

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
FY25 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 – 4:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE:

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – Chair, Leslie Baynes – Assistant Chair (AC), Robert Coad, Nedine Cunningham, Kelly McCracken, John O’Hara, Paul Pertile, Julia Tarka

SELECTBOARD (SB)

Arthur Smadbeck – Chair, Margaret E. Serpa

OTHERS:

James Hagerty – Town Administrator (TA), Peter Graczykowski – Lieutenant Colonel (LC)/Asst. Superintendent, Kimberly Andrade – Animal Control Officer, Alexander J. Schaeffer – Fire Chief (FC)

Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt called the FINCOM meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Chair Arthur Smadbeck called the SB meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

Documents on file as referred to during the meeting:

- *FY25 Edgartown Budget Book.pdf*
- *FY25 Recommended Warrant Articles*
- *FY25 Capital Programs Rankings*

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

DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF:

LC Peter Graczykowski said the budget went down slightly - it was an overall decrease. He reviewed the line items for Edgartown and said they were the same components but the price was a little bit less.

ANIMAL CONTROL:

Kimberly Andrade presented one Warrant Article; there were no questions.

FIRE /AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

FC Alexander J. Schaeffer explained the change in approach for the budget. He said in the past there were two separate budgets – one for Fire and one for Ambulance. They were now combined into one to make the process less confusing and reduce the need for year end transfers.

TA Hagerty clarified that the combined salary budget increase was 5.08% .

Members revisited the discussion from January 16, 2024, line item *S&W Forest Fire Control-Emergency* that was removed from the Highway Department/Trees budget. *(Please see document for details: Minutes FinCom & SB Edgartown Jan 16, 2024.pdf; HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT; para 2, pg 1.)*

FC Schaeffer explained this line was originally set up for firefighters to fight wildfires with shifts that were a month at a time. He said the call volume has grown where this is not possible any longer; the money had not been used for a long time. TA Hagerty said this was the year to make the budget more succinct, a little less confusing; he said this had always been managed by the Fire Department.

FC Schaeffer said he was looking to fill a multi-faceted Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) position; he commented on the challenges of recruiting and the need for housing. Kelly McCracken asked FC Schaeffer to ensure the insurances were coded correctly for the services provided by his staff; that accurate insurances were in place including retirement benefits.

John O’Hara asked for an update on the new Fire Station and to explain the big ‘ask’ that would be coming next year for a new fire engine.

FC Schaeffer said the Fire Station Building Committee had been working hard behind the scenes. He talked through the steps that had been taken to date as well as those to come, and the anticipated timeline; he hoped to have a shovel in the ground to start the project by fall of 2024.

FC Schaeffer reviewed the [possible] need for new apparatus. He said to replace a ladder truck, it would be 1.7 million dollars.

FC Schaeffer presented his four Warrant Articles; there were no questions.

FC Schaeffer said, with the ability to increase the ambulance billing, there was a big difference in what was charged out; Chair Lowell-Bettencourt noted this was a significant difference with rates being more in line.

OTHER:

TA Hagerty shared the following Administrator notes:

- The County had adjusted their budget - he would share the updated spreadsheets with Members.
- An updated Martha's Vineyard High School Budget was received - he would share the updates with Members.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / Public Assistance requests were filed today in the amount of 1.7 million dollars for repairs in the South Beach area; he would send the itemized list to the Committee.
- February 12, 2024 would be an in person SB meeting at 4:00 PM, to have further discussions with the Wastewater Commission, Engineer and Superintendent.

- ★ The next meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MARGARET E. SERPA AND SECONDED BY ARTHUR SMADBECK, THE SELECTBOARD MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:43 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 4:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator

Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder