

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
FY25 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard

Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 4:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE:

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)

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

SELECTBOARD (SB)

Arthur Smadbeck – Chair, Margaret E. Serpa

OTHERS:

James Hagerty – Town Administrator (TA), Lisa Sherman – Director/Edgartown Library,
Nis Kildegaard – Edgartown Library Trustee, Lyndsay Famariss – Council on Aging Administrator,
Karen R. Medeiros – Town Clerk, Bruce R. McNamee – Chief of Police (COP), Rob Morrison – Shellfish Constable,
Paulo C. DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Dukes County

AC Leslie Baynes 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.

LIBRARY:

Lisa Sherman said the increases were in salaries and wages. She explained the requirements for setting the book budget and how it related to the overall budget. She said utilities were now in a separate fund, extracted from the overall budget. *(Please see document on file for details: Minutes FinCom & SB Edgartown Feb 2, 2023.pdf; LIBRARY; pg 1)*

Ms. Sherman said the book budget was spent in creative ways including digital materials and museum passes, to name a few.

Ms. Sherman presented one Warrant Article – a request of \$400,000.00 for the Library Landscape Design Project; AC Baynes asked for details of the proposed plan. Ms. Sherman explained that the [budgeted] funding for landscaping during the original build actually went into the building; seed was basically thrown down. She said this landscaping plan/design would provide more open/outdoor spaces for users to enjoy and to improve the overall building – to elevate the space outside to match the building. John O’Hara asked for clarification and recommended to Ms. Sherman to make it clear to everyone that this was a landscape project.

Nis Kildegaard said this was an important piece of unfinished business; the money set aside for landscaping was folded into the project to be able to complete the project – the landscaping was never done. These spaces were designed to enhance the programming at the library; he said it would be a great enhancement for the library.

Paul Pertile indicated that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) put \$100,000.00 toward this project; TA Hagerty listed all the contributions that were anticipated for this project.

COUNCIL ON AGING:

Lyndsay Famariss said she was asking to increase the salary for their cook, to increase his hours from 20 hours per week to 35 hours per week. She explained the many reasons why this was a benefit for the organization and the individual.

Ms. Famariss said service was provided to over 900 people almost 11,000 different times in the last year; she said there were 1700 individuals over the age of 60 in Edgartown.

Ms. Famariss presented two Warrant Articles; Members discussed the following:

- Could less money be spent if the intent was to relocate?
 - TA Hagerty explained that work done to the building was necessary to minimize depreciation; it was important as shovels in the ground would not be until FY 2029/2030 for a new location/building; it was also important for the resale value of the building.
 - Ms. Famariss said these repairs were necessary to keep everyone/everything safe.

TOWN CLERK:

Karen R. Medeiros said the Town Clerk budget increase reflected the additional hours for her assistant (change from 30 hours/week to 40 hours/week). She said the increases for the Election Budget were driven by law changes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Bruce. McNamee said there was not a big change in salaries other than what was required with step and contractual increases; he said they had one vacancy in the department at this time.

McNamee explained the expense increases as follows:

- This department was an accredited Police Department and therefore required a software update.
- The current TASER guns needed to be updated/replaced.

McNamee presented three Warrant Articles. Members asked questions on how the body cameras were used; McNamee indicated that use of body cameras was still an option in Massachusetts - he said they were also in use with the State Police.

SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT:

Rob Morrison said the major change was in wages and salaries for step increases; he presented three Warrant Articles.

Chair Donna Lowell-Bettencourt asked why the first two [recurring] articles were not part of the budget; TA Hagerty said that it could be changed and included in the operating budget – he explained some of the items of consideration to make that a reality. Chair Lowell-Bettencourt felt there was enough data to include this in the operating budget going forward. Paulo C. DeOliveira compared/contrasted the pros and cons of using Warrant Articles.

OTHER Discussion:

- Confirmation to review the sewer proposal at a later date.
- More discussion for the Mini-Park owned by the Halls.
- Further discussion for the requested dollar amount from the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee and requiring an itemized list of how the money would be spent.

★ The next meeting was scheduled on Tuesday, January 30, 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 4:51 PM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY JULIA TARKA AND SECONDED BY DONNA LOWELL-BETTENCOURT, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

James Hagerty, Town Administrator

Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder