

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN  
**FY25 Joint Meetings of Financial Advisory Committee and the Selectboard**  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 – 4:00 PM  
ZOOM MEETING

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINCOM)**

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), Martina Thornton – Manager Dukes County,  
Doug Ruskin – County Commissioner / (West Tisbury), Leslie Clapp – Center For Living Executive Director (ED),  
Kristin Leutz – Harbor Homes of Martha’s Vineyard ED, Cindy Trish – Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard ED,  
Sarah Kuh – Director of Vineyard Healthcare Access Program ED, Adam Turner – Martha’s Vineyard Commission ED

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. TA Hagerty indicated that recent documents from the County, sent outside of the budget books, would be reviewed during this meeting.

**COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY:**

Doug Ruskin screen shared the Dukes County Commission (organizational chart) and explained how the County worked, what the County was responsible for and the hierarchy of the County Departments. He said a lot of time was spent on unifying the [budget] format with suggestions from the towns, making it more streamlined; he said that about 90% of the information requested was satisfied with this package. Mr. Ruskin indicated the goal was to minimize the presentation work done by each of the Executive Directors, to make it brief and allow more time for questions. He welcomed feedback to continue improving the process.

Martina Thornton said there were some requests that were County specific and several requests for Regional Programs of which the Directors were in attendance to review those details.

Ms. Thornton reviewed the document *Significant changes that affect the County budget across all departments*; she said the County had no way of raising its own revenue and depended on sources that were predetermined, including the town assessments; she explained the increases and why they were important to the County.

She said with the retirement of Sarah Kuh, a strategy was put in place to help mitigate any gaps in service. Ms. Thornton said there would be a net increase of one employee after the restructuring.

Ms. Thornton said she wanted to publicly thank Ms. Kuh for the many years of dedicated service, what she was able to accomplish and the many people she helped on the Island.

Ms. Kuh thanked the Town for the continued support; she said the Edgartown Council on Aging was amazing, a great organization. They always worked well together - it was a pleasure to work with them.

ED Leslie Clapp, Kristin Leutz and Cindy Trish each presented an overview of their services and financial needs. They said grants and outside funding helped to offset some of the operating costs.

**DISCUSSION:**

- ❖ Norton Point was unknown at this time.
  - Options to replace this source of revenue.
  - Mechanism for revenue replacement.

- ❖ Unused funds from septic improvement projects assistance.
  - What funding remained once the deadline passed and how it could be used.
- ❖ Estimate of funds that would be returned to each of the towns.
  - There was not a prepared report at this time to provide these numbers.
  - Turmoil in the Treasurer's office was affecting all aspects and therefore an answer could not be provided.
- ❖ Center For Living outreach with the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, what worked and what were the challenges.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION:**

Adam Turner said the budget was made up of three components: Salaries, Legal and Contractual Services. He said the Edgartown contribution this year was \$15,000.00 or 2.2%.

**DISCUSSION:**

- ❖ 2.5% was the merit increase. A step scale was not in place, as the organization was too small to have a hierarchy.
- ❖ Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was 6.9% for FY 2023. The calculation was a year behind - an average of all the Island towns.
  - TA Hagerty said the County COLA calculation was the median, or 4.7%
- ❖ Positions funded by grants and fellowships and how they would be funded moving forward.
  - The staff was twelve employees who were all Island people.
- ❖ Legal was down from prior years and needed to be replenished.
- ❖ The sources of funding that paid for contractual services/consultants and the needs going forward.

**OTHER:**

TA Hagerty said the discussion tomorrow needed to stay on track. He explained the timeline, steps that needed to be taken in the process, and the statutory requirements that needed to be met.

- ★ The next meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, January 31, 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 5:13 PM.*

*DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE BY KELLY MCCRACKEN AND SECONDED BY JULIA TARKA, THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:13 PM.*

Respectfully submitted;

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James Hagerty, Town Administrator

*Teresa Kruszewski, Recorder*