

FY17 Budget Hearing Meeting – January 7, 2016 – 3 pm.

Present: Tom Durawa; Donna Lowell-Bettencourt; Paolo DeOliveira; James Carter; Margaret Serpa; Art Smadbeck; Pam Dolby.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Lisa Morrison present. No change to operating budget.

Animal Control: Barbara Prada present: No changes to operating budget.

Article: \$2,000. For sick/injured animal emergency fund.

Beautification: Geri Smith present: Increased budget for FY16 was much appreciated. FY17 budget will be the same. There was discussion regarding the Mini-Park budget. She was under the impression that Beautification was in charge of maintenance. The Conservation department receives \$5,000. Each year for maintenance. It was suggested that Beautification and Conservation meet to discuss the matter.

Conservation: Lisa Morrison and Jane Varkonda present: No changes to budget. Discussion regarding a \$900,000. Cost to purchase Jackson boat landing property in Katama. Land Bank is doing appraisal. Future use for access to harbor in that area; storage of dinghies, etc. Marine Advisory and Harbor Master are in agreement with purchase. It was noted that dealings with the family need to be ironed out prior to town meeting vote. Jane will keep Pam updated on progress for purchase.

Articles: \$20,000. For property maintenance; \$20,000. \$20,000. To be added to Land Acquisition fund.

Planning Board: Georgianna Greenough present: No change in operating budget. The PB will be hiring a consultant to rework zoning bylaws housing plan to keep up with changes (40B housing). She noted that Adam Turner, new executive secretary to MVC, has been very cooperative and will work well with the local boards.

Historic District Commission: James Cisek and Brique Garber: Expenses increased by \$500. To cover anticipated mailing/advertising costs for FY17. If the expanded district is passed, hours for the assistant will increase, therefore, the salary budget is increased. Pam suggested that we pass on that line item in the budget vote and if the district expansion does not pass, we can then go back and put in the amended amount of salary as it stands now.

Article: \$4,995. For HDC signage designating new area. Will pass on town meeting floor if article for expanded district fails to pass.

Personnel Board: Janet Hathaway and Elaine Graves present: Janet introduced Elaine Graves, new assistant to Personnel Board. Hours have been increased by five, salary increased. Elaine presently going over job descriptions and written policies and will recommend changes. COLA will be zero this year based on formula being used. Teacher contracts will not be affected, police contract will go along with town employees.

Park Department: Jane Varkonda present: Currently the park department does not have an assistant. The job was combined with Personnel, but now is separate. Seasonal hours and overtime changes will accommodate staff starting earlier and those who are able to stay later in the fall.

Article: \$35,000. To rent and maintain portable toilets at South Beach. It is cheaper to rent the equipment for maintenance during the season. Too costly to maintain on our own.

Wastewater: Pia Webster; David Thompson; Scott Ellis present: Budget increased 4.25 overall. Equipment hire and sludge control account for increase. Energy costs are down due to new propane heaters. Questions about other towns disposal usage and grease trap controls. Increase revenues from haulers, all revenue goes to general fund. Debt payments are \$800,000. Per year. Employee benefits are part of the general budget. Increase to salary line for a licensed operator, was for Grade 4, we now have a Grade 6 licensed operator in that position. Four fully licensed operators on staff now. Discussion about the Dock St. system failure and how it was repaired. Is it possible to have someone on standby with a bid? At this time, it was noted only one firm on the Island has the capability to do the work.

Articles: Dock Street mitigation – bids higher than expected, seeking additional \$88,383. For project costs. Audit of records: \$6500.00; Bar Screener: \$72,000. To rebuild/repair system. In place 8 years, now needs total overhaul. Equipment/Collection: \$50,000. To the collection and equipment fund; Bed valves/yard valves: \$17,000. To repair/replace worn out valves.

Water Dept: Bill Chapman present: Some line item changes for additional advertising for upcoming projects. He is currently revamping the water treatment method with another chemical. Changes to the methods used are under discussion for changes on the state level. Banner summer based on weather and usage but not to be expected each season. The Water Dept. is self funded and pays all employee benefits through its surplus revenue. They have about \$750,000. In surplus funds and a town meeting vote is required to transfer funds to their general budget to use.

Articles: Special Town Meeting: A sum to be determined to add to Paint Water Tower from surplus revenue.

Annual Town Meeting: \$40,000. For new truck, dispose of 200 model; \$60,000. To make improvements to system, meters, construction equipment from surplus revenue; \$3,000. To purchase mower for grounds from surplus revenue.

Shellfish: Paul Bagnall present: No increase to budget. Additional hours for Peter Jackson to be moved from summer employee line item. Paul estimates revenue at \$45,000 to \$50,000. In 2014, scallops estimated at \$1,000,000. and in 2015 at \$500,000. Oyster aquaculture is increased. Now using Sengekontacket for commercial fishermen to collect oysters for sale. Very successful for them as scalloping is down. Oysters beneficial to pond as they filter water all the time. Cape Pogue and Caleb's Pond are now oystering areas.

Articles: \$7,850. To purchase outboard motor and dispose of current model. \$44,000. For various shellfish programs (relays, seed, testing etc); \$37,000. To fund participation in MV Shellfish Group; \$32,000. To purchase new truck. Old truck (2006) was junk and unable to sell.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Avakian, assistant