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.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

Reade Kontje Milne said the salary line was a bit lower, they were trying to fill the assistant position. She explained the shift of funds, as money was separated out from training & tuition for travel expenses. Ms. Kontje Milne was looking forward to the vehicle transfer from the Police Department; she budgeted for the [anticipated] associated costs of that vehicle.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT:

Adam Darack reviewed the software changes; in switching vendors there was a price increase. He said the Town needed to move in this direction, the ability to apply for permitting online was vital. The software would handle beach sticker sales, online permitting and so forth. A good system integrated for all departments was a huge benefit and would offset the needs for [additional] staffing. Mr Darack said everything else in the budget was standard.

Chair Serpa thanked him for all that he did for the Town; Chair Lowell-Bettencourt said the online permitting access was good for the residents and the Town Departments.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:

Donna L. Goodale said the overall budget did not reflect any change. TA Hagerty explained that NearMap software was in the special services line; this enabled them to do much more when discussing specifics.

1 Warrant Articles:

1. \$40,000 for valuation updates

ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE:

Alan Strahler reviewed the strategic plan to take Town buildings off of fossil fuels; he said over time, this would pay for itself. He reviewed the many grant opportunities available to assist with the process.

Julia Livingston said she was asking for money to hire an expert to review the zoning bylaws to identify possible changes to assist in the adaptation to anticipated climate change, and to draft the necessary changes to put in front of Town Meeting in 2024 as there was urgency to move forward with this process. She had participated in a few Planning Board meetings where members expressed support for this; Ms. Livingston said that based on her research, \$50,000 was a good number to get started.

2 Warrant Articles:

1. \$43,500 for the study of replacing fossil fuel energy used by Town buildings with electricity
2. \$50,000 to fund a review of Town Zoning By-laws to identify possible changes to assist in the adaptation to anticipated climate change.

CHAPPY STEERING COMMITTEE:

Rick Schifter explained the extensive discussions of ownership; there were three:

1. The Town
2. Non-profit
3. Private for Profit

Mr. Schifter suggested an outside party could review and evaluate the alternatives, to do the necessary work to proceed with an outcome that made the most sense.

1 Warrant Articles:

1. \$50,000 Ownership Consult

Members discussed whether the Town was interested in this before moving forward; the best way to move forward with the current owner, as it was complicated but necessary to resolve. Kelly McCracken and Arthur Smadbeck said they fully supported a study.

OTHER:

Chair Lowell-Bettencourt recommended to TA Hagerty, to invite the Fire Department back for further discussion and clarification; she asked for a comparison of increases for that department over the last several years and to highlight the significant increases; a lengthy discussion took place around how the stipend worked.

Chair Lowell-Bettencourt explained the process and role of the FinCom for new Members and how departments were encouraged to review and make changes for the big picture. The Committee voted to *recommend* or *not to recommend*. Members discussed the responsibility to the taxpayers in the decision making; we needed to answer to these people as public input was essential.

Arthur Smadbeck proposed that Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Chair Margaret E. Serpa and TA James Hagerty meet/work together and discuss the options for the Chappy Ferry; all were in agreement.

- ★ The next meeting was scheduled on Thursday, February 2, 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 4:03 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY NEDINE CUNNINGHAM AND SECONDED BY LESLIE BAYNES, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator

Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder