

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN  
**Financial Advisory Committee**  
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – 4:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

*Meeting attendance by remote participation only due to Covid 19. Details Below*

IN ATTENDANCE:

**FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)**

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt-Chair, Paul Pertile-Vice- Chair (VC), Leslie Baynes, Robert Coad, , Kelly McCracken. Julia Tarka (and new member John O’Hara)

**OTHERS:**

James Hagerty-Town Administrator (T.A.) Bruce McNamee-Police Chief, Dredge Administrator, Juliet Mulinare, Parks Dept-Jessica McGroarty, Zoning Board of Appeals, Lisa Morrison, Reade Milne, Building Inspector

*(Recorder’s Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity)*

Donna Lowell Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She said 1<sup>st</sup> item on the Agenda is the Alternate Member concurrence vote.

*LES BAYNES MOVED TO NOMINATE MR. JOHN OHARA AS THE ALTERNATE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROBERT COAD. THE COMMITTEE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION, 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENSIONS. MR. BAYNES-AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT-AYE, MR. COAD-AYE, MS MCCRACKEN-AYE, MR. PERTILE-AYE*

**1. LINE ITEMS TRANSFERS:**

T.A. James Hagerty screen shared each document as Members discussed the transfer amounts with the department representatives in attendance. The votes were as follows:

**a. Police Expense from Police Salaries and Wages**

PC Bruce McNamee requested a transfer for \$20,000 for immediate mold remediation in basement

PC Bruce McNamee requested a transfer for \$9,549.98 to replace a failed air conditioner condenser

*ROB COAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFERS. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LES BAYNES. 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MR. BAYNES-AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT-AYE, MR. COAD-AYE, MR. O’HARA-AYE, MS MCRACKEN-AYE, MR. PERTILE-AYE, MS. TARKA-AYE*

**b. Fire Expense from Town Share BCBS**

FC Alex Schaeffer (not present), so TA James Hagerty read the request.: 1<sup>st</sup> transfer 6,257.54 to cover preliminary sketches for ATM for the new Fire Station. TA James Hagerty explained that the initial request in 2019 was for a massive complex and when the FAC asked to reduce the size, it cost more money for the adjusted plans.

### **Ambulance Salaries from Fire Expense**

TA James Hagerty read the request to transfer \$9,000 for unanticipated overtime and other salary hits in regards to managing employees.

*LES BAYNES MOVE TO APPROVE THE TRANSERS. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL PERTILE. 6 AYES, 0 NAYES, 0 ABSTENSIONS. MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT-AYE, MR. BAYNES-AYE, MR. PERTILE-AYE, MR. COAD-AYE, MR. O'HARA-AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN-AYE, MS. TARKA-AYE*

#### **c. Dredge Operating from Dredge Payroll**

Dredge Administrator, Juliet Mulinare requested \$45,000 for the Town Owned Dredge (5 years old). The transfer is needed for maintenance, parts needed to have on hand, a winch for the new truck, as well as year-end maintenance for the loader.

*LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAUL PERTILE. 6 AYES, 0 NAYES, 0 ABSENTIONS. MS. LOWELL BETTENCOURT-AYE, MR. BAYNES-AYE, MR PERTILE-AYE, MS. TARKA-AYE, MR. O'HARA, MS. MCCRACKEN-AYE, MR. COAD-AYE*

#### **d. New Equipment from Parks Salaries**

Jessica McGroarty, Parks Department requested \$25,000 for Norton Point related to unforeseen expenses. These included a solar issue with the trailer, because right now just plugged into the condensers. The condensers needed repairs, as well as tires for the truck from Highway Dept and wooden stakes for fencing.

*PAUL PERTILE MOVE TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOHN O'HARA. MS. LOWELL BETTENCOURT-AYE, MR. COAD-AYE, MR. O'HARA-AYE, MR. BAYNES-AYE, MR. PERTILE-AYE, MS. TARKA-AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN-AYE*

## **2. REVENUE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

ZBA-Lisa Morrison. Discussion was about ZBA fees compared to other Towns. Everyone agreed that fees haven't been changed in decades and are too low. Ms. Lowell Bettencourt asked James Hagerty if a public hearing is needed. He said the respective board can change the fees, therefore a hearing is not required. Julia Tarka said fees should match what is actually happening. Ms. Lowell-Bettencourt said that the consensus for Lisa, is that we would like to see the fees increase double or more. Lisa will concur with the ZBA board regarding fee increases. James will let FAC know when the Select board approves these rates.

Reade Milne was present to discuss Building Dept fee schedule compared to other Towns. Reade mentioned various Town's differ by how they charge fees. It was commented by all members that the fees were very low compared to what other Towns are charging. James said that case law in this is that we have to charge fees that equate somewhat to the work. Fees can not be excessive. James recommended the Nantucket fees schedule. Committee members were in agreement that fees have to be directly tied to the extraordinary size, impact and enforcement by the Town.

Select board fees. James recommended that the Town raise the rates comparable to the other requisite Towns with the highest fee across the board. The Committee agreed.

### 3. COUNTY REQUEST FOR BUDGET PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Donna mentioned the FinCom received an email requesting how to improve the County's budget process. James discussed his recommendations, which are two-fold. First, is that the County is charging an administrative fee to manage all these programs, therefore all the budgets should be in the exact same format. The County submits various budgets in different formats, different colors etc. He summarized they should all be in the same format. That would streamline the process exponentially. Donna agreed. Kelly summarized that when we look at all County fees, we should know where they are going further down the road. Julia mentioned that it would be helpful for the County to provide a vision of the plans for the next 5-10 years. Donna suggested 3 -5 years to keep it simpler. Donna gave the task to James to write a letter to the County with the requests to streamline the process.

### 4. MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Discussion included issues related to the 40% portion that Edgartown is required to pay (\$600,000), the increase in this amount year to year, performance of the MVC, services provided, return on services, accountability to the Town's for the money spent, lack of control over services provided, procedure and difficulty of backing out. Donna suggested that James write a letter to MVC summarizing the discussion requesting what is needed for the Commission to present in terms of the budget presentation. We are asking for transparency and if we do not get it, we will have to consider alternative actions. One of these alternatives is that we consider backing out of it. James agreed. Donna also suggested that we could consider record keeping on services requested and time for completion of those services, etc. Discussion ended with possible joint meetings with other Island towns FAC's. James will keep the committee informed regarding this as well.

### 5. MINUTES

*PAUL PERTILE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2023, MARCH 8 AND MAY 10, 2023. SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JULIA TARKA. THE COMMITTEE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION. MR. BAYNES-AYE, MS. TARKA-AYE, MR. PERTILE-AYE, MS MCCRACKEN, AYE, MR COAD-AYE, MS. LOWELL-BETTENCOURT-AYE AND MR OHARA –ABSTAINED AS NEW MEMBER.*

#### **Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting:**

- ❖ The Land Bank building and Edgartown's offer to purchase.  
James said the Selectboard would like it to go through the regular processes like any capital purchase. Capital programs, finance committee, Select board and then Town Meeting. Location is very good as it is on sewer, water and a walk to the downtown area. Use of the building is discussed. Triple taxes (Land Bank fee, capital purchase and housing town employees), are a consideration. Discussion will probably be made July, end of August. Donna commented that we definitely need affordable housing.
- ❖ The next FINCOM meeting to be scheduled in July 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

DISCUSSION ENSURED THEREON UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY LES BAYNES AND SECONDED BY JULIA TARKA. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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James Hagerty, Town Administrator

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