

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
FY24 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Thursday, February 9, 2023 – 3:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE:

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)

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), Alexander J. Schaeffer – Fire Chief (FC),
Kara Shemeth – Edgartown Conservation Asst.

VC Leslie Baynes called the FINCOM meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

Chair Margaret E. Serpa called the SB meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

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

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION:

TA James Hagerty said that Paul Pertile was the FinCom Representative and Chair Serpa was the SB Representative for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC); he screen shared the breakdown of CPC requests and said Members had time to review each prior to this meeting.

Julia Tarka asked for clarification on how the funds were spent. Chair Serpa explained that Edgartown projects were the priority; other project requests (throughout the Island) were evaluated if there were available funds; if funds were not used in the current year, they would go back to the CPC to be used in future years; the Town reports would have all the details of each project funded.

CITIZEN PETITIONS:

None.

REVIEW SUBMISSIONS – VOTE ON BUDGET:

TA Hagerty reviewed the complete list of requests and his recommendations; the final vote would be taken on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. *(Please see document on file: FY24 Edgartown Budget Articles TA recommended 9 Feb 2023)*

OTHER:

FC Alexander J. Schaeffer returned as requested, to answer questions; he recapped items from his first presentation and said there wasn't wiggle room within his budget, he was asking for what was needed, nothing more; they were struggling to maintain the requirements of this Department.

Members asked for clarification of the stipend positions and if the Assistant Chief request could be taken in steps without going full time; who was doing the job now and what would the new hierarchy be? Members discussed how this request compared to other departments and towns. FC Schaeffer expressed frustration as things within the Department were falling behind; he needed relief with administrative tasks to maintain the services. Kara Shemeth, a Captain on Edgartown Fire, said the staffing was shrinking as people could not volunteer as in the past, they were doing the best they could with what they had.

Mr. Pertile said he saw first hand the need for the Fire Station to be upgraded and supported the request; it could not be pushed off; Public Information sessions were important and would be scheduled. Members discussed the building design and how it needed to fit within the character of the Town. FC Schaeffer said the five year capital plan included one engine replacement.

★ The next meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 3:30 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 3:48 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY PAUL PERTILE AND SECONDED BY JULIA TARKA, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 3:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator

Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder